**San Diego Trail Alliance Quarterly Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting through Backcountry Horsemen San Diego Unit**

**Monday, Jan 23, 2023 6:30 pm MINUTES**

Purpose:

1. Keep trails open for non-motorized recreational users.
2. Foster good communication between stakeholders.
3. Promote use/stewardship of trails.

Attendees for the Zoom: Julie Klein (San Dieguito River Park, JPA Joint Powers Authority); Janeen Reed (BVH Bonita); Walter & Susie Kirkwood (BCHC-SD); Barbara Hughes (LFR, RTA, BCHC-SD), Susie Murphy (SDMBA), Donna Hein (Valley Center); Lita Tabish(Fallbrook), Lizzy Bendrick (County Staff); Glen Morgan (RTA, BCHC-SD LFR); Cyndi Denny (LFR, RTA, TRVEA BCHC-SD); Lisa Wood (LFR TRVEA BCHC-SD);

Information Items:

Last SDTA meeting Jan 23, 2023 on Zoom thanks to BCHC-SD Unit

**Next SDTA meeting March 20, 2023 on Zoom thanks to BCHC-SD Unit**

SDTA Steering Committee: Lisa Wood, Cyndi Denny, Maryanne Vancio, Vicki Krause, Emma Reese, and Julie Klein.

Status: Diane Jacob’s Trail Meeting is no more. Joel Anderson unresponsive

Discussion Items:

SDMBA: Susie Murphy Exec. Dir. of SDMBA.

* Provide an update on AB 1789 “The Trails Bill” for a State Trails Committee consisting of representatives from trail recreational users including Mountain Bikes, Equestrians, and Hikers, etc. *This Bill was Gutted in final version*.
* Update on her Grant application for Laguna Trails Project. Other projects needing support from Trail User groups?
* Links covered in this zoom meeting:
* Here are resources and meeting recording for the East Otay Trail Alignment Study for which the notice of preparation for the EIR .  Public comments due 2/21/23.

* [https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/AboutUs/Plans/public-review-documents.html](https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/AboutUs/Plans/public-review-documents.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
* Recording of 1/12/23 County meeting introducing the Notice of Preparation:
* <https://youtu.be/bIoug3JLPNk>
* County Ebike event at Penasquitos 1/28 - 10  am - noon
* <https://www.facebook.com/events/1179673402936560>
* Classified ebikes and out of class electric vehicle educational flyer developed by a National Committee I am on with trail advocates, industry folks and land managers:
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SDTA:

* Discussion of e-bike situation including:  safety, types of e-bikes, regulatory status. Everyone is experiencing motorized activity on non-motorized trails, advise to take pictures of the offenders & post. Susie (Exec Dir. of SDMBA) says most of offenders are under age of 18; Dona Hein agrees and says taking pictures puts offenders on notice, and parents recognize their kids in the pictures as many are unaware of their kids activity. Also recommend a GOPRO.
	+ \* Update on planning for April 8 Mountain Bike/equestrian event. Event to provide pizzas
	\* Update on Mt. Laguna Trail Projects with BCHC-SD, SDMBA, etc.
	\* Update on El Monte Sand mine. Filed bankruptcy
	\* Update on Cottonwood Sand mine Community came together to protest & submitted a lot of public comments on the DEIR.

\* Update on Greenways (March 28). Open for reservations, Susie & Lizzy attending. Get update about the Greenways conference at the next SDTA meeting
\* Other trail issues.
\* Scheduling of a second 2023 zoom? March 20, zoom meeting 3.20.2023

San Diego Equestrian Community, Donna Hein:

* Rancho Lilac status update
* About San Diego Equestrian Community FB
* how do FB groups join the community? Only individuals can join, Donna approves anyone who applies. Keeps advertising off, as its for news and updates only.

Twin Oaks Valley Equestrian Association, Patti Morton: TOVEA did not attend

* Completed Equestrian/Mountain Bike “Common Ground” clinic, on Sunday, May 15th 2022
	+ Clinic joined by Mtn bikes, one e-bike and ran by Cyndi & Joseph
* Plan for another clinic for 2023?

Fallbrook Trail Council – Lita Tabish

North County – Del Mar, Julie Klein:

* Julie is working with two Park Rangers and two Police officers are responsive with illegal motor activity.

South Bay/Otay:

* EAST OTAY TRAIL ALIGNMENT STUDY - SOUTHERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY WITHIN THE OTAY RANCH PRESERVE, EIR presented to public by Zoom
* <https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/AboutUs/Plans/public-review-documents.html>
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Backcountry Horsemen CA-San Diego: Walt Kirkwood

* Laguna Mountain, Horse Camp: NO Status
* Green Valley, widen sites, water spigots, level sites. Planned
* Los Vaqueros, frost free hydrants, Enclose the lunging ring Planned
* Vern Whitaker, signs, trail markers and reflectors
* Boulder Oaks, Ballard removal

Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Assoc.: Emma Reese, unable to attend, sent updates

* Update after storms: Holster under water; all canopy trails are either under water or too muddy. Trails on all Mesas are fine. Flooding occurred due to City not closing up Smugglers Gulch after some dredging, otherwise wouldn’t have flooded. Border Patrol was great with horse evacuations. A few horses temporarily rehoused until their homes dry up.
* Update from the Town Council Meeting with Supervisor Nora Vargas Nov 29, 2022? No follow up from N. Vargas after Nov 29 meeting. Vargas wants multi-purpose but her multi-purpose doesn’t include equines, TRVEA to pursue Vargas’s attention.
* Driftwood Ranch for Mtn bike/e-bike/Equestrian Clinic by SDTA on Apr. 8, 2023; Will need volunteers with SDMBA with both mtn. bikes & e-bikes. Asked Informed Susie, we will need volunteers from SDMBA, so she is on it.
* Clean up San Diego: no updates
* Status on TRV User & Equestrian Camp? No updates
* Status on Polo Club next door to Camp? No updates

Lakeside Frontier Riders:

* Dianne Jacob Equestrian Center – Barbara Hughes with input from Donna Hein.
	+ Original plan from County to rent the Center for $1.00 changed; Operator is expected to rent the center and fill it with events.
* Lending Support to SDTA/TRVEA with the Bike/Equestrian clinic at Driftwood Ranch.

Ramona Trails Association: Cyndi Denny & Barbara Hughes covered for Glen M.

* Santa Maria Creek
* RTA: Cyndi stood in for Glen Morgan to talk on New horse camp and trail opportunities with Mesa Grande Tribe purchasing Golden Eagle Horse Ranch with establishing trail connections to Coast to Crest Trail. Mesa Grande is working with San Dieguito River Park. Discuss RTA & SDRP fundraising for this opportunity to assist Mesa Grande. Cheers

COUNTY UPDATES:

Discussion Items per SDTA Oct 21 2019 meeting:

1. EVENTS. Horse/Bicycle Safety Event for Holly Oaks. Thoughts on hosting another event.
2. NORTH COUNTY TRAIL. Boulder Oaks Preserve. This Preserve consists of 1,268 acres south of Ramona and north of the San Vicente Reservoir and Foster’s Canyon, and east of Iron Mountain. The County acquired it for the MSCP. Martha’s Grove Trail, located within Sycamore Canyon Open Space Park, connects. Approximately 14.2 miles of multi-use trails and three staging areas, of which one is for equestrian rigs, with eight spots, are planned. Comments on the EIR were accepted until October 11.
3. NORTH COUNTY TRAILS. San Dieguito River Valley. More than 65 miles of trails. The San Dieguito River Park and the City of Poway have established a north/south trail linkage between the San Dieguito River Park Coast-to-Crest Trail and the Trans County Trail through the City of Poway Trail system. Auxiliary trails include: [**City of San Diego**](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/index.shtml)– Crest Canyon, Gonzales Canyon, Black Mountain, and Clevenger Canyon; [**County of San Diego**](http://www.sdparks.org/)– Lusardi Creek, Del Dios Highlands, Santa Ysabel West and East, and Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserves; [**City of Del Ma**r](http://www.delmar.ca.us/)– River Path Del Mar; [**Cleveland National Forest**](https://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland/)– Upper Santa Ysabel and Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trails. Park rules:
* Wait 48 hours after a rain event before using trails.
* Stay on designated trails and obey posted information. Night time camping, parking, and trail use are prohibited.
* Never leave trash or manure in staging areas- load it back up in your trailer, or else put it in a trash receptacle that has a lid. On trails, kick horse manure so that it breaks up. Pets must be leashed and cleaned up after.
* Open fires, smoking, and weapons and firearms, and off-road vehicles are prohibited.
* Destruction (for example grazing) of plant, animal, cultural specimens, trail markers, fences, signs, and resources is prohibited.
* Fishing and boating are permitted at Hodges Reservoir during certain times - call (619) 465-3474 for more information. Fishing is also permitted some places within the City of Del Mar.
NO FISHING anywhere else in the park.
1. NORTH COUNTY PARK DEVELOPMENT San Luis Rey River Park. A 1,600-acre park, acquired from willing sellers, planned with public input, extends from eastern Oceanside to Interstate 15 along the San Luis Rey River. No EIR is out yet.
2. NORTH COUNTY PARK DEVELOPMENT. Santa Maria Creek Greenway. The proposed multi-use trail system would take advantage of an existing staging area off Montecito Road, and would link with Wellfield Park, Ramona Grasslands County Preserve, and the downtown business district. A meeting with property owners was held in July explaining that invasive plants may be removed from the creek. John Degenfelder, Project Visionary and Volunteer Coordinator, can be reached at 760-789-1716, or Meg Diss, County Trails Program Coordinator, at 858-966-1372. Once enough parcels are secured, the County will complete an EIR and trail plans.
3. NORTH COUNTY TRAIL. Old Survey Road 97. Old Survey Road 97 is a historic road connecting Ramona and Escondido. The road fell into disuse when it was replaced by Highway 78 in 1930. A section of the old road lies on the northern side of the Ramona Grasslands Preserve. Open two days a week from August 15 to November 15 with permit only (dogs are not allowed).
4. NORTH COUNTY (California Fish and Wildlife). La Canada. Diane Jacob, at her meeting on September 18, offered to meet personally with California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff about trail access.
5. NORTH COUNTY Iron Mountain Highway 67 Crossing. In September the County acquired 160 acres associated with a proposed tunnel.
6. NORTH COUNTY Sycamore Goodan Ranch Access. EIR of trail segments is underway – due out Spring 2020.
7. EAST COUNTY PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT. Cottonwood Sand Mine. An investor has purchased the Cottonwood Golf Club in unincorporated El Cajon near Jamul, along the Sweetwater River, near Highway 94. Also in this area there are trail challenges associated with Ivanhoe Ranch in the Jamul Drive area. SDMBA is working on finding an alignment.
8. EAST COUNTY PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT: El Monte Sand Mine. Project is responding to voluminous comments on EIR. Also in this area there are trail successes associated with the Flume Trail and the Potts property.
9. EAST COUNTY, Sloan Canyon. EIR and design on segments 1 and 4 are underway.
10. EASTERN PART OF COUNTY, STATE-RUN RESERVE: Crestridge. The Crestridge Ecological Reserve is 2,800-acres connecting the Lakeside Ecological Reserve to San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. Contact: South Coast Region of the California Fish and Wildlife Department San Diego office at (858) 467-4201. When riding in this area – or any area - stay on designated trails. Email from Gardner requesting a trail user clinic and equestrian input regarding alternative access to Crest as equestrians having difficulty with gates at reserve entrances; improved signage would be very helpful. Cyndi is corresponding with Gardner.
11. EAST COUNTY, Flynn Springs Road. Design has been completed for a pathway, but no County CIP funding has been budgeted.
12. EAST COUNTY, SR94, Safe Passage Crossing. Money has been allocated to begin planning for this, near the YMCA. Vestar property.
13. SOUTH COUNTY, PARK IMPROVEMENT. Sweetwater Loop Trail.  Design has begun on Segments 5, 6, and 7 and trail and staging area. Need for better access, acquisition needs, and fairy shrimp issues discussed with Diane Jacob at her September meeting. Jessica Geiszler is the County contact, at 858-966-1331 or jessica.geiszler@sdcounty.ca.gov. Also, for more information, contact John Holder at 858-966-1362.
14. BACK COUNTRY: LOS CABALLOS HORSE CAMP. Cuyamaca State Park. Options regarding Los Caballos Horse Camp are being considered. Some new riding areas are under consideration.
15. BACK COUNTRY: GREEN VALLEY HORSE CAMP. Cuyamaca State Park. For reservations 800-444-7275 or www.ReserveCalifornia.com. The **camp** is currently closed for Americans with Disabilities Act modifications, and always closes November 30th - March 31st.
16. BACK COUNTRY: SANTA YSABEL VISITOR CENTER. 30275 Highway 78, across from Dudley’s. September through May open Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11am-5pm; June through August it is open Saturday & Sunday 11am-5pm.
17. BACK COUNTRY. Boulder Oaks Campground; US Forest Service. This site in Cottonwood Valley in the Cleveland National Forest, 3.8 miles northeast of Lake Morena along the Pacific Crest Trail. The campground is closed from March through May to protect the endangered arroyo toad. When open, it provides 32 campsites for RVs, trailers, and tents. Seventeen of the sites in a separate loop have corrals and are designated for those with horses. The equestrian sites require reservations while all the other sites are first-come, first-served. Currently BCHC-SD is working with FS to redesign equestrian pull-through sites. No action currently needed by SDTA.
18. BACK COUNTRY: CALIFORNIA RIDING AND HIKING TRAIL. In 1945 legislation authorized a 3,000-mile trail from Mexico to Oregon. By 1955, 29 of the 38 counties on the route submitted plans and more than 1,000 miles of trails were built.  However, the act was repealed in 1974 and replaced with the California Recreational Trails Act, which focused on pursuing shorter trail segments. The Pacific Crest Trail was established by the National Trails System Act of 1968.

