



**Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
General Plan**



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

COMMENT CARD

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

The tree planting project cannot be omitted from the plan. To do so renders portions of the plan useless. Further it renders the entire process as untrustworthy, include this function and be honest about your proposing to do.

Name/Email Address (Optional):

21



COMMENT CARD

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

The reforestation plan must be a part of the general plan. It affects a significant area of the park, it is long term effort so not including it is not appropriate. There are clearly some issues associated with this effort. ^{as when} It should have been subjected to an EIR under standard CEQA guidelines, not an emergency exemption from CEQA. Including it in the general plan would

Name/Email Address (Optional):
elizabet.matner@sbcglobal.net

open up input from a larger group of people —
especially scientists.

COMMENT CARD



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

I'd like to see an overflow
Camping facility. I'd see it as a
more primitive type open during
the busy season. It could be
part of or separate from the
existing Campgrounds.

Name/Email Address (Optional):

Jason DeMendoza; jasondkme@yaho.com



COMMENT CARD

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

Put bike lanes in
wherever possible for road
cyclists.

Name/Email Address (Optional):



COMMENT CARD

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

- 1) Still need a horse camp at north end of park.
- 2) ^{proposed:} Staging areas too small not a good location.
- 3) Too much preserve area
- 4) Mountain bikes & horses don't mix
or narrow eastside & westside trails
- 5) Like Mike Curtis' idea for a new visitors center!
- 6) Better access from Green Valley Equestrian Camp to south trails & east trails

Name/Email Address (Optional):

COMMENT CARD



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

Thank you for presentation!
I am a huge equestrian, I Camp
@ Los Vaqueros & Green Valley and
often come for day use.

I am concerned about our
horse camps & horse trails.

I want to make sure they
stay accessible to us for now
and for our future.

Name/Email Address (Optional):

karenensall@yahoo.com



COMMENT CARD

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

*What is wrong with Paso
Pichaco group camp being
used as a house camp?
New bathrooms, and already
re-doing whole camp.
Great trail access also.
Front country located.*

Name/Email Address (Optional):

Jules Murphy ca-barracks@yahoo

COMMENT CARD

8



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

Families with horses need an economical area to camp in the north. Green Valley does not want. This park is for the people to enjoy, yet you are blocking families from enjoying the park with their horses.

Name/Email Address (Optional):



COMMENT CARD

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

Los Vaqueros Horse camp
Brings in \$550.00 / night This is a
very important horse camp. The only
horse camp in the north end of park.
Tulloch Ranch is no site for
horse camp. Los Vaqueros is the
park's big money maker. Keep it!
Los Vaqueros does not need replacement
Tulloch Ranch is unacceptable for horses.

Name/Email Address (Optional)

CYNBI Denny  cd57sd46@cox.net

COMMENT CARD



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

I would like to see a
horse camp @ the upper north
end of the Park - much like
the horse camp we lost in 2003.

Los Vaqueros is nice by too expensive
for single use - not was it designed for
that - →

Name/Email Address (Optional):

Susan.mcmasters@sharp.com

I would like to suggest Pisco Proacho -
for a horse camp to replace what was lost.

Integrate it into a horse camp like Green
Valley Falls -



COMMENT CARD

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

Front Country Zone - Gateway Hwy 79:

1 - Equestrian Staging area will not accommodate enough rigs to park for day use.

- Where do you intend to put Horsecamps since boundaries are continuous?

- Tullock Ranch is not acceptable for a horsecamp - no trails across 79 - no water & expensive to build

Name/Email Address (Optional):

gjrobes52@cox.net / Gayla Robles Over

- Proposed conf center/retreat to be built at Haul-Cu-Cush - this is the same area proposed as a Horsecamp was denied due to Water/percolation issues.
- There is no space for an individual, family horse camp in the North end of Park and
- Trail system needs absolute guarantee of continued existence.
- We feel equestrians are being pushed out of the park.



COMMENT CARD

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

My concerns as an Equestrian are
the relocating the day parking area along
 Hwy 79 - too far from any trail loop
 access.

Also converting some narrow trails to
 multi-use - East Side & West Side
 are too narrow & curved to have
 horses & mountain bikes.

Name/Email Address (Optional):

COMMENT CARD



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

There is a definite need for an equestrian camp in the north end of the park. Tullock Ranch is not an acceptable location. There is no trail access from Tullock. The proposal to establish a trail connection with ABDSP still requires a ride to Crow Hwy 79. ~~Is~~ Is that connection proposed to connect the Tullock Horse Camp (proposal) to the park trails?

