**San Diego Trail Alliance Quarterly Meeting**

**Mimi’s Café 9812 Mission Gorge Road, Santee**

**Monday, October 21, 2019 6:30 pm**

Purpose:

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

Information Items: Steering Committee members Vicki Kraus, Lisa Wood, Marti Jorgensen, and Maryanne Vancio attended Diane Jacob’s September 18th Trail Meeting along with many other trail users. When Diane is termed out, the Mayor of Poway, Steve Vaus, who has also recorded as Buck Howdy, known for his children recordings, will take over these meetings.

On September 28th, Steering Committee members Julie Klein, Vicki Krause, Cyndi Denny, and Lisa Wood met and discussed recent news items regarding trail use, including a gunshot wound sustained by a mountain biker, and an incident involving the dumping of manure in a staging area, were discussed. It was decided that the previously discussed guidelines for Steering Committee membership, including attending at least 3 of 4 annual meetings, be repeated. It was also recommended that horse and trail clubs provide rules/guidelines for the membership, including for courteously working together and sharing the trail, and that people who do not follow the rules be denied membership. Vicki Kraus volunteered to develop a preliminary draft of a model guidelines for consideration by SDTA.

Discussion Items:

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](mailto: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 Dudleys. 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-throughs. 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 Vejas 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.

CALENDAR:

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 10/20 | 10/21  SDTA MEETING: 6:00 Mimi’s 9812 Mission Gorge Rd, Santee |  |  |  |  | 10/26 TRVEA Trail maintenance **9:00 – 11:00 am.** 2310 Hollister St. |
|  |  |  |  | 10/31 Vern Whitaker Service Weekend. BCHM | | |
|  | 11/4 SDMBA Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  | 12/6 SDTA Steering Mtg 10:30 am |  |
|  | 1/6/2020 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1/17 SDTA Steering Mtg 10:30 am |  |
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|  | 1/27 SDTA Meeting |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4/3 SDTA Steering Meeting 6:00 pm |  |
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|  | 4/20 SDTA Meeting? |  |  |  |  | 4/25 HOLLY OAKS BICYCLE/HORSE EVENT? |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 5/2 HOLLY OAKS BICYCLE/HORSE EVENT? |
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| AT A GLANCE | | | | | | | |
| **Project Name** | **Site**  **Agency** | **Lead** | | **Goal** | | | **Actions** |
| POLICY AND REGULATORY | | | | | | | |
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| RAMONA | | | | | | | |
| Boulder Oaks County Open Space Preserve | County. Mussey Grade Rd- Ramona | RTA Don Wendt  BCHC-SD/Martin Jorgensen | | 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 | | 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 Morgan  Don 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 Wendt  John 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 Wendt  BCHC-SD/Martin Jorgensen | | 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 Wendt  Lakeside 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. | |
| EAST SAN DIEGO (JAMUL, DEHESA, ALPINE, LAKESIDE, ETC.) | | | | | | | |
| El Monte Valley Sand mine | County. Ashwood St to El Capitan Reservoir | Lisa Wood  Cyndi 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 | Bonita Valley Horsemen  Mark Kukuchek | | 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  Mark Kukuchek | | Advocate for equestrian access to the entire trail system. | | | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. |
| Tijuana River Valley Regional Park | