

California Recreational Trails Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2008--9 AM

Conference Call Meeting Locations:

California State Parks

14th Floor Resources Building
1416—9th Street, Room 1404-17
Sacramento, CA

Carpinteria City Hall

5775 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA

County of San Diego Department of Parks & Recreation

Sycamore Conference Room, 2nd Floor
9150 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 200
San Diego, CA

- I. Call to Order and Comments from the Chair (GG)**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM
 - b. Conference call meeting guidelines were explained

- II. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff**
 - a. Greg Gandrud (GG), Chair
 - b. Jeannie Gillen, Member (Absent)
 - c. John Mercurio (JM), Member
 - d. Maryanne Vancio (MV), Member
 - e. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member
 - f. Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division for California State Parks (CSP)
 - g. Steve Musillami (SM), Executive Secretary of CRTTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
 - h. Cheryl Essex (CE), Park & Recreation Specialist for CSP

- III. Minutes of prior meeting**
 - a. Minutes of May 29, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by JM and second by MV

- IV. Reports**
 - a. State Park Director's Report (DR)
 - Budget—Governor's May-revise budget proposed full funding for CSP. The lack of an approved budget is holding up some trails-related work. Some CSP employees have been separated to comply with the Governor's order but health & safety and revenue collection staff are deemed essential and exempt.
 - Wildfire damage occurred near Oroville, San Luis and Big Sur parks.

- The draft Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan emphasizes the need for recreational trail system expansion in underserved areas, including regional trail corridors and water trails in Sacramento River, San Joaquin tributaries & the Delta. The draft may be ready for your input by our fall meeting.
 - Coastal Trail—new CSP facilities open at Malibu Pier and Ano Nuevo.
- b. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (SM)**
- Trail Use Change Survey Process
 1. Survey has been modified to reflect conference and written comments.
 2. The final version has been implemented through a memo from the Deputy Director of Operations at CSP
 3. Three Road & Trail Management Plans have been recommended for Prop 84 funding: Donner Memorial, Humboldt Redwoods, Mount Diablo
 - Coastal Trail Projects
 1. Water's Ridge connector at JP Burns SP was badly damaged by fire and is being assessed for repairs. The main trail is estimated to start construction in Fall 2008.
 2. Glass Beach trail at MacKerricher SP has been combined with a City of Ft. Bragg trail for the EIR/EIS. The potential for a lawsuit still exists.
 3. Elephant Seal Boardwalk at San Simeon SP has received permits and is estimated to begin construction Summer 2009.
 4. Garrapata SP trail scope includes access to two major parking areas and is estimated to begin construction Spring 2009
 5. CSP mapping of the CA Coastal Trail is beginning. Partnerships include State Coastal Conservancy, CA Coastal Commission, Coastwalk and CSP. The goal is to include spatial data with limited attribute information for trails on CSP properties.
 - CA Recreational Trails Plan Progress Report
 1. See item V
 2. CA Trail Corridor Progress: The Tuolumne Complex trails will follow five railroad alignments linking Oakhurst with the Pacific Crest Trail. Legislation recently passed to study extending the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to encompass the Rim of the Valley Trail. A multi-agency Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) meeting identified management, planning and maintenance

responsibilities for the trail from Mexico through Kern County, discussed missing easement documents and crew opportunities, reviewed volunteer agreements and collaborated on the Tehachapi Optimum Location Review including Tejon Ranch.

- CA Riding & Hiking Trail (CRHT) Research
 1. San Diego County segments are progressing with many agencies agreeing to reinstate easements or agreements
 2. San Mateo County met with CSP, Mid-Peninsula ROSD, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to review mapping of CSP ownerships. Mid-Pen and BARTC are interested in acquiring some easements.
 3. No easements found in Santa Clara County
 4. Beginning research in Riverside County. Multiple quit claims identified.
- CA Trails & Greenways Conference
 1. Scheduled for April at the Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite. The contract with Tenaya has been executed
 2. CSP staff will meet with National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service to investigate partnership opportunities
 3. A post-conference survey is being conducted
 4. We are looking for leads on energetic and affordable keynote speakers
- Discussion
 1. (MV) Can other agencies use the Trail Use Change Process? (SM) Yes, we will post it on the website.
 2. (MV) Please include San Diego County staff in further PCT discussions. (SM) I will give you contact info so you can ask PCTA organizers for an invitation.
 3. (MV) Why were Santa Clara County CRHT easements given back? (SM) The files aren't clear on that.
 4. (JM) How can people get the Trail Use Change Process? (SM) It will be on the website (www.parks.ca.gov/trails) soon.
 5. (JM) Will composite lumber be used at Elephant Seal Boardwalk? (SM) It will be used for decking, not for substructure.
 6. (JM) How long is the Tejon Ranch PCT realignment? (SM) About 32 miles anticipated within the ranch property. The westerly connection may be 3-4 miles. Easterly connection may be 8-10 miles. (DR) Most will be on existing ranch roads. (SM) A conservation

corridor of around 10,000 acres is contemplated as part of the trail alignment.

