



TRAIL DEMAND ON THE RISE:

Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan



California Trails and Greenways Conference | April 2016

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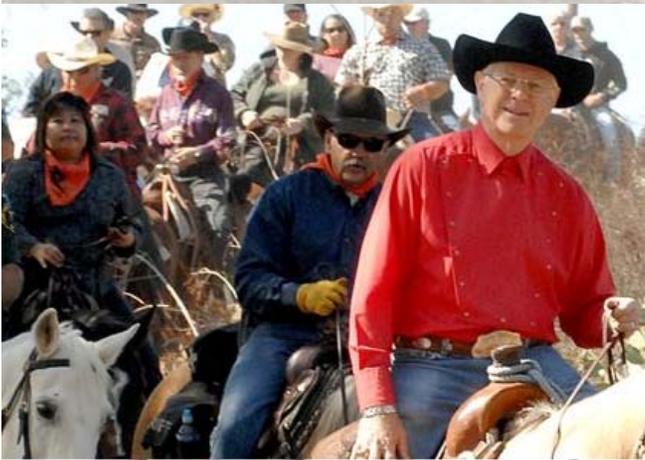
@altaplanning

Olga Ruano

@lacountyparks

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Most populous county in the U.S.
- 10 million + people
- ¼ of all California residents
- 4,083 square miles



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Who Manages LA's Open Space
 - **National:** U.S. Forest Service, National Parks Service
 - **State:** California State Parks
 - **County:** Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation
 - **Municipal:** City Park & Recreation Departments
 - **Land Conservancies/Trusts:** Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, MRCA, etc.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPT. OF PARKS & REC

- 63,000 acres in LACO-DPR system
- Over 200 miles of trails





COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPT. OF PARKS & REC

TRAILS CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

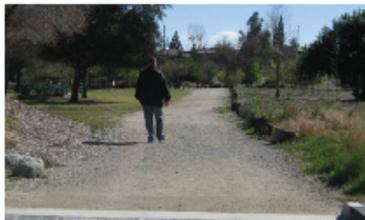
Urban Pedestrian Path

Width: 10-11 Feet
 Intensity of Use: High
 Impact to Existing Conditions: High
 Surface Type: Crusher Fines/Decomposed Granite



Recreational Pathway

Width: 8-10 Feet
 Intensity of Use: High
 Impact to Existing Conditions: High
 Surface Type: Natural Surface



Natural Trail 1

Width: 7-10 Feet
 Intensity of Use: High
 Impact to Existing Conditions: Medium
 Surface Type: Natural Surface



Natural Trail 2

Width: 5-8 Feet
 Intensity of Use: Medium to High
 Impact to Existing Conditions: Low
 Surface Type: Natural Surface



Natural Trail 3

Width: 2-3 Feet
 Intensity of Use: Low
 Impact to Existing Conditions: Minimal
 Surface Type: Natural Surface