Name/Email Address (Optional):

Michelle / deviesm4@gmail.com



COMMENT CARD

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

Front Country Zone can
not accomodate enough
equestrian Mgs (4 is not
enough.) Truck and trailers take
space!

I would also like to see a
horse camp for individuals on
the North End of Cuyamaca
like the horse camp we lost in
2003 fire when many of us lost
our homes.

Name/Email Address (Optional):

loracoda@quhsd.net
Laura Precoda (over)

#1 →
not
FL

Equestrians feel we are being
"squeezed out." If there is a
North Camp we can not be too
far from the trails. We do not
want to be in the desert.

Our Equestrian groups have asked
for Heat-Co-Curish as a Day/overnight
camp for years. Corrals/water/shade
is not as expensive as rebuilding
structures. (where is Tollock Ranch?)

COMMENT CARD



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

We must have an equestrian
camp ground in the north by
the lake

Large equestrian day parking

Trails need to be able to be
maintained or slightly moved
to keep open

Name/Email Address (Optional):

Darla Frey darla.frey@hotmail.com



COMMENT CARD

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

*Too many / too much preserves -
excludes camping.*

*Need better balance - recreation
needs more weight. more space*

*Horse are part of the history
of St. Meinrad Mine. Don't move
them. All camp - please*

Name/Email Address (Optional):

COMMENT CARD



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments
may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

*Site of Mardy Minshall's horse
for a horse camp. If not, why not?*

*Everything in the park is PROTECTED!
why do we need "Preserves" in the Park
that limit recreational use?*

*MAU camp at Stone wall is only occupied
on weekends & gives interpretive role
to hikers passing by from the menex lake.
Park needs MAU at the north
end.*

Name/Email Address (Optional):



COMMENT CARD

During the Public Meeting, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share information, issues, and ideas. You may use this card to write down your comments and leave it in the Public Comments Box provided at the meeting, or mail to the Project Lead person. You may also email your comments to enviro@parks.ca.gov. We appreciate your input.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan



Questions and comments may be mailed to:

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
Barracks 26
San Diego, CA 92106
ATTN: Bob Patterson,
Project Lead

Or E-mail comments to:
enviro@parks.ca.gov

I submitted this letter to the Park service after the meeting in May. The talking points I referred to starts on page 10 of the handout from the May meeting. My main concern regarding the current presentation is the loss of trails as they become blocked by downed trees etc.

Name/Email Address (Optional):

Clarice Probs

GARY & CLARICE GRADO

**25437 Day Lily Drive
Murrieta, CA 92563
951 677-0951
cgrado@verizon.net**

Copy of Letter
Sent May 28, 2013
And handed to team
at 3rd pub. mtg.
Nov. 12, 2013

May 24, 2013

California State Parks
Southern Service Center
2797 Truxtun Road
San Diego, CA 92106

ATTN: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team

After attending the public meeting for the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan last evening I was encouraged to submit my thoughts. The following are my comments regarding some of the talking points presented at this meeting:

1. The Declaration of Purpose and Vision Statements (Drafts) were well written and go hand-in-hand with the conservation of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

2. OPERATIONS:

- a. The current headquarters should remain at Paso Picacho. To rebuild Dyar House would take in excess of \$200,000 and a poor use of tax-payers money.
- b. With all of the other "developed" land in Cuyamaca such as the school camp, I'm sure the "bone-yard" could be relocated somewhere within the school camp boundaries. And, since the mounted patrol is well versed in the preservation of our lovely park and the importance of educating others, why not open a small portion of the old Los Caballos horse camp for their use.
- c. Since Mack Ranch is an existing property, locating the Park Operations there would be a wonderful idea.
- d. A cell tower on Cuyamaca Peak is also a perfect plan.

3. CULTURAL PRESERVES:

- a. The Cultural Preserve sites at the Ah-Ha-Kwe-Ah-Mac/Stonewall Mine and Cuish Cuish are important sites to preserve; however, public access and the existing trail systems should NOT be eliminated. The first step to "ban" visitors from certain areas of our State Parks is to deem them "Cultural Preserves". Then the environmentalists come in and find more and more reasons to NOT let the public visit these beautiful places. Don't we have enough signs in the park directing hikers, riders and bikers to stay on the designated trails and not to disturb any of the culturally sensitive areas?

