**San Diego Trail Alliance**

**Minutes – Oct 17th, 2016**

1. Mark Kukuchek gave an update on the PLDO (Park Lands Dedication Ordinance) committee. Currently the committee has a representative from each Community Planning Group Area (Lakeside, Sweetwater, Fallbrook, and San Dieguito) + 2 Builder’s group Reps, and 2 Park People. So far 5 meetings have been conducted. Some of the issues they are addressing are:
	1. Can Trails be considered Linear Parks and thus be eligible for PLDO funds?
	2. Builders want to get credit for Storm Water Management, in other words to perk rainwater into ground and say that constitutes a “park”.
	3. For many parks, county parks and rec doesn’t want to pay for maintained, so the PLDO committee is looking at PLDO funds being used when working with other groups that are managing the Park, facility etc.
2. Lakeside Trails (El Monte Valley): SDTA met with Adam Wilson, Senior Land Use and Policy Advisor for District 2 (Diane Jacob Supervisor). He provided the following:
	1. Encouraged SDTA to be pro-active about the trails, as the local community planning groups are limited in their abilities to address issues before they are actually presented to the group.
	2. Gave us the name of the Project Manager for the El Monte project.
3. More El Monte Info:
	1. There are delays in the project and they may be hiring a new consultant.
	2. Currently the EIR is scheduled to come out in January. SDTA is committed to notify all its partners when the EIR comes out, and we need everyone to respond at that time.
4. East County Equestrian Foundation: Michelle Devries gave us and overview and update about this project.
	1. East County Equestrian Foundation (ECEF) is a 501(c)(3) organizations working with County Parks and Rec. to (their mission) “Build a Premium Equestrian Facility.”
	2. The property is located at Willow and Moreno, 13.8 acres and was purchased by the County 4 years ago. ( PS There was talk of Soccer Fields going in there – but there will be no soccer fields.)
	3. They plan a covered Arena – Projected Cost $750K
	4. They have done soil testing, engineering and FEMA has granted a Letter of Map Revision stating the area is not in a Flood Plane.
	5. There will be areas for trail access. There is a trail system in place on the map, but it is not completed, part of the EIR is trail connectivity.
	6. City of San Diego owns a little piece of the area which has water pipes there. While they won’t allow an easement, they have agreed to a 40 year Right of Entry.
	7. The Facility will be used for other events as well as Equestrian, probably will have to charge for using it. Fee based, maybe a membership for unlimited use maybe a day use fee (still unknown).
	8. Will have some permit stalls and some RV hookups and a County Camp Host on site.
5. Julie Klein gave us an overview and update on the Trails in Del Mar: Julie has really been putting forth a huge amount of time and effort relative to the Del Mar Trail system. Here are some of the issues:
	1. The Del Mar trail caved in, as a result a lot of the trail system has been lost. Julie has called Trish from the conservancy, and they are working on this.
	2. Rancho Pacifica – Security Guard, horses are having to go up the street rather than using the trail.
	3. Casa Bella Homes Phase 1 used aggregate on the trail system rather than DG, precluding Multi-use trail system.
	4. Rancho El Camino: Horse Gate in 22 inches – Horses cannot cross it easily. Julie is working with the Park Ranger.
	5. Old El Camino Road: City of San Diego has posted a No Horse Crossing on the trail.
6. Old Survey Road 97: Don Wendt gave an update on what’s been happening: They saw Duncan Hunter’s Rep (Michael Harrison?) and Brian Albright (SD County Parks Dir). Here is the news:
	1. Opening up Old Survey Road 97
	2. Agreed to Docent Ride
	3. Will be open to public in 2018
7. California Fish and Wildlife News:
	1. 870 acres (Daly Ranch?) CA F&W closed.
	2. 30K Acres in Jamul CA F&W closed.
	3. There are letters in place from the County but there has been no response.
8. Escondido Creek Conservancy stated they’d like a trail built, 5000 acres. It is attached to Prop. B (Lilac Hills). The developer is sitting on it pending the outcome of the election, if B Passes it will open the door for development.
9. Tijuana River Valley: The USFW and Navy has designated the Jurassic Trail as long as TRVEA will maintain it (which they have been doing for years), but GREAT news for finally getting that designation.
10. Martin Jorgensen reported on the following:

**The United States Forest Service-** Cleveland National Forest- Descanso District is in the process of developing a plan to improve the Boulder Oaks Campground (off Old Highway 80 east of Buckman Springs Road). The plan will include new bathrooms, picnic tables, and fire rings. Backcountry Horsemen has met with Forest Service staff and are working with them to redesign the pull-through parking for the sites to accommodate the larger rigs that most equestrians use now days. Backcountry Horsemen has also initiated a conversation with the district about the construction of an equestrian campground on Mount Laguna.

**The United State Forest Service**- Cleveland National Forest- Palomar District is looking to install corrals at the Indian Flats Campground on the Pacific Crest Trail behind Warner Springs. Backcountry Horsemen has met with the district and will be working with them to design the equestrian portion of the campground and the connector to the PCT.

**California State Parks/Cuyamaca/Anza Borrego**- State Parks staff are reviewing the proposed regulations governing their preserves and reserves within the parks after the significant negative feedback they received from the trails community. Any revised regulations will require another public review process. Backcountry Horsemen will continue to monitor the process and will advise the equestrian community of any meetings or comment periods. In addition, Backcountry Horsemen has continued to work with parks staff to establish an individual horse camping facility in the north end of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

**Grasslands Open Space Preserve** (San Diego County Parks)- portions of the preserve have been closed since acquisition due to Fish and Wildlife concerns about eagle nesting in the area. The Ramona Trails Association has been working diligently to have the areas opened up to public access. Meetings with congressman Duncan Hunter and State Fish and Wildlife have resulted in the areas being opened up to docent-led rides in 2017 and public access in 2018. There may still be some seasonal closures if eagles resume nesting in the area.

**Mt. Woodson/Iron Mountain** staging area (Hagy Bridge)- San Diego County has met with the City of San Diego, City of Poway, Caltrans, and CalFire. The planned staging area has been relocated to just north of Poway Road on Highway 67 and the public/wildlife bridge initially proposed has been changed to a tunnel under the highway. The staging area is planned to connect the Iron Mountain and Mount Woodson trail systems and create new trails. The county and the City of Poway are strongly supporting this project and property has been purchased.

**Sycuan/Sloan Canyon Trail** alignment- A meeting was held on July 7th 2016 with the County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Sycuan Tribe, and community members to discuss the proposed trail alignment. The focus at this time is the section along Dehesa Road. There is also a proposed pathway along Willow Glen Road.

**Millar Ranch Road staging** (off Highway 94 on the south side- across from Bright Valley Farm)- Ms. Jacob states this project will happen. Funding has been secured from Caltrans.

**Establishment of designated trail widths for San Diego County**- guidelines are being established that prefer a 2’ to 4’ (single track) trail width. This is being done to help facilitate the construction of trails in MSCP (Multiple Species Conservation Plan) areas.

**La Canada De San Vicente Ecological Preserve**- San Diego County has sent two letters to California Fish and Wildlife advocating public access and trails. There has not been a response.

**California Riding and Hiking Trail** (San Felipe Valley)- Diane Jacob’s office has been fighting to get this open to public access for a long time. A meeting was held with California Fish and Wildlife in December of 2015. The county re-affirmed their position with them by letter on February 5th, 2016.

**Boulder Oaks Open Space Preserve** (off Mussey Grade Road)- Public meetings have been held by the county to collect input on the proposed staging area and trail system. There is significant opposition to the development by local residents. Backcountry Horsemen has offered to work with the county to plan the staging area and trails.

**Flinn Springs Road Pathway**- There have been concerns expressed about a narrow bridge on Old Highway 80 that causes safety concerns to trail users. A separate bridge to accommodate trail users has been proposed.

**Padre Water District**- There is the potential for the development of a new trail system in the Lakeside area due to the construction of new water pipelines by the Padre Water District. Backcountry Horsemen has been advised of the project and will continue to follow it.

**Stowe Trail (Gooden Ranch/MCAS Miramar)-** Diane Jacob has been meeting with the Marines on this and a system has been proposed that would allow access to military lands by permit only. The county would like to acquire the property in question but the military does not wish to sell. The permit program should take 4-6 months to set up.

**Trans County Trail/San Diego River Trail/Coast to Crest Trail**- All three trail systems are being developed and land is being acquired by conservancies and land managers. While the process is slow, progress is being made and all three trails, when completed, will allow equestrians to ride extended distances from the coastal areas to the mountains. The San Diego Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California has been attending meetings and working with the county on these projects.