Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Bruce W. McClendon FAICP
Director of Planning

March 26, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Bruce W. McClendon, FAICP
Director of Planning

SUBJECT: REPORT ON DEL VALLE AND OAK CANYON TRAIL CORRIDORS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 2006-00001-(5)
(ITEM NO. 5, NOVEMBER 28, 2006)

On November 28, 2006, at a hearing in which your Board amended and indicated its intent to approve Plan Amendment No. 2006-00001-(5), adding several new trail corridors to the Trails Maps in the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and the Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan, your Board, on the attached motion by Supervisor Antonovich, also directed this Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation to report back within 90 days on findings and appropriate recommendations for additional plan amendments pertaining to the Del Valle and Oak Canyon trail corridors in the Santa Clarita Valley.

The Plan Amendment originally routed a portion of the Del Valle trail corridor adjacent to a narrow and heavily-traveled section of Del Valle Road in the unincorporated community of Val Verde. In response to safety concerns raised by the residents of that community, the Department of Parks and Recreation collaborated with stakeholder groups in identifying an alternative location for the Del Valle trail corridor that travels through existing open space located east of Del Valle Road. This alternative location was recommended in a staff report by the Department of Parks and Recreation submitted to your Board on November 28, 2006.

On the attached motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the Board approved the alternative location for the Del Valle trail corridor, as recommended by the Department of Parks and Recreation. This revised trail corridor location is depicted on the final Trails Map for the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan that was adopted by your Board on January 16, 2007. Therefore there is no need for an additional plan amendment for the Del Valle trail corridor at this time.

The Plan Amendment originally routed the Oak Canyon trail corridor adjacent to a narrow section of Oak Canyon Road, a private right-of-way, through extensive private landholdings. In addition, the trail corridor did not provide connectivity to trail corridors

in adjacent Ventura County, which was deemed desirable by stakeholder groups. In response to concerns raised by the affected property owners, your Board, on the attached motion by Supervisor Antonovich, directed this Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation to remove the Oak Canyon trail corridor and collaborate with area property owners and other stakeholder groups to identify an alternative location for the Oak Canyon trail corridor that provided the desired connectivity to trail corridors in Ventura County.

The Oak Canyon trail corridor was not depicted on the final Trails Map for the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan that was adopted by your Board on January 16, 2007. The Department of Parks and Recreation has been in contact with area property owners and other stakeholder groups in an effort to identify an alternative location for the Oak Canyon trail corridor; however, that Department has not finalized a recommendation at this time. Once the Department of Parks and Recreation finalizes its recommendation for a revised trail corridor, the Department of Regional Planning will prepare an additional plan amendment for consideration by the Regional Planning Commission and your Board at a future date.

It is my understanding that the Department of Parks and Recreation will submit a report under separate cover. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mitch Glaser of my staff at *mglaser@planning.lacounty.gov* or at (213) 974-6476 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Our offices are closed on Fridays.

BWM:mwg

Cc: Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer – Clerk of the Board
David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Larry Hensley, Department of Parks and Recreation

Attachment: Minutes of the Board's November 28, 2006 Meeting (Item #5)

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held November 28, 2006, the Board took the following action:

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At the time and place regularly set, notice having been duly given, the following item was called up:

> Hearing on amendments to the Trails Maps of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and the Antelope Valley Areawide General Plan, [Plan Amendment No. 2006-00001-(5)] to add several trail routes to northern Los Angeles County; also approval of Negative Declaration (ND) and determination that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment or adverse effect on wildlife resources, and that the ND reflects the independent judgment of the County, as further described in the attached letter dated September 19, 2006 from the Director of Planning.

All persons wishing to testify were sworn in by the Executive Officer of the Board. Ron Hoffman, representing the Department of Regional Planning testified. Opportunity was given for interested persons to address the Board. Marsha McLean, Laura Hauser, Sherrie Stolarik, Karl R. Reinecker, Linda Pyburn, David Pyburn and others addressed the Board. Correspondence was presented.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

> "The Departments of Parks and Recreation and Regional Planning have expended considerable time and energy to prepare the proposed amendments to the Area-Wide Plans for the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys. Staff held a series of six noticed community hearings throughout the greater Santa Clarita Valley to solicit input from equestrians, hikers, and property-owners. The Regional Planning Commission conducted a public hearing and voted to approve the proposed amendments. Town councils in Acton, Agua Dulce, Castaic-Val Verde and West Ranch support the proposed amendments, as does the Santa Clarita Valley Trails Advisory Committee and the City of Santa Clarita.

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"After the Planning Commission action, individuals raised concerns about two specific trail alignments.

"Val Verde residents raised safety concerns about the proposed alignment of the Del Valle Trail. The Department of Parks and Recreations recently worked with Val Verde community representatives and local equestrians to revise a section of the Del Valle Trail and part of the Hasley Canyon Trail that is west of Ayala Road. A revised route, recommended in the November 28, 2006 staff report, travels through open space rather than adjacent to a narrow and heavily-traveled section of Del Valle Road.

"Concerns also arose about a proposed trail alignment of the Hasley Canyon Extension in Oak Canyon, generally between Hasley Canyon and the Ventura County boundary. This proposed trail traverses the Lechler Trust, Hathaway, and potentially other properties. Questions were raised about whether the proposed alignment was properly indicated on the Trails Map presented to the Regional Planning Commission. Given these concerns, staff should re-analyze this trail corridor."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisors Molina and Yaroslavsky being absent), the Board closed the hearing and took the following actions:

1. Considered and adopted the attached Negative Declaration (ND) prepared for the project; certified its completion, and determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment; and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act;

2. Made a finding that the proposed Plan Amendments are consistent with the goals, policies, and programs of the County-wide General Plan, the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and the Antelope Valley Area-Wide General Plan;

3. Indicated its intent to adopt Plan Amendment No. 2006-00001-(5), amending the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan Trails Map and the Antelope Valley Area-Wide General Plan Trails Map, as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission with the following revisions:

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a. Removed a section of the Hasley Canyon Trail that is west of Ayala Road from the proposed Trail Amendment to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan; Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan;

b. Approved the revised section for the Del Valle Trail and incorporated it into the Trail Amendment to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, as outlined in the revised attached report by the Department of Parks and Recreation;

c. Removed a section of the trail in the Hasley Canyon Extension in Oak Canyon, generally between Hasley Canyon and the Ventura County boundary and primarily impacting the Lechler Trust, Hathaway, and potentially other properties, from the proposed Trail Amendment to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan; and

4. Instructed the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Regional Planning to study the Del Valle trail corridor and the Oak Canyon trail corridors, working with trail users, equestrians, and property owners, to best provide needed connections to trails in this area and adjoining Ventura County, and to report back to the Board within ninety (90) days with findings and appropriate recommendations for additional plan amendments; and

5. Instructed County Counsel to prepare the final Plan Amendments, including the aforementioned revisions and submit them to the Board as soon as possible for final adoption.

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Attachments

Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
Auditor-Controller
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Parks and Recreation
Director of Planning
Director of Public Works
Marsha McLean
Laura Hauser
Sherrie Stolarik
Karl R. Reinecker
Linda Pyburn
David Pyburn