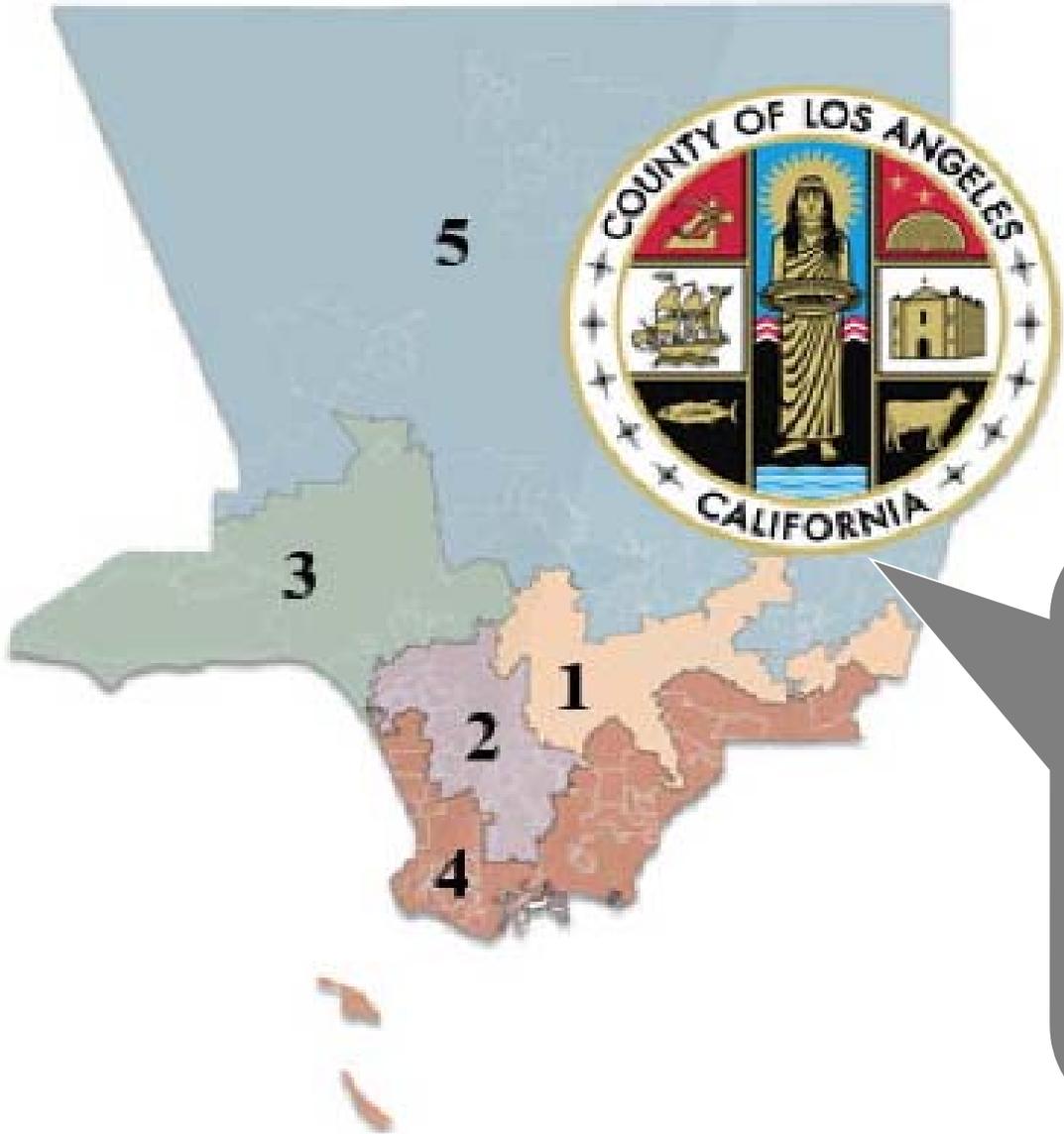
EVIDENCE OF TRAILS DEMAND

- Trails are frequently ranked the highest recreation desire
- Overflow parking needs on weekends/peak periods



MULTI-USE TRAIL PLANS

- Direction provided by Los Angeles County, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, 5th Supervisorial District



*“Los Angeles County is home to one of the world’s most diverse and expansive multi-use trail systems, and a growing number of people of all ages and backgrounds are using these trails in a variety of ways”
- Supervisor Michael Antonovich*

CASTAIC AREA MULTI-USE TRAILS PLAN



CASTAIC AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- Castaic Lakes State Recreation Area – Castaic Lake
- Currently 5 miles of existing trails managed by Los Angeles County
- Hasley Canyon Equestrian Facility



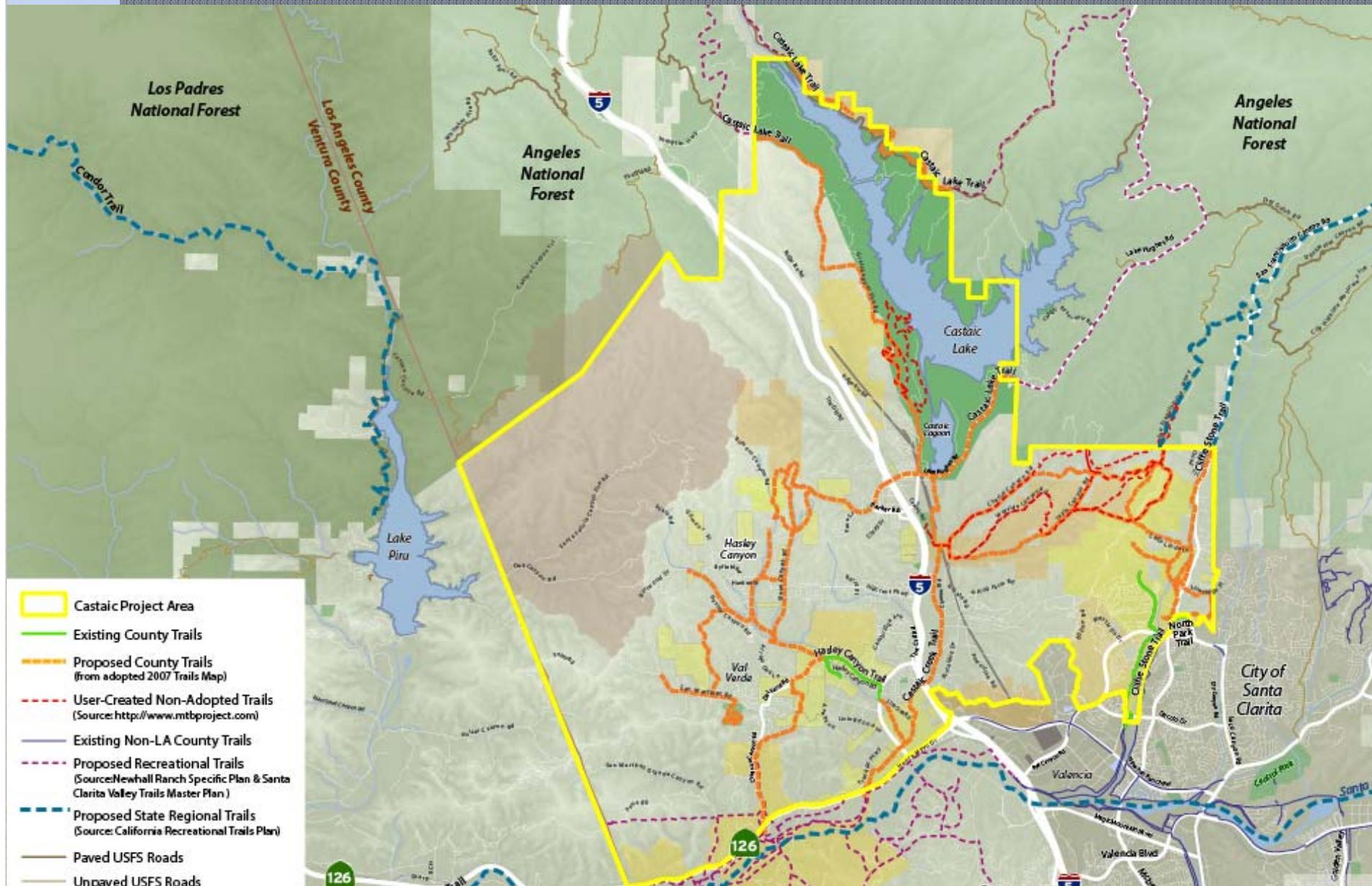
CASTAIC AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- Active equestrian community and developments
- Popular de-facto mountain biking trails in the Tapia Canyon Area (not County owned/maintained)
- Trail development is challenging due to a high percentage of privately owned land



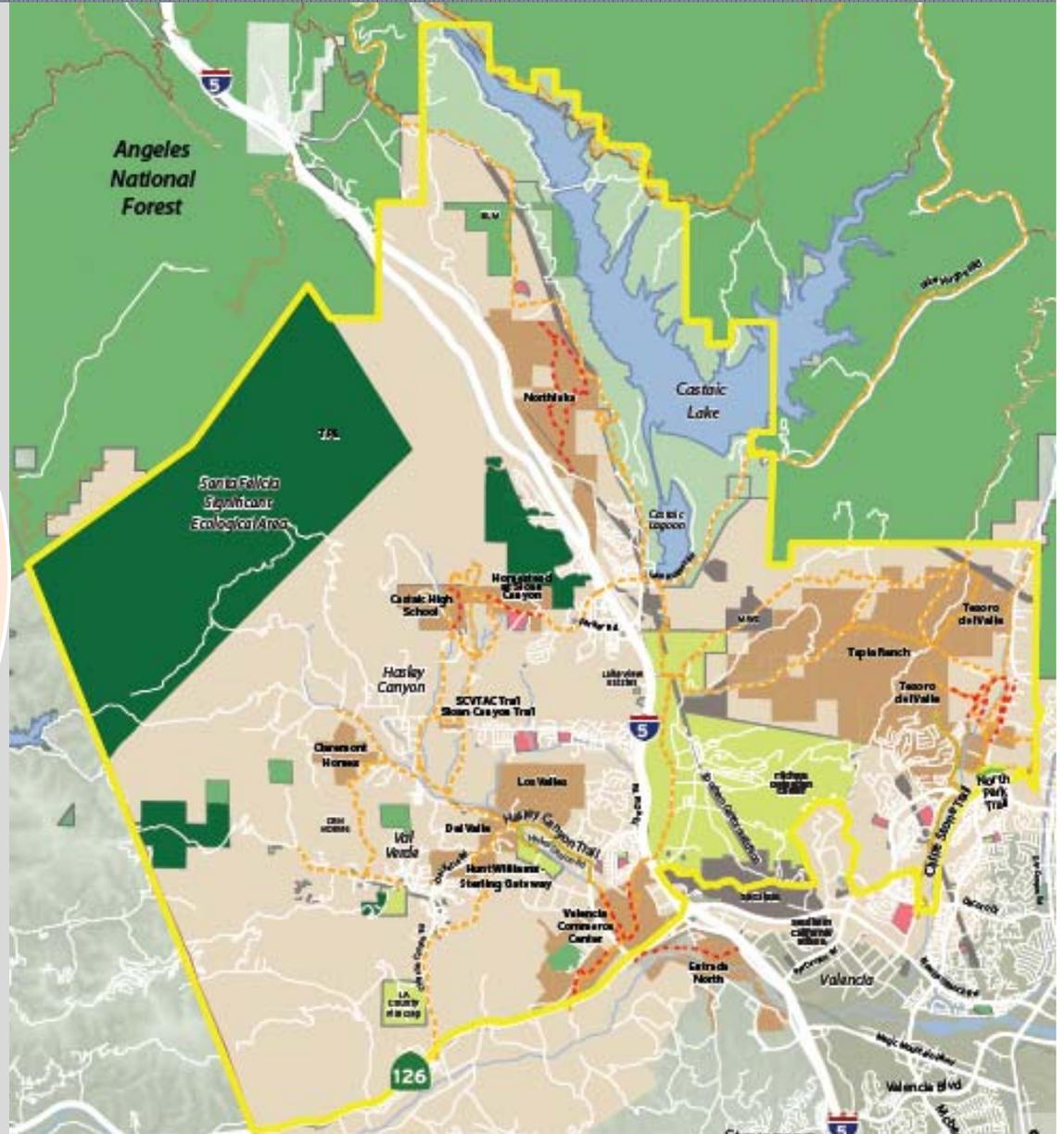
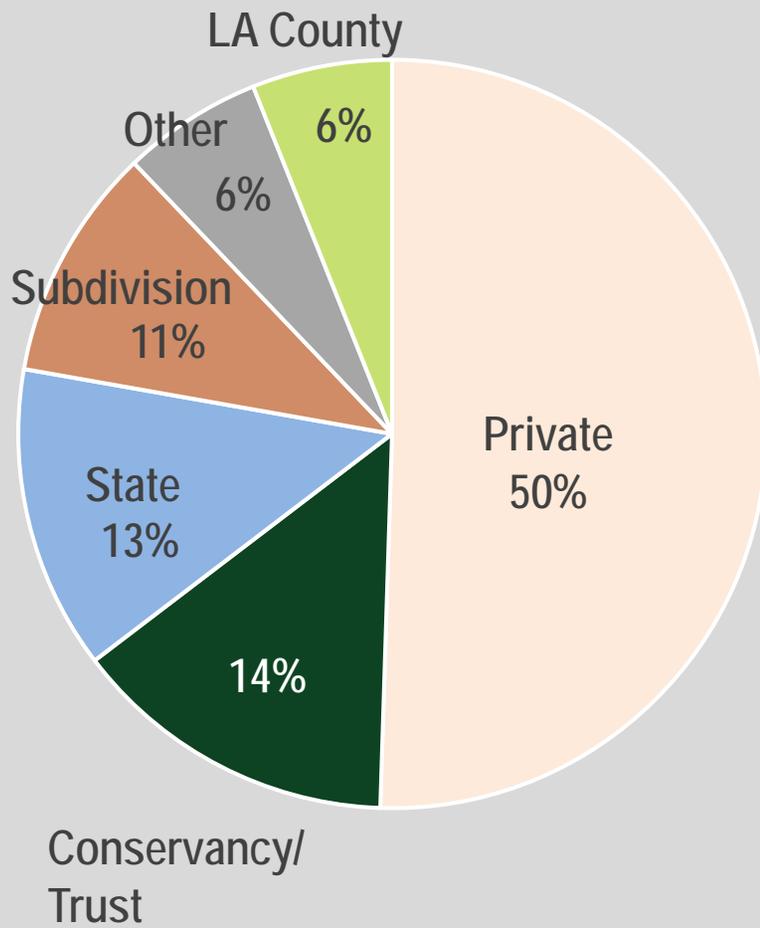
CASTAIC AREA MULTI-USE TRAILS PLAN