7. (JM) Some water districts severely limit access at reservoirs which impacts trails like Crystal Springs. (SM) Distance & fencing reduce impacts to the reservoir so it will likely be open.
 8. (JM) Why are there so many prior CRHT quit claims? (SM) Often the owners requested it and CSP wanted to eliminate liability.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)/proposed Dept. of Justice (DOJ) Rulemaking
1. (SM) DOJ proposes definitions of wheelchair and other power-driven mobility devices and requires agencies to establish policies for when they are allowed on trails. CSP Accessibility Section has drafted comments for executive staff review. We are concerned that use of power-driven devices will proliferate because it is hard to determine whether someone needs the device for mobility. If ruling is adopted, CSP must develop policies that the public can understand and that rangers can enforce. Deadline for comments to DOJ is August 18.
 2. (MV) San Diego County is concerned that: 1) Each agency would be responsible for creating accessible trail policies; 2) Verifying mobility needs for individual users is difficult; 3) "Other power-driven devices" could include gas-powered devices that may increase the risk of wildfire. This may require retrofit of all trail gates. Would this apply to all public trails or just federally-funded trails? (DR) Probably just federally-funded trails for now. (SM) However, CSP will develop standards for all trails, not just federally-funded trails. (MV) Allowing motorized vehicles may change our Multi-Species Conservation Plans. (SM) Agency policies would need to be adopted that address that issue.
 3. (LZ) DOJ wants each agency to decide how to accommodate the mobility-impaired? (SM) Yes, it will be confusing for the public and require advance investigation of each agency's policies by the visitor in order to determine what is allowed on their trails.
 4. (GG) We only have six days to comment? (SM) Please send your comments directly to DOJ or to Cheryl so she can collect them.
 5. (JM) Congestion and horse/motorized device conflicts will be issues. (MV) How many times will San Diego

County get sued before they withdraw the indemnification policy!?

6. (DR) CSP is committed to improving accessibility in our parks.
- c. Chair Report—(GG) Nothing to report.
- d. Member Reports
 - (MV) Dedication of the Sweetwater Bridge crossing over 6-lane freeway. San Diego Wildlife Refuge bridge opened in the Jamul area over the Sweetwater River. Good progress with CSP transfer of CRHT easements to San Diego County with irrigation district meeting scheduled in September.
 - (LZ) Auburn area dog attack update: one owner still at large. Observed that dog owners on paved trails are more likely to follow the rules than owners on unpaved trails.
 - (JM) Nothing to report.
- e. Subcommittee Reports
 - (LZ) Nothing to report on CRTC Awards
 - (GG) User Conflict will plan on bringing a discussion to the November meeting on multi-use guidelines. The subcommittee is looking for more input. DR suggests a subcommittee meeting with SM present.
 - (GG) Trail Portal is talking with GreenInfo about web platforms. Budget constraints are slowing implementation. (SM) CSP is working with GreenInfo to put 26 CA Trail Corridors online as a pilot program.

V. Old Business—CA Recreational Trails Plan Progress Report

- a. Discussion on progress on the final eight goals was led by SM. Comments by members are documented in the updated Progress Report (attached). DR expects to have a draft report for the legislature for the November CRTC meeting.
- b. (DR) CA Trail Corridor list indicates a lot of progress. (MV) The responsible entity for the Trans County Trail should be San Diego County Parks. (JM) Please include the Cross California Ecological Corridor shown on the 2002 map.
- c. Public Comment on RTPPR: Linda Chaplin noted that portions of the Independence Trail traverses S. Yuba River SP and asked that we add the Cross California Ecological Corridor to the list. It is a heritage corridor with a goal of universal accessibility. Ann Crane mentioned the role of Amigos de Anza in equestrian education of trail rights for multiple users and highlighted the need to talk to each other and work together on trails.

VI. Public Comment

- a. John Degenfelder appreciates the telephone conferencing efficiencies.
- b. Sheryl Wegener has significant concerns on the ADA rulemaking proposal including diminished trail experience qualities, increased maintenance needs, abuse by users, safety of other users.
- c. Janet Peterson asks how the public can comment on the change-of-use proposals. SM suggests that the district superintendent is responsible for the process within their parks so it's best to contact them directly. She wonders how ADA mobility in congested areas will be managed and suggests that setting speeds may minimize problems by eliminating speed differentials. Janet reports that two mounted horses were upset by an unleashed dog outside Shadow Glen Stables. Both riders weren't wearing helmets and suffered brain damage. She reported three mountain bikers on a hiking/equestrian trail to CSP staff and was told that staff has other priorities. She suggests that a telephone number be posted on the trail so users can call to report problems and hopes that CSP will take enforcement of trail rules more seriously. Janet wants research on trail user needs to include finding out why non-users don't take advantage of trails.
- d. JM read an email by Mary Benson (attached)
- e. Ann Crane asks that CSP develop the acquisition next to Montana d'Oro with multi-use trails. She likes the user fee proposal to keep parks open.

VII. Next Meeting November 12 and 13th in Marin County. Opportunities include China Camp SP, Mt. Tamalpais SP, Bay Area Ridge Trail, Bay Trail, Bay water trail.

VIII. Adjournment at 11:58 AM by consensus