4. NATURAL PRESERVES:

- a. Since the early 1960's my sister and I have hiked extensively from one side of the Park to the other and currently my husband and I ride our horses on some of the most beautiful trails in the Country through the same Park. Since there are no "maintained" trails going through the Cuyamaca Meadow and the area where the Cuyamaca Cypress grows we naturally do not enter those areas. So, what would be the point of designating them a "Natural Preserve" when the entire Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is supposed to be a "Natural Preserve". Again, once you put these boundaries and names on certain parts of the Park, those areas will grow and before you know it no one will be allowed to "trespass" on any of the land within the Park boundaries.

We do but our sites are still being damaged - need more protection.

5. CAMPGROUNDS AND VISITOR USE FACILITIES:

- a. As mentioned above, I think the rebuilding of the Dyar House is cost prohibitive. The idea of using the ruins as an interpretive project would be a better use of the property.
- b. If the thought of using Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish as a conference/retreat center, etc. as an option than why can't a new Los Caballos Horse camp be an option? I was told at the meeting that several water districts were opposed to anything going into that area. If the horse camp were to be put there it would be a minimally used area (May-October) as opposed to building all those structures to house the many people attending the conference/retreat center throughout the year. The equestrian camp would consist of a bathroom/shower building, the same number of horse corrals and campsites, similar to the campsite at the original Los Caballos Horse camp. It is somewhat secluded and away from the HWY 79 corridor and non-horse campers and closer to the preferred trail heads.
- c. Please "ditch" the Green Valley Horse Camp as it is too close to HWY 79 and the public camp sites and not close enough to main trail heads. In years past when Los Cab was still opened you couldn't get a campsite on the weekend which adds up to dollars for the Park system. When I visited the new Green Valley camp last year at the peak summer months on Saturday there was one rig parked at the camp which equals to lost revenue - get the point!!
- d. Regarding improvements to the Green Valley or Paso Picacho campgrounds, I see no reason at all to alter any of those campsites. My family has tent camped at both campgrounds during the summers since the 1960's and find the campsites comfortable and very accommodating. The new bathrooms are clean and more private than the old ones and there's plenty of space for the smaller motorhomes. I'm afraid the larger 30'+ rigs will have to spend their outdoor life at the many "Great America" RV parks. Besides, those people don't even cook outside; they stay inside and watch their TV's. What kind of outdoor fun is that? Additional cabins are also a waste of money due to the maintenance involved.
- e. The Paso Fire Station is the perfect place for the park administrative office. And the water upgrade is warranted. However, if you're going to upgrade the electrical power I suggest that you go the way of Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp and go solar.

6. TRAILS:

- a. I totally agree that the roads and trails need constant maintenance to keep them safe for all uses. However, going back to those "sensitive areas" aka Cultural and Natural Preserves; we, as the general public who use these trails, should be guaranteed that the existing trails going through these sensitive areas remain open to ALL use.
- b. Upgrading the north/south routes through the Park for multi-use is a great idea. This gives all users ample space to pass without incident.

7. SPECIAL EVENTS:

- a. Special events are important to any industry. Why shouldn't the Park System be a host of many charity events to enhance the usability of the Park and bring in much needed revenue? - we agree. A proposal of the G.P. will be to promote/encourage special events.

8. NEW MANAGEMENT ZONES:

- a. Reconstruction of the Ah-Ha-Kwe-Ah-Mac/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve is also cost prohibitive. "Possible cabins for overnight use" is about the dumbest idea I've heard regarding this property. I will agree that this area is under-utilized; however, it is a historic site and should remain as such. I believe that the existing little "cabin" which houses the interpretation of this site is ample information for those who venture up the hill to the Stonewall Mine.

9. INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION:

- a. I was privileged to attend the week-long Cuyamaca Outdoor School many years ago. I learned so much about conservation and the importance of preserving vast areas of land for the future of America. I do believe that there should be a program to involve not only "minority" children but all children who do not have the resources to enjoy such a wonderful opportunity to see and touch what others take for granted.
- b. I'm not sure that we need to go as far as putting up "bilingual wayside panels" with multiple-languages printed on them. The majority of visitors to the United States are well educated and can speak and understand the English language. After traveling around the world and visiting some of the most breathtaking parks in numerous countries, we found, with the exception of several countries, that their interpretive materials were printed in their native language and English. I can understand the use of the Spanish language due to our proximity to Mexico but where do you stop from there?
- c. I remember, as a child, going to the interpretive campfire programs at night with my parents and taking hikes from ¼ mile to 1 ½ miles with a group of people lead by the ranger (a summer job for the school teacher). Whatever happened to those programs? We were also "dubbed" by the ranger as official "junior rangers" and given a patch to put on our jackets and the job of standing by a plant, tree or rock on those interpretive hikes to tell the passing hikers the name of the plant or the purpose of those odd holes in the rocks. Every other week during the summer we would be at either Paso Pacacho (our favorite campsite for its many trailheads and proximity to the "Lake Store") or Green Valley (favored for its refreshing drop into the creek off "slide" rock). Many times the same person would serve as "ranger" year after year and we all got to know one another until we graduated high school and went our separate ways. After we married and started our own family we would bring our own children up and enjoy the same experiences we had a children.