In San Diego County there are about 108 of those 1000+ miles of the trail. They are recognized as part of the County Master Trails Plan. The trail starts at [Otay Lake](http://www.mountainbikebill.com/OtayMtnLoop.htm), goes through [Hollenbeck Canyon](http://www.mountainbikebill.com/HollenbeckCanyon.htm), by the Loveland Reservoir, through the Viejas Indian Reservation, up into the [Cuyamacas,](http://www.mountainbikebill.com/Cuyamaca.htm) down into San Felipe Valley, over to Warner Springs and then into Chillihua valley and continuing north. There are access challenges in the San Felipe portion of the trail due to California Department of Fish and Wildlife access restrictions. Other land managers may also not be honoring the public easements that were granted for this trail. Some of the trail segments were truck trails that have since been "improved" to the point of being paved. A “Friends of CRHT” group may be needed to help provide public support and maintenance to encourage further action.

Trails Matrix

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| AT A GLANCE |
| **Project Name** | **Site****Agency** | **Lead**  | **Goal** | **Actions** |
| POLICY AND REGULATORY |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| RAMONA |
| Boulder Oaks County Open Space Preserve  | County. Mussey Grade Rd- Ramona | RTA Don Wendt | Advocate for trails and staging areas. | Progressing. No SDTA action at this time. |
| La Canada de San Vicente California FWS Preserve | CDFW. San Vicente & Chuck Wagon Rd- Ramona | Ramona Trails Association Don Wendt, Glen Morgan | Advocate for access to current trails and new trails and staging areas. | County as ally. No SDTA action at this time.  |
| Ramona Grasslands County Open Space Preserve | County. Off Highland Valley and Rangeland Rds- Ramona | Ramona Trails Association Glen MorganDon Wendt | Advocate for connection to the San Dieguito River Park Trail system in San Pascual Valley and better staging off Rangeland Rd. | Continue to lead rides and meet with County Parks and other agencies to secure more open access, connections, and improved staging. |
| Old Survey Road 97 | County | Glenn Morgan RTA | Establish trail connections  | Participate in trail maintenance events. |
| Santa Maria Greenway (San Diego County) | County | Ramona Trail Association Don WendtJohn Degenfelder | Advocate for a trail system along Santa Maria Creek. | Continue to advocate for land acquisition. |
| Poway Trail System (State FWS/San Diego County/City of Poway) | County. Highway 67 near Poway Road | RTA Don WendtGlen Morgan | Advocate for trails/staging areas, cooperation between agencies and public input. | No SDTA action at this time.  |
| Sycamore Canyon/Gooden Ranch | County. Highway 67 / Scripps Poway Pkwy / MCAS Miramar  | RTA Don WendtLakeside Frontier Rider Cyndi Denny  | Advocate for multi-use trails and staging areas.  | No SDTA action at this time. |
| NORTH SAN DIEGO (DEL MAR, FALLBROOK, VALLEY CENTER, ETC) |
| San Dieguito Trail | City. Lagoon area | Julie Klein | Advocate for safety, multiuse. | No SDTA action at this time. |
| Lake Hodges trail system | County. Escondido/San Dieguito area | Julie Klein | Advocate for trail access. | No SDTA action at this time.Monitor safety issue: barb wire across trails. |
| **North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) – Memo Demonstrating Progress & Revised Schedule** | complete the North County MSCP | County:  | Complete final N.County MSCP in collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.   | Action needed?  |
| EAST SAN DIEGO (JAMUL, DEHESA, ALPINE, LAKESIDE, ETC.) |
| El Monte Valley Sand mine | County. Ashwood St to El Capitan Reservoir | Lisa WoodCyndi Denny | Advocate for trail access and prevent the loss of existing trails. | SDTA provided trail-related comments on the draft EIR. No further SDTA action at this time. |
| Cottonwood San Mine | County. SR-94 Rancho San Diego | Cyndi Denny | Advocate for trail access/connections | Waiting on EIR, Meg Diss is talking to mining owners. |
| Lakeside Downs | SDG&E. West of State Route 67- Santee | Lakeside Frontier Riders Cyndi Denny | Advocate use of SDG&E easements as trails. | Attend meetings – no meetings currently scheduled. |
| Dehesa/Sloan Canyon | County. Dehesa area | Maryanne Vancio | Advocate for safe, accessible trail design. | No meetings are currently scheduled. |
