



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"

Russ Guiney, Director

June 17, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich,

FROM: Russ Guiney 
Director Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: **NORTHWEST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AREA (NWSFVA) –
TRAIL PLAN**

On January 27, 2009, the Board directed the Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish a committee within 30 days, composed of trail users, equestrians and property owners to study the trail corridors in and around the Northwest San Fernando Valley Area, and to update the County's Plan of multiuse trails for the region.

On February 26, 2009, the Chief Executive Office and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) reported to your Board that DPR would report progress on the County Trail Plan on a quarterly basis. Below is the current status of DPR's planning efforts:

Community Outreach (Community Meeting and Follow-Up)

On April 22, 2009, DPR in collaboration with the City of Los Angeles Departments of Recreation and Parks, (City - DRP) and the Public Works Bureau of Engineering (City - DPW), and representatives from the City's 12th Council District, held an initial meeting at the Chatsworth Field Office of the Fifth Supervisorial District. In addition to the City and County representatives, State and federal agencies, community members comprised of trail advocates and users, property owners and developers were present and informed of the proposed planning process and approach. (See Attachment I for meeting minutes).

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County/City Partnership

The City and County are meeting bi-weekly to develop a statement of work for consultant services to prepare a trail plan and supporting environmental document. The first meeting was held on May 13, 2009, to initiate preparation of the project scope and a project area map, including the need to identify the City Council District boundaries and "sphere-of-influence".

On May 26, 2009, a follow-up meeting was held to discuss progress on efforts to prepare the project scope, project boundary map components, Global Information Systems (GIS) capabilities and other necessary deliverables, including a "working timeline" for this phase of the initial project planning.

Next Steps

The Department of Parks and Recreation will initiate the following tasks:

- The County and City will prepare a draft of the Consultant's scope of work by June 18, 2009, for review and approval by the Fifth Supervisorial District and the 12th City Council District.
- Upon Fifth District's review of the scope of work, DPR and the City will solicit cost estimates for the County and City portions of the Plan, which will include, but not be limited to an outreach process, preferred trail alignments, gap analysis, trail capital outlay plan, trail development standards, and environmental documents.
- By July 2009, the County and City will conduct a field overview of the trail system within the subject project area to determine project phasing and identify potential project challenges.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Norma E. Garcia, Deputy Director of the Planning and Development Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation at (213) 351-5198 or via e-mail at negarcia@parks.lacounty.gov.

RG:LH:FM:tls:g/Northwest San Fernando Valley Trail (3)

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Robert Kalunian, Acting County Counsel
Gail Farber, Director of Public Works
Jon Sanabria, Acting Director Regional Planning
Sussy Nemer, Fifth Supervisorial District
Millie Jones, Fifth Supervisorial District

MEETING NOTES
PARKS AND RECREATIONS
NORTHWEST SAN FERNANDO TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
April 22, 2009

WELCOME

- **Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's Office (SD5) - Introduction by Millie Jones**
- 5th District motion to create a trail plan for the Northwest San Fernando trails areas, funding will be provided by the Fifth District office, as well as funding provided by the City of Los Angeles.

INTRODUCTIONS OF THE PROJECT TEAM

- **County of Los Angeles-** Department of Parks and Recreation – Planning & Development Agency: Deputy Director, Norma E. Garcia and Park Project Coordinator, Myrna Rodriguez
- **Presentation of Preliminary Project Boundary Map-** Present the vicinity map of the planned area for trails, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will forward Parks and Recreations the latest shape files for trails within this area.
- **Introduction of City of Los Angeles**
 - Department of Recreation and Parks and the
 - Department of Public Works - Bureau of Engineering
- **Introduction of Stakeholders**
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Los Angeles Trails Project, Sand Canyon Association, Save Chatsworth, Inc., E.CH.O., CNC, E.T.I. Corral 54, Santa Susana Mountains Park Association, Public Works-Engineering and Brown's Canyon Residents

MEETING NOTES

- Prop K- Planning and Implementation for NWSF trail plan, Rim of the Valley funds from the City of Los Angeles' collaboration
- Multi-jurisdictional project including:
 - Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
 - County of Los Angeles
 - City of Los Angeles
- Consultant will take direction regarding the stakeholder process coordinating with the County and City of Los Angeles
- Part of the process is to plan for the development of trails that will connect to nearby regional trails
- Trail Plan's scope development will start by meeting with the City of Los Angeles, initial meetings will be held monthly to discuss the "Scope of Work" that will be presented to the consultant
- Review the "Scope of Work" with the 5th District

- Request For Proposal (RFP)- Possibly hire Sapphos or EDAW, which is a CEO pre-approved consultant

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROJECT AREA

- Focus on next steps- hire a consultant who will focus on trail planning for the development of the plan and who has experience working with trails.
- City of Los Angeles will adopt the final trail plan for this area
- Possibly hire Roger Bell from the City of Los Angeles to implement the project
- County trails are multi-use trails, meaning they are used by mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers
- Gap analysis of missing trail segments- possible acquisition of missing easements for connectivity
- Will camping be a part of the planned document?
- Operations and Maintenance of new trails: Part of creating the new trails/plan will include creating a budget/funds in order to allocate funds for the Maintenance and Operations of the newly adopted trails
- Good time during the development cycle to establish a master plans, adoption of the plan means the ability to condition for easements when lots are being subdivided in the future
- Nature Preserve- no projects for 10yrs in the area
- DWP- may turned over reservoir land to Recreation and Parks (City of Los Angeles)
- Need for signage along the trail system, particularly "Yield" signs for multi-uses
- Trails need to be designed and conditioned for during in the first phase of the development process not in the last part of the process or CUP review
- Create a map that depicts the "sphere of influence" of the Master Plan area

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- **Development of a Joint County-City 'Scope of Work'**- Estimated time for process- Six month process to develop the Scope of Work and to retain a consultant for the trail plan
- **Funding**- \$200K for preliminary planning, \$2M for future planning and implementation, Prop K funding, projects should be coming out of the Master Plan, must look at cost analysis for new trails.
- **Next Steps**-
 - retain a consultant
 - create a scope of work in collaboration with City of Los Angeles and Fifth Supervisorial District
 - create quarterly reports
 - tentative timeline is 6 months period to retain consultant and start the community participation process.

Q&A

- **Why are the trails considered multi-use trails instead of hiking and equestrian only?** County trails are not exclusively considered equestrian trails. The trails are shared with two other user groups, mountain bikers and hikers.
- **How do we get access to trails that have been closed?**
- **Will the consultant build trails or have experience building trails?** The county and city will try to retain a consultant with trail planning experience.
- **When will we be able to go out and start volunteering- GPS'g trails?** After the NWSF Plan is completed.
- **When is our next meeting?**
The next meeting is tentatively be set for six months from today.
- **Can we look at existing trail plans like the County of San Diego's Plan?**
We will look at the County of San Diego's plan and try and incorporate the format they have delineated in their plan.
- **What's the length and location of the trail?**
Should surrounding Northwest San Fernando area/Ventura/Rim of the Valley
- **Are dogs allowed on trails?** That depends on the jurisdiction