Now in our 60's my husband and I bring our horses up and camp with many of our horse friends. We keep abreast of the many changes the Park is going through by attending the public meetings, and I must tell you that I am fearful of losing even an inch of trails in the Park. Like that old adage, "You give an inch, they take a mile". What I heard Thursday evening compelled me sit down and put my thoughts and feelings on paper. Since the early 1960's Cuyamaca has been a very integral part of my life and the lives of my parents, sister and brother and our children and grandchildren. As much as I accept change, and change is GOOD, too much change can ruin a good thing. After reading through all the literature I received from the meeting it appears to me that you are pushing way too much change for the betterment of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Leave well enough alone and allow the public to decide what is best for the use of this lovely piece of paradise as we have been here for many years protecting the Park from others who do not have a sincere stake in the heritage of Cuyamaca.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Sincerely,

Clarice M. Grado
Representative for the
Santa Fe Hunt Club and (est. 1969)
The Santa Rosa Plateau Riding Club (est. 1987)

Planning is essential to any organization. However, just going through the motions does little to help the organization. Only thorough, thoughtful, comprehensive review of goals and alternatives to reach those goals increases the chance for success. It is essential to include every aspect of the organizations business. Only by including every aspect can one set priorities and evaluate tradeoffs. Only then does the plan become a useful guide that helps to focus all parts of an organization. Only then can the general plan serve as a guide for specific work plans.

In this case, the general plan needs goals for all forms: life forms and land forms within the park. Each of these can be further defined as subdivisions of the general plan. These would include at a minimum: Restoration, Wild Life Management, Native Plants, Non-Native Plant Management, Migratory Species, Wild Life Corridors, Hydrology, Soil Management, Rare and Endangered Species, Climate Change and Carbon Sequestration and People. Each of the aforementioned is a topic worthy of its own plan and is also interrelated and intertwined with each of the others. The general plan is where conflicts between these parts must be addressed and prioritized.

Let me focus for a moment on Restoration. This can be an attempt to take a habitat back to a prior state or condition. However, nature is not static so I prefer a definition that accepts change as a given. Restoration then is focused on recruitment and reestablishment of all remaining DNA prior to introductions from elsewhere.

Plants, being the basis of the web of life, means re-vegetation is the first step. Realize that plants exist in interrelated communities that include mosses and liverworts as well as trees, perennial bushes as well as annuals, bulbs and lichens. The diversity is what makes the plant community. The diversity is what supports the tapestry of animal life from micro-organisms to herbivores, to occasional visitors to apex predators. The focus is then on reestablishing the trajectory of evolution instead of trying to retain a steady state garden.

Re-vegetation moves through stages. At each stage through to the climax stage results need to be evaluated. Plant surveys are one test. Another great test for vegetative success is the return or absence of certain animals. Both the plants and animals success should also be evaluated in abiotic terms. Refinements and adjustments can then be made in future work plans.

A second specific topic that I will address is Carbon Sequestration. This has been a goal for the park. It is apparent that this is still evolving area where practices are being refined to improve results. Even with the lack of knowledge and evolving methods, it is essential that this function be included in the general plan. Today soils are being damaged. Reptiles insects and rodents are being crushed under tractor treads. Seasonal waterways are filled in. This single focus effort is totally contrary to any good business practices or environmental practices. By including this effort in the general plan there is a greater likelihood of improving this program still further. Unless the sole purpose of the park is to tree farm, this function needs to be integrated with the every other purpose for the park.

The current draft document we are discussing here tonight is more reflective of process. Major functions are omitted resulting in a product that lacks both depth and breath. This plan must incorporate goals for the constituent parts. This plan must consider each part in depth. This plan must establish goals for the interrelations between the parts. All of these then must be considered over time. I trust that the additional input you are gathering tonight will result in a better product. A plan that can truly guide all of the complexity associated with natural systems oversight.

KAY STEWART
Landscape Architect



2171 India Street, Suite A
San Diego, California 92101
Phone (619) 234-2668
Fax (619) 236-1094

November 11, 2013

California State Parks
Re: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Update

Thank you for this opportunity to give suggestions to the General Plan Update process.

The State Resources Code states that a State Parks' general plan must include explanations and descriptions of all actions being used to manage a Park's natural resources. It must show that these actions serve the goal of preserving the integrity of a Park's ecosystem including the whole array of species there. The Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan must provide maps that show where trees are being planted. The General Plan needs to explain goals, methods and actions being used, and why one method or another has been chosen to reach the goal. It should describe how park staffing and funding will achieve these goals. . It should explain the impact to other species within the ecosystem. The General Plan is supposed to contain all the tools needed to carry the Park's natural heritage forward into the future, with the least risks.

The State Resources Code also states that the use of state park resources for any commercial use is illegal. Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is accepting millions of dollars and using it to manipulate and alter the Park's land and resources. The State has signed a contract to attempt to use its land to absorb carbon from excessive fossil fuel use by corporations in California. This contract has costly cash penalties, if the Park fails to grow enough big trees fast enough. This is commerce, the exchange of money for a product, and it is being carried out on thousands of acres in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, with serious consequences to many of the species of plants and animals in the State Park, and it could cost the public a lot, should the trees fail to grow as hoped.

Sincerely,

Kay Stewart

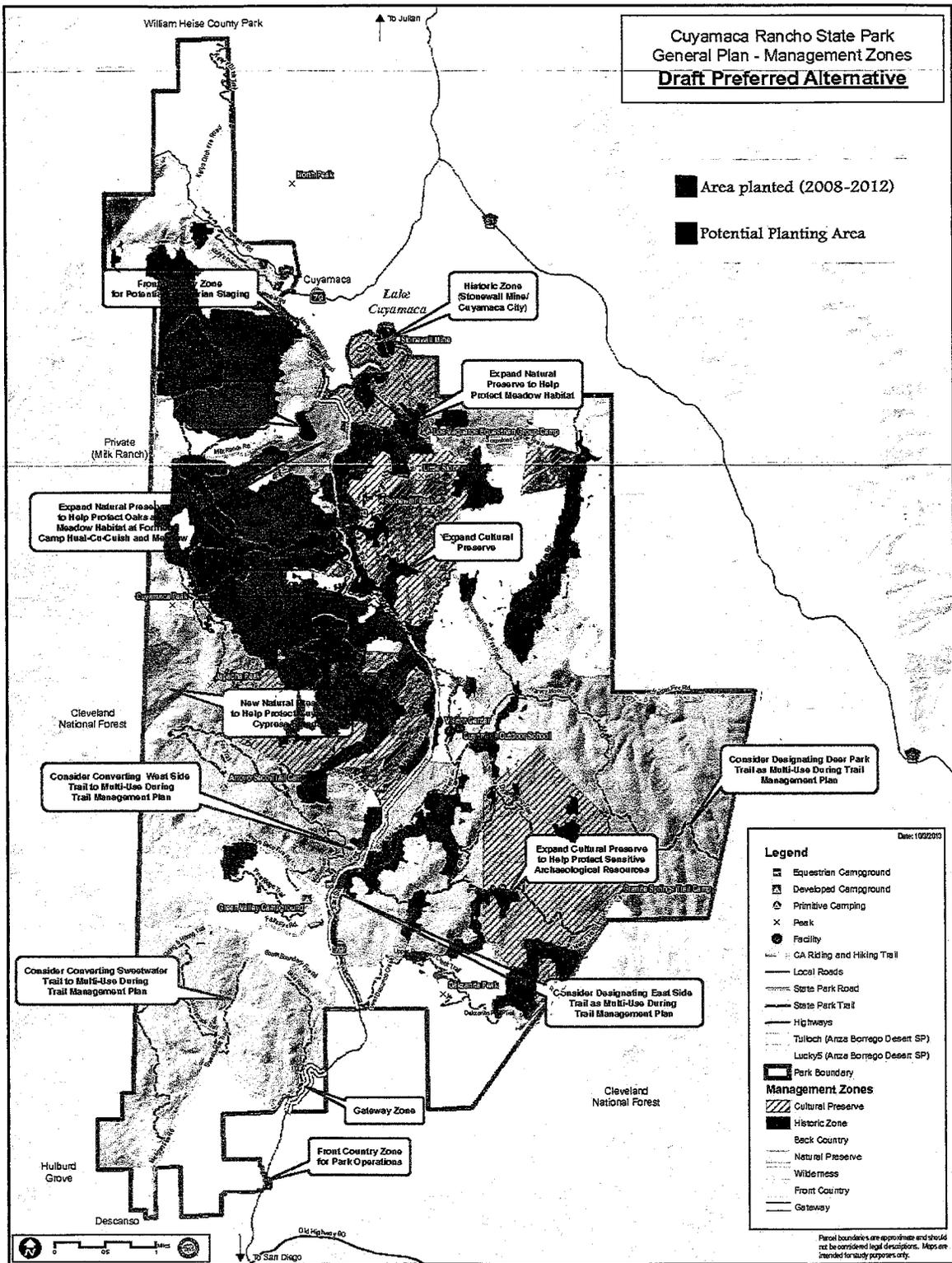
**Comments on Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Update Meeting 3
November 12, 2013**

