On March 22, 2016, Marty and Terry Jorganson and I met with the following representatives of the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation:

Marcus Lubich, Park Project Manager,

Maryann Vancio, Trails Program Coordinator

Jill Bankston, Chief of Development

This meeting was relative to the San Diego County Parks Lands Dedication Ordinance (PLDO). In December 2015, County Supervisor Dianne Jacob requested the Department of Parks and Recreation reevaluate the PLDO to conduct outreach, review similar ordinances, and develop recommendations to update the San Diego County of the PLDO.

As background it should be noted that the San Diego County PLDO was adopted in 1973 and is in compliance with the State of California Quimby Act. The State Quimby Act was first established by the California legislature in 1965. It provided requirements for the dedication of parkland and/or payment of in-lieu fees as a condition of approval of certain types of residential development projects.

The legislation was enacted in response to California's increased rate of urbanization. The need to preserve open space and provide parks and recreation facilities for growing communities led to the enactment of the Quimby Act. The State Quimby Act allows local municipalities to establish ordinances requiring residential subdivision developers to pay fees or give land that can be used to purchase parks and recreation facilities.

During the meeting the following was discussed:

1. In Sec 810.102 Definitions (a) defines *“ Active recreational uses”, as “means recreational facilities occurring on level or gently sloping land (max 10%) restricted for park or recreational purposes in a planned development which are designed to provide individual or group activities of an active nature common to local parks in San Diego County, including, but not limited to, open lawn, sports field , court games, swimming pools, children’s play areas, picnic areas, recreation buildings, dance slabs and recreational community gardening. Active recreation uses do not include natural open space , nature study areas, open space for buffer zones, steep slopes, golf courses, riding and hiking trails, scenic overlooks, water courses, drainage areas, water bodies, marina and boating areas, parking areas and archeological areas”.* We discussed the concept of including trails as part of the PLDO. At first the County representatives seemed resistant to trails inclusion into the PLDO as they expressed concern that classifying trails as “Active recreation” rather than “Passive recreation” could trigger the restriction of trails in conservation preserve areas. However, since the PLDO was originally drafted in 1973, the terms active and passive recreation does not carry any type of legal description, the use and evolution of the County trail system has been vast. Maryanne stated that Trails were now defined as “Linear Parks”. We (SDTA) said thinking of that definition trails should be included in the PLDO. We recommended that trails be included in the PLDO. We also recommended that the description of trails be amended to “Soft Surface, non-motorized multi-use public trails” as opposed the “riding and hiking”. We also recommended that the County Trails Master Plan be referenced as part of the PLDO. Currently, they are two separate entities, by combining the two into one requirement for building projects would simplify the requirement, and ensure that the County Trails Master Plan would be implemented (which hasn’t always been the case).
2. *Sec>810.102 (c): “Development” means a sub-division, mobile-home park, or construction or installation of a dwelling. Development does not include(1) Subdivisions created for industrial or commercial purposes (2) Transient Habitation resort services for which occupancy is limited to 90 days for any one person in a 12 month period pursuant to sections 6400 through 6449 inclusive of the Zoning Ordinance or cabin or motel units which are not to be used as primary residences…(3) Recreational trailer parks, Temporary trailer parks or travel trailer parks as those terms as defined in the Mobile home Parks Act (4) Condominium Projects or stock Cooperatives as defined in T8, Div 1 of the Code of Regulatory Ordinances, which consist of the subdivision of airspace in existing apt. building when no new units are added”* We recommended that this section be amended to include resort hotels and motels as well as industrial and commercial complexes. We pointed to the City of Belmont, CA which recently revised their ordinance to broaden the categories for which the Quimby Act would apply. San Diego County is one of the top travel destinations in the Country. Those travelers who stay in the hotels, motels and resorts need parks and especially trails to run, walk, etc.…Individuals who work in industrial or commercial complexes will use a walking (multi-use) trail. The County representatives were receptive to recommend broadening this section.
3. PLDO monies cannot be used for maintenance, however they can be used to acquire or re-habilitate new or existing parks (and we recommend trails). The County is still struggling with how to best manage maintenance on County Park lands, trails and pathways.
4. We stressed that SDTA supports multi-use trails in all instances. We explained that we work closely with the Mountain Bike and the hiking community.
5. The County is looking for community input to assist them in developing a comprehensive PLDO which best suits the current and future needs of the citizens and visitors of San Diego County. They anticipate they will be presenting a recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors in June 2016, so are asking for input by April 15th 2016. They anticipate that full approval and implementation of a new amended PLDO will take approximately 1 year to 1.5 years to actualize.