| Crestridge Ecological Preserve | CDFW Btwn Dehesa and El Cajon | Lakeside Frontier Riders Cyndi Denny | Advocate for trail safety and accessibility. | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled.  |
| Steel Canyon | County. West Jamul area | Maryanne Vancio | Advocate for staging areas and multi-use trails. | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled.  |
| SOUTH SAN DIEGO (BONITA, TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY, OTAY, ETC) |
| Sweetwater Bike Skills Park | County. Sweetwater area | SDMBA Susie MurphyBonita Valley Horsemen | Advocate for a safe trail crossing at Proctor Valley Road. | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. |
| Sweetwater River and Loop Trail | Sweetwater River to San Diego Bay | Bonita Valley Horsemen  | Advocate for equestrian access to the entire trail system. | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. |
| Tijuana River Valley Regional Park  | Hollister RoadMonument Road | Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association Emma Reese | Advocate for safety and multi-use of campground facilities. Advocate for safe trail crossings of the Tijuana River.  | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. |
| Otay River Valley Trail | Otay River Valley to San Diego Bay  | TRVEA Emma Reese | Advocate for the trail and staging areas. | **Notice of Preparation of an EIR for the East Otay Trail Alignment Study Project**<https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/AboutUs/Plans/public-review-documents.html> An NOP Scoping meeting will be help via Zoom on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 5:00pm. The link to the meeting will be available at the above link on January 11, 2023.   |
| BACKCOUNTRY |
| Bolder Oaks Campground (Forest Service) | Off I-8 E of Buckman Springs Road | BCHC-SDWalt Kirkwood | Advocate for suitable areas that can accommodate larger rigs. | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. |
| Indian Flats Campground(Forest Service) | Warner Springs area | BCHC-SDWalt Kirkwood | Advocate for equestrian access to campground. | Attend meetings. No meeting currently scheduled. |
| Anza Borrego Desert State Park | Borrego Springs area | BCHC-SDWalt Kirkwood | Advocate to reopen the Lower Willows Trail and keep other trails open. | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. Marty has been advocating for the development of a trails advisory committee. |
| Laguna Mountain (Forest Service) | Laguna Recreation Area | SDMBA Susie Murphy, BCHC-SD Walt Kirkwood | Advocate for trail modifications to improve them and accommodate habitat and for equestrian camping in the Laguna Mountain area. | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |
| Cuyamaca Rancho State Pak | East County | BCHC-SDWalt KirkwoodSDMBA Susie Kirkwood | Advocate for a redesign of Green Valley Equestrian Camp and the reestablishment of Los Caballos Horse Camp. | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. Marty has been advocating for the development of a trails advisory committee. |
| Coast to Crest Trail(San Dieguito Riverpark) | North County | BCHC-SD Julie Klein, Don Wendt,Glen Morgan | Advocate for trail development, safe access and staging areas.  | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |
| Trans County Trail | San Diego County | BCHC-SDWalt Kirkwood | Advocate for trail development and safe access and staging areas. | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |
| Pacific Crest Trail | U.S. Forest Service | BCHC-SD Walt Kirkwood | Advocate for continued access and adequate maintenance. | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |
| California Riding and Hiking Trail | San Diego County/ U.S. Forest Service/State Parks | BCHC-SDMaryanne Vancio | Advocate to get all or part of the trail open again. | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |
| California Coastal Trail | San Diego County coastal area | BCHC-SD/SDTAMaryanne VancioJulie Klein | Advocate for trail development and safe access and staging areas. | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |
| Upper San Diego River Trail | U.S. Forest Service | BCHC-SDWalt KirkwoodMaryanne Vancio | Advocate for trail development and safe access and staging areas. | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |