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ORGANIZED 1944

July 25, 2009

California State Recreational Trails Committee
C/O Wayne Breece, CRTC Executive Secretary

Re: mountain bike access on Los Angeles City Parks trails.

Dear Mr. Breece,

I spoke at Public Comment at the July 23rd meeting of the CRTC but failed to mention critical points: In a heavily used urban park system, the user groups who regard themselves as stakeholders are not just hikers and equestrians. L.A. city parks are not the backcountry. In contrast, they provide respite for a significantly broader demographic and their use needs: elderly, disabled (ambulatory, sight and sound among others), little kids and their families. Stakeholders therefore are more diverse.

Stakeholder diversity was well represented at the so-called "mediation meetings": running clubs, dog walkers, mommy-me baby strollers, neighborhood and homeowner associations from throughout the City, Certified Neighborhood Councils, the Audobon Society and key folks from a park poor area of our City. Unprepared for the extraordinary cross section of folks unanimously in support of conserving these few remaining trails to their current best uses, IMBA and CORBA folks continue to complain that "one size fits all." It does not.

Surprisingly, these so-called "mediation meetings" were closed to the public. Upon discovery, L.A. City Council members insisted that the public be allowed to attend. Hence, the public was admitted, but told by the City's Bike staff that they could not speak.

Despite the lack of any possibility of having public input, over 40 people each night attended both meetings, showing a passionate conviction regarding this issue.

Just last year, (In 2008), L.A. Rec. and Parks completed an extensive and expensive Needs Assessment Study conducted by the award winning Lerher & Associates. This study interviewed L.A. Park users as to their wishes in city parks. Top of the list was hiking trails and paved bike paths, better restrooms etc. Mountain biking didn't even appear on the list. For LA park lovers and users, mountain biking use is not a burning issue.

Sincerely,

Lynn Brown
National Trail Coordinator

Please visit our website: etinational.com for Corral activities & information

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION Dedicated to Equine Legislation, Good Horsemanship, the Acquisition and Preservation of Trails