PLAN GOALS



CASTAIC AREA MULTI-USE TRAILS PLAN

LAND OWNERSHIP



AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

- LA County Departments and Districts
 - Fire
 - Sherriff
 - Public Works
 - Regional Planning
 - Sanitation District
 - Flood Control District
- Caltrans
- California State Parks
- US Forest Service
- Utility Companies – Edison, SoCal Gas

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

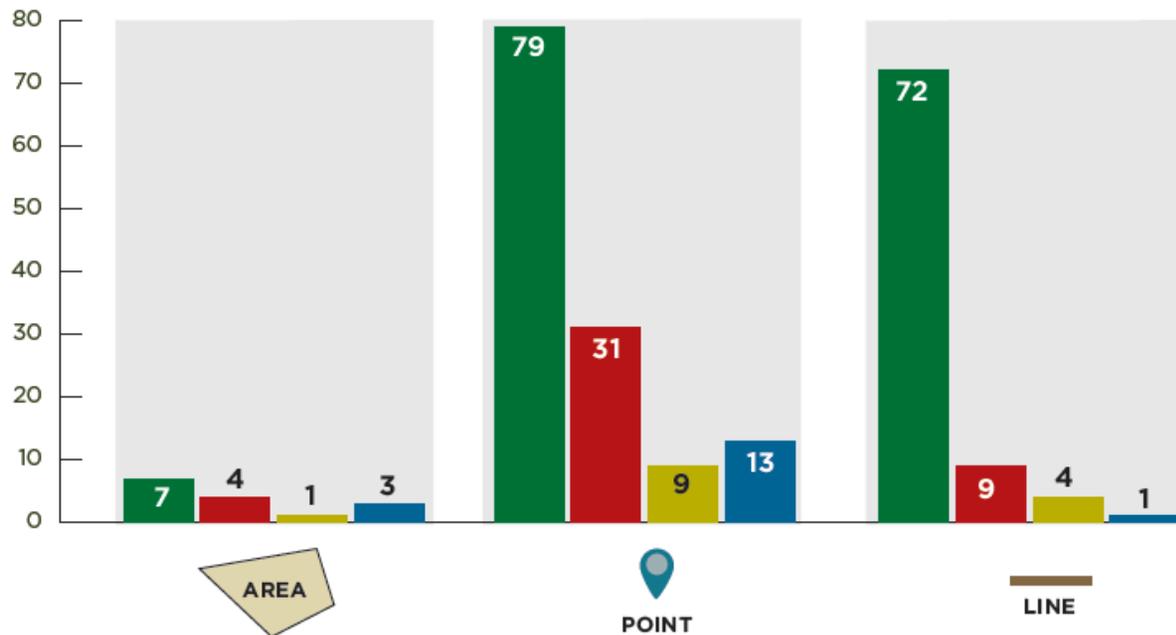
- Structuring the outreach to facilitate a positive and productive outcome



STAKEHOLDER & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS



PUBLIC MEETING INPUT



TOTALS:

158	OPPORTUNITY
44	CONSTRAINT
14	BOTH
17	NEITHER

STAKEHOLDER & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
INTERACTIVE ONLINE MAP

Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan



DISCLAIMER: This map was created for trail planning purposes only. Some trails shown do not exist currently and are planned for the future, or they exist but are not officially designated. Permission to use trails shown on this map should not be assumed. Some trails may traverse private property and suggested alignments do not imply rights of public use.

Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan

About & Help ▾

Base Map

Routes

Points

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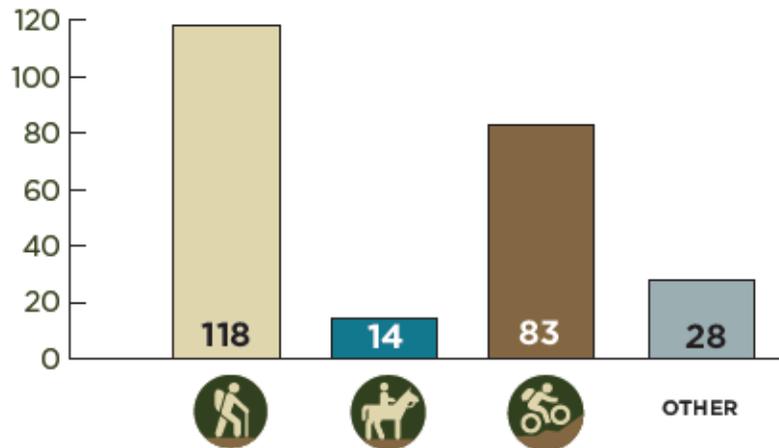
"Great idea. Also more single track trails like pro's uphill and water tank climb"

"This is not an existing park or facility. This is private property"

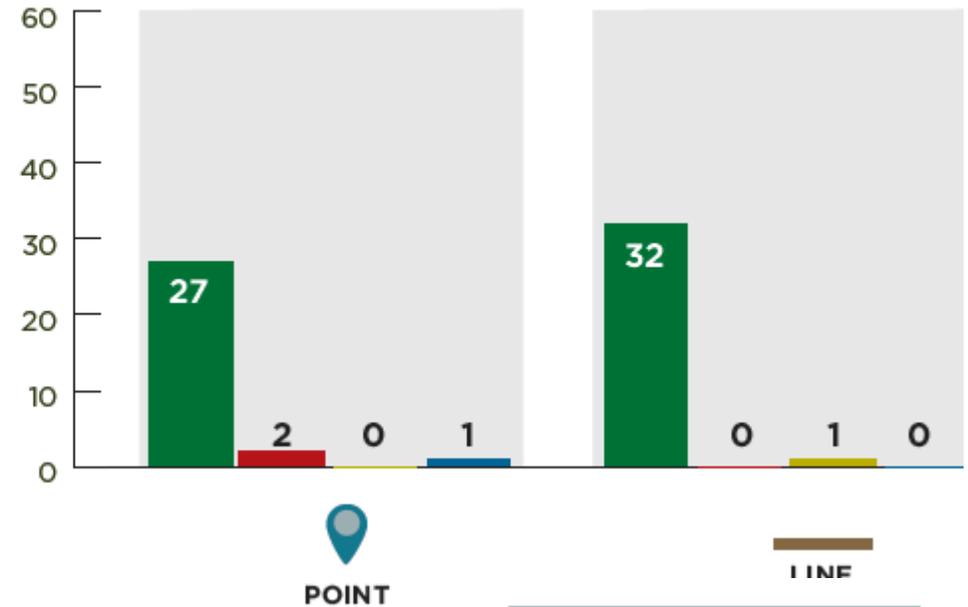
"Easier access from this side would open up a world of possibilities"

STAKEHOLDER & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INTERACTIVE ONLINE MAP

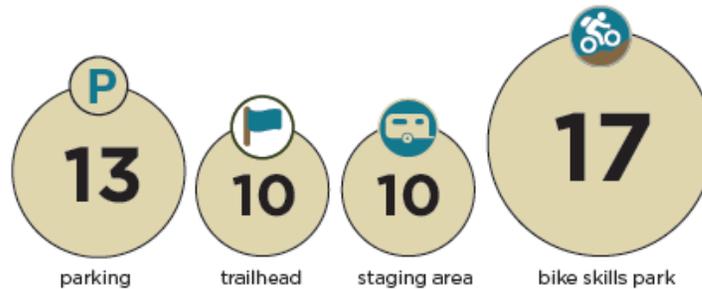
TYPE OF TRAIL USE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



