



**Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan
PUBLIC MEETING #3 AGENDA
October 25, 2006 (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm)
Chatsworth Park South
22360 Devonshire Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311**



1. Please sign in by placing your name/address on the sign-up sheet on the table
2. Angeles District Superintendent's Welcome and Introductory Comments- Ron Schafer
3. Project Overview/Current status
4. Summary of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
General Plan is a first-tier Environmental Impact report (EIR)
5. Declaration of Purpose
6. Interpretive Themes
Sample Goals and Guidelines
7. Management Zones
Management zone summarizes the desired conditions, different levels of visitor experiences/uses and the possible range of facilities, based upon the Park's natural, cultural, aesthetics, and recreational resources.

Alterative One

Alternative Two

Preferred Plan
8. Question/Answer period
9. Meeting closure

Santa Susanna SHP General Plan

Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is to preserve and explore crucial links, both to California's past and to dwindling wildlife habitats, while providing visitors with quality recreational and educational experiences along its historic trails.

Framed by sculptural sandstone escarpments reminiscent of early California, the park's boulder-strewn landscape contains significant natural and cultural resources. Among these are critical wildlife habitats and linkages, segments of a historic Overland Stagecoach route, and other evidence of human occupation and activity dating back to precontact times.

Although named for the historic stage route, Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park also offers links to many historic features within the greater Los Angeles Basin. In addition, the park will solidify the vital role California State Parks has in maintaining diverse plant and wildlife populations in the face of expanding urban development and habitat fragmentation in southern California's Transverse Mountain Ranges.

Its open space is a valuable resource as well as a welcoming sanctuary with outstanding recreational potential and links to adjacent open spaces.

SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK SAMPLE GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Within the final General Plan documents, broad goals and guidelines will be included for managing Parkwide natural and cultural resources, interpretation, visitor uses and development.

Examples of the goals and guidelines are denoted below.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SENSITIVE WILDLIFE

Goal: Protect all sensitive wildlife species occurring in the Park. Sensitive wildlife species include those legally listed under Federal and State law as threatened or endangered, those that are species of concern (CDFG), and those considered locally sensitive or endemic to the area.

Guidelines:

- Preserve sensitive species and habitats and encourage their recovery. Comply with state and Federal environmental legislation, Recovery Plans, and Critical Habitat enacted to protect this disappearing biota. Contribute to efforts that seek to “list” species that are in need of Threatened or Endangered designation, and work to extend Critical Habitat to appropriate regions within the Park.
- Regular monitoring of sensitive species will be conducted to track the health and sustainability of sensitive animal populations in the Park. Projects may require the formation of interagency partnerships to plan and implement conservation actions.
- Sensitive habitats and species will be protected from visitor uses such as equestrian activity, mountain biking, hiking, and other visitor uses not yet established in the Park. These activities will be appropriately planned for within these habitats or in association with these species such that the integrity of the habitat and the sensitive species is given highest priority.

NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

Goal: Promote and restore the sustainability of natural ecosystem processes by actively managing plant community health and development, while maintaining the protection of cultural landscapes and resources. Efforts also will address the conservation of sensitive and unique species and the control of exotic invasive species.

Guidelines:

- The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) will develop scientifically based vegetation management objectives for issues such as habitat restoration and prescribed fire management.
- When appropriate, The CDPR will seek partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to implement a congruent plan for restoring and preserving Park health.

BIOCORRIDORS

Goal: The ecological significance of biocorridors, with emphasis on the Park and the surrounding region, will be protected, enhanced and interpreted for Park visitors.

Guidelines:

- The CDPR will maintain high standards for ecosystem health and biodiversity by protecting plant and animal habitat and dispersal corridors in the Park.
- The CDPR will coordinate with local communities, county, state, and Federal agencies, research institutions, and relevant organizations to develop an ecologically sound regional biocorridor system. In addition, the CDPR will discourage urban, suburban, and infrastructure planning that does not consider, through avoidance or mitigation, the degradation and fragmentation of habitat.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ARCHAEOLOGY

Goal: Protect, stabilize, and preserve the archaeological resources within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Guidelines:

- Prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) to identify, evaluate, and protect historically significant cultural resources, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural properties.
- Identify procedures for careful planning of all undertakings, including routine maintenance and new facility development, to avoid or minimize significant impacts to cultural resources within the Park. Planning should include archaeological and historical research and consultation with Native Americans and/or other cultural groups as appropriate.
- Develop a program for cultural resource protection in conjunction with agencies or companies with right-of-way access within or adjacent to the park. Program should include communication during planning phases of projects or work that may have the potential to affect cultural resources within or related to Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

HISTORY

Goal: Interpret Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park's historic resources, focusing on areas of exceptional historical significance.

Guidelines:

- Categorize and group the Park's historic resources to facilitate their interpretation. Resources should be categorized under one or more of the following historical themes that are representative of the Park's historical development:
 - *Transforming the Environment*

- Examines the continuous interaction between people and the environment where they lived and worked.
- Collectively conveys particular times and places showing the Park's linear evolution regarding its historic transportation, homesteading, and stone quarrying activities.
- *Developing the American Economy*
 - Reflects the ways in which people have engaged in economic activities
 - Historic archaeological evidence may possibly provide information about the lives, culture, and ethnicity of those who lived and worked within what is now Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.
- *Expressing Cultural Values*
 - Peoples' expression of their culture, whether about themselves or the world they inhabit
 - These may include potential cultural landscapes, including historic sites, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes with intrinsic natural features and wildlife.

INTERPRETATION

Goal: To develop methods for communicating to park visitors the rich history and importance of the natural resources of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, without unduly compromising cultural and archeological sites or natural habitat.

- **Unifying Theme:**

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park's resources reveal natural, cultural, economic and historical linkages to the past, which have shaped the region over time.

- **Primary Theme: Cultural/Historical**

The region's struggles and triumphs of its diverse communities are told in the individual stories and archeological evidence of the area's indigenous peoples, immigrant communities, and current and past residents. Collectively, their stories tell of the great changes that have taken place in the region.

- **Primary Theme: Connectivity**

The Park site has been a route of human transportation, commerce and wildlife migration throughout its human history. Located in a crossroads between regions, cultures and resources, the Park provides a place to reflect on the natural and commercial activities that have shaped the people and the region of Southern California.

- **Primary Theme: Natural Resources**

The rough peaks, escarpments and boulder-strewn landscapes of this Park have always sustained the plants and animals that reside here. As an area of remaining natural habitat in an increasingly urbanized region, this Park is critical for the shelter, food, and range it provides.

VISITOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT

TRAIL SYSTEM

Goal: Assess the proposed trail system based upon capacity objectives and visitor experiences and make changes where necessary to meet the visitors' varied needs.

Guidelines:

- Develop and publish trail maps and signage consistent with the proposed trail system.
- Examine and monitor visitor-use levels on the proposed trail system to determine and address significant impacts to natural and cultural resources. Also, implement visitor-use surveys to seek feedback of the proposed trail system.
- Build upon the proposed trail hierarchy system, to protect and interpret the Park's cultural and natural resources, as well take advantage of the Park's aesthetics and recreational opportunities.

The proposed trail system includes the following trail designation:

- *Primary Routes of Travel:* cross-terrain routes that connect one entrance to another or include key (i.e. historic routes) or vantage points.
- *Secondary Connectors:* important, but shorter routes that offer convenience or connect the Primary Routes to additional access points and certain landscape features not on Primary Routes
- *Interpretive and Scenic Loops:* localized loops that allow access to special features, vantage points, or development of focused interpretive themes or topics.

CAMPING

Goal: Develop limited camping opportunities within the Park.

Guidelines:

- Implement additional resource studies of the proposed camping sites denoted within the Preferred Plan to determine the impacts and appropriate capacity of the sites.
- Limit primitive camping opportunities within the core of the Park, while examining more developed campsites on the perimeter of the park, to minimize visual and resource impacts.

3 MAPS INSERTED HERE:

“ALTERNATIVE 1”

“ALTERNATIVE 2”

“PREFERRED PLAN”

	<i>Gateway Zones</i>	<i>Secondary Access Points</i>	<i>North Forty</i>	<i>Primary Historic Zone</i>
AREA DESCRIPTION	These zones are located at the outer Park boundaries & will serve as major 'gateways' into the core of the Park. These Zones have ease of visitor & vehicular access.	These points of entry have ease of visitor access from the surrounding communities or open spaces and serve as minor access points into the park.	This zone is on the northern fringe of the park immediately south of Santa Susana Pass Road & serves as a supplemental buffer to the adjacent sensitive riparian zone. (This zone may include future development)	This zone lies in the southern half of the park & contains a high concentration of cultural resources that are unique for their historical, archeological, & scientific significance. This zone includes the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road.
RESOURCE CHARACTER & MANAGEMENT (CARRYING CAPACITY OBJECTIVE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain & protect the natural character of the boulder strewn landscape Facilities to complement or blend with natural surroundings Prescribe sustainable design & maintenance practices Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on cultural & natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain & protect the natural character of the boulder strewn landscape Design elements to complement or blend with natural surroundings Prescribe sustainable design & maintenance practices Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on cultural & natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain & protect the natural character – promote "healing" previous landscape scars Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts on cultural & natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain & protect this distinct area of outstanding cultural & natural significance Avoid or minimize impacts on cultural & natural resources
VISITOR EXPERIENCES (CARRYING CAPACITY OBJECTIVE)	<p>The visitor will be introduced to important historical, archeological, & natural significance of the Park. Availability of consolidated & convenient facilities & activities which complement or blend with the natural environment will be available. Social interaction and Park Staff may be readily available. Development outside the Park boundaries will be clearly evident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high level of use frequent contact with others 	<p>The visitor experience will be the orientation and introduction of the Park through the use of minor wayfinding and interpretive elements. Minimal parking and visitor use facilities will be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium level of use contact with others 	<p>The visitor experience will be similar to the gateway zone, however, with much less visitor use facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high to medium level of use frequent contact with others 	<p>The visitor experience will be directed towards understanding, preserving, & protecting the historical, archeological, & scientifically significant features of the Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium to low level of use moderate contact with others
VISITOR USES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> overnight use allowed, in designated camping areas motorized equipment or vehicles allowed on designated Park routes minor staging for equestrian activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no overnight use on-site vehicular parking (+/- six parking stalls) pedestrian and equestrian access points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> overnight use allowed in designated areas climbing or bouldering vehicles allowed hiking along designated trails only biking along designated trails only equestrian use along designated trails only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no overnight use no climbing or bouldering no mountain biking no vehicles unless required for health & safety (service vehicles allowed on designated road) hiking on designated trails only equestrian use on designated trails only scientific research
RANGE OF POSSIBLE FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor center/contact station amphitheater concession facilities vehicular parking campgrounds interpretive elements picnic sites ranger station maintenance/operational bldg. trailhead restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vehicular parking interpretive elements trailhead restrooms (vault type) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vehicular parking campgrounds interpretive elements picnic sites minor maintenance/operational bldg. trailhead restrooms trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restore historically significant features & structures interpretive elements picnic sites restrooms trails

	<i>Riparian Zone</i>	<i>Scenic Ridge Zone</i>
AREA DESCRIPTION	This zone contains the major drainage area of the park, which runs parallel with Santa Susana Pass Road. This Zone serves as a critical wildlife corridor to adjoining open spaces.	This zone encompasses a majority of the Park's rock outcroppings & ridges. This zone will remain rustic in nature with minimal development.
RESOURCE CHARACTER & MANAGEMENT (CARRYING CAPACITY OBJECTIVE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote, maintain and enhance natural characteristics of the Zone, especially the riparian vegetation & wildlife corridor. No development or modifications other than to improve the wildlife corridor Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts on natural & cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain & protect the natural character of this boulder-strewn landscape with its dominant rock outcroppings & escarpments. No facilities or development other than modifications to trails or designated camping areas. Avoid or minimize impacts on natural & cultural resources
VISITOR EXPERIENCES (CARRYING CAPACITY OBJECTIVE)	<p>The visitor experience will be one of traveling near & viewing a sensitive resource with minimal impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> low level of use infrequent contact with others 	<p>The visitor will experience an undeveloped landscape reminiscent of precontact California, where they can be immerse themselves in the tranquility inherent to an open space experience and exert themselves physically and mentally in the rugged topography & undeveloped conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> medium to low level of use moderate contact with others
VISITOR USES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no overnight use no climbing or bouldering no motorized equipment or vehicles unless required for health & safety, or general maintenance hiking on designated trails only scientific research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> primitive camping climbing or bouldering no motorized equipment or vehicles unless required for health & safety or general maintenance (service vehicles allowed on designated roads) hiking on designated trails only biking along designated trails only equestrian use along designated trails only scientific research
RANGE OF POSSIBLE FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> footbridges over waterways where trail re-routing is not feasible & where hydrologically appropriate minor interpretive elements trails (not within 150' of riparian veg/upper bank) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> footbridges over waterways where trail re-routing is not feasible & where hydrologically appropriate historically significant structures & trails interpretive elements primitive toilets (only at campgrounds) interpretive elements trails