Frank Landis, PhD, Conservation Chair, CNPSSD
conservation@cnpsd.org

Thank you for this opportunity. My major comment, as at the second meeting, is that the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Reforestation Project HAS to be folded into the general plan and the associated EIR.

- It is absurd that a century long 2,530 acre project that relandscapes at least 10 percent of the park, is being run under a 2009 CEQA exemption for 540 acres of revegetation. General Plans require consideration of all projects and impacts, and ignoring the biggest project is unjustifiable.
- The obvious impacts we are documenting need to be systematically avoided or mitigated, not ignored. These impacts include erosion and stream sedimentation, loss of native species from mastication zones, increased fire danger from fires to burn masticated vegetation, and weed invasions in mastication areas.
- The Reforestation Project has already planted trees, purchased from a nursery in Placerville, in areas zoned for Wilderness and Natural Preserve, as the attached map shows. It is not clear whether this is legal, but it is clear that wilderness was not intended to be high-density tree plantations, with hundreds of trees per acre planted in rectangular grids. These are areas where, to quote the documentation provided tonight, "no mechanical conveyances are allowed (Per Public Resources Code) and natural resources are in as pristine a condition as possible." (http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21299/files/crsp-20gp_highlightsofpreferredalt.pdf)
- The contract to plant the trees for carbon sequestration mandates (by our calculations) that over 300 trees per acre, over 2530 acres, must grow for 100 years, or CRSP forfeits the money. The catch is that the Park can compensate for failure by planting an additional area. Given the low rate of seedling survivorship we have seen, it is obvious why CRSP wants to expand this operation. Our question is what stops CRSP from replanting the entire park to fulfill this apparently commercial contract?
- The Reforestation Project is predicated on the notion that CRSP needs to recreate the forest that existed before the Cedar Fire. That forest germinated over a century ago, when the climate was cooler and wetter. Research from the Santa Rosa Mountains, fifty miles north of CRSP, showed that the average elevation of all trees was rising, and that the average elevation for Jeffrey pine (the major species planted at Cuyamaca), had risen about 28 meters between 1977 and 2007 (<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/33/11823.full>), and the trees will continue climbing in elevation as the climate warms over the next century. It is therefore unclear whether a Jeffrey pine forest can now exist at Cuyamaca, although trees and groves might survive in sheltered spots. As Michael Wells noted in a 2010 KPBS interview, Coulter pines are doing fine, but Jeffery pines are not. Unfortunately, the Park Reforestation Plan throws millions into creating a Jeffrey pine plantation based on the past, not preparing Cuyamaca vegetation for the future.
- State Parks' 2013-2014 Strategic Action Plan has goals of 1. Restore public trust and accountability, and 2. Protect and preserve resources and facilities in the existing State Park System We strongly recommend bringing the Reforestation Plan into line with these two key goals, by making it part of the Park's general plan. Bring the Reforestation Project into daylight, and subject it to honest CEQA review in their EIR, to see if it can be effective and to earn public trust through public transparency and mitigation of the impacts that are already occurring. If the project will not work, CNPS is more than willing to work with the Park to find a better way. Right now, it is a 2,530 acre "black project" without public oversight or input, and State Parks is not a military organization with any need for that kind of secrecy.

Thank you for taking my input.



This map is based on the Draft Preferred Alternative Management Zone Map (http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21299/files/preferred_alternative.pdf), overlaid by the CRSP Reforestation Project map (page five in http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21299/files/natural-final-dw-for-web_10-31-12.pdf). Red and black were chosen to provide sufficient contrast to make the reforestation areas visible on the complexity of the base map. Note that areas zones for "Wilderness" "Cultural Preserve, and "Natural Preserve" have been subject to reforestation.