WIKIMAP INPUT



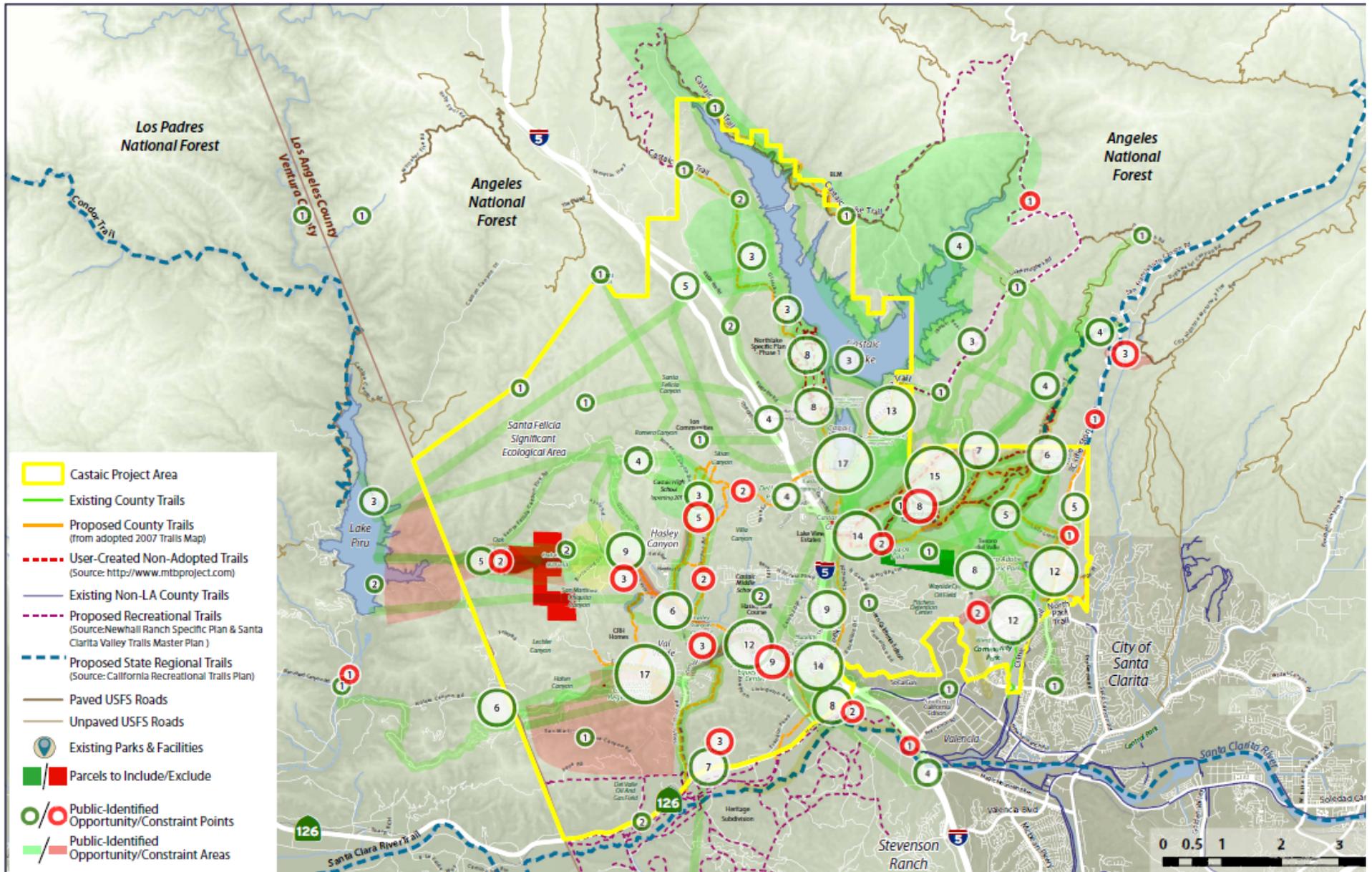
AMENITY LOCATION INPUT (PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WIKIMAP)



TOTALS:

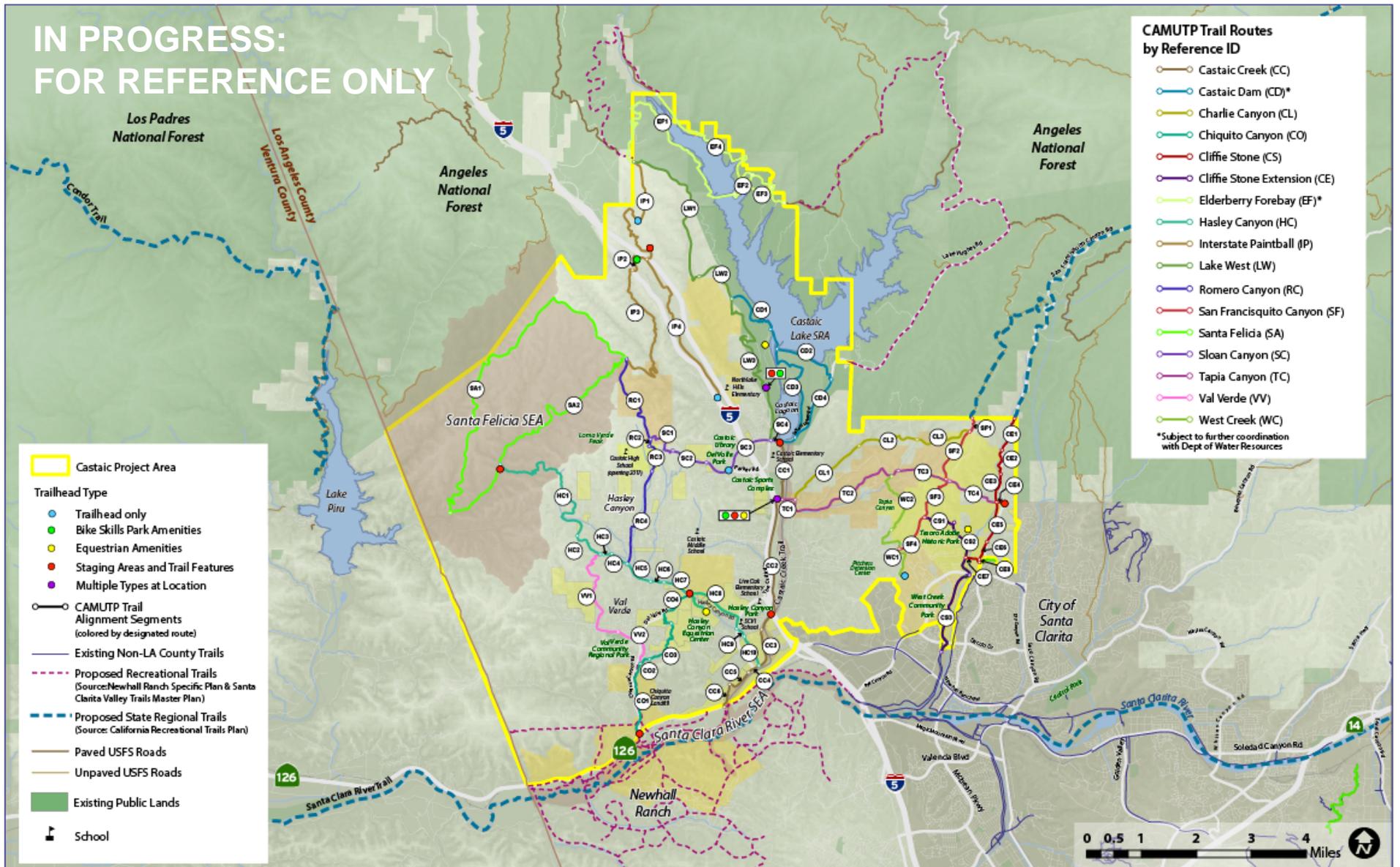
59 **OPPORTUNITY**
 2 **CONSTRAINT**
 1 **BOTH**
 0 **NEITHER**

STAKEHOLDER & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESULTS



TRAIL PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

IN PROGRESS:
FOR REFERENCE ONLY



WHERE TO START?

- Opportunities on property currently managed by the County.
 - Castaic Lakes State Recreation Area
 - Castaic Sports Complex



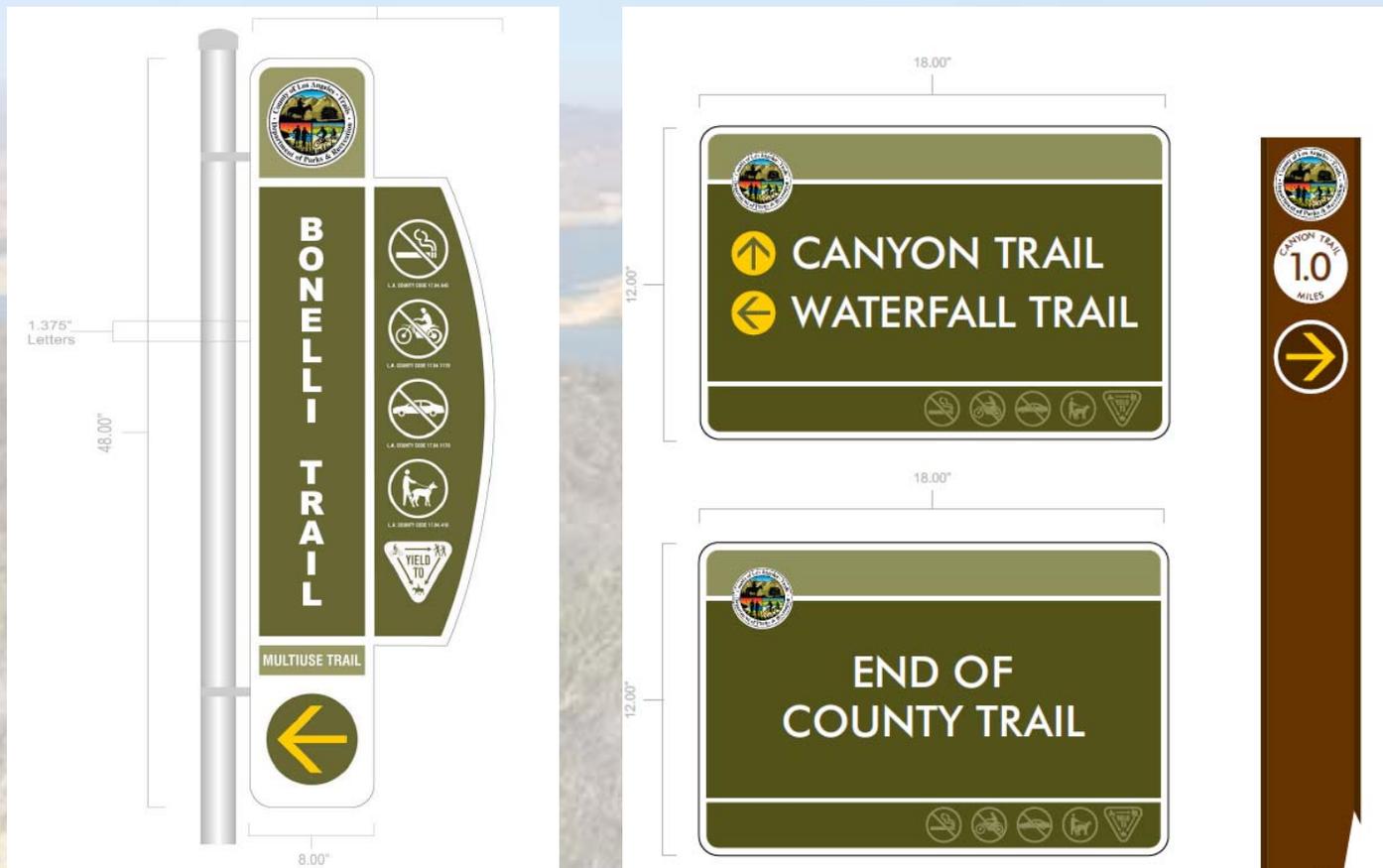
WHERE TO START?

- Help to alleviate conflicts by creating new trail amenities such as mountain bike skills parks (specialty parks)



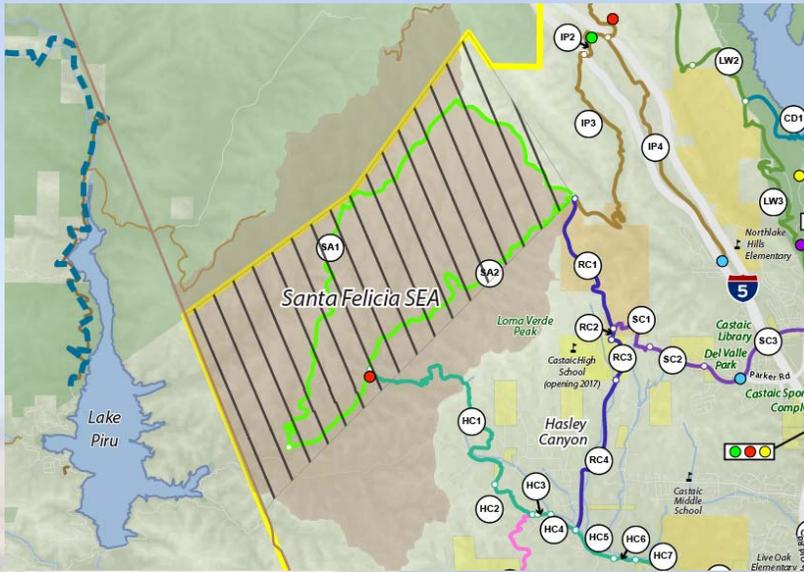
WHERE TO START?

- Education of trail etiquette and safety
 - New sign program to roll out in the 5th District



IMPLEMENTATION

WHAT'S NEXT?



- Track opportunistic properties
 - Santa Felicia SEA
- Facilitate discussions with partner agencies to allow trail access
 - Castaic Dam and Elderberry Forebay

ACQUISITION STRATEGIES

- Trail easement in new development – Conditions of Approval
- Trail easement acquisition from a willing property seller
- Trail easement dedication
- License Agreements
 - Utility Companies
 - Flood control districts
 - Sanitation districts
- Release / Sale of easement from State Parks or other Agencies

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

- Importance of conducting broad outreach
- Notice every property owner
- Offering a series of meetings and online engagement opportunities

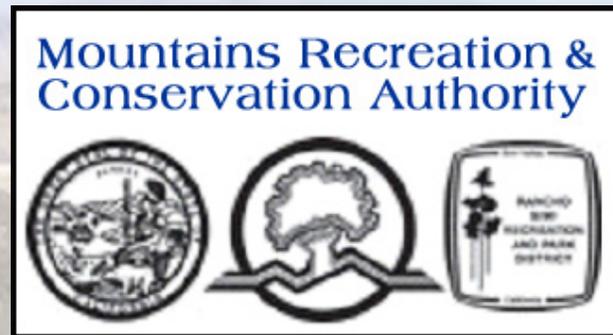
LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

- Dedicated trails planning staff is important
- Provide support to operations and maintenance staff



LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

- Foster partnerships with other agencies



LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

-  Castaic Project Area
-  Existing County Trails
-  Proposed County Trails
(from adopted 2007 Trails Map)
-  User-Created Non-Adopted Trails
(Source: <http://www.mtbproject.com>)
-  Existing Non-LA County Trails
-  Proposed Recreational Trails
(Source: Newhall Ranch Specific Plan & Santa Clarita Valley Trails Master Plan)
-  Proposed State Regional Trails
(Source: California Recreational Trails Plan)
-  Paved USFS Roads
-  Unpaved USFS Roads

- Understanding that planning maps are public documents and can get miss interpreted as trail maps

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

- Capitalize on opportunities to develop new amenities such as bike skills parks to relieve pressures on trails on private property



THANK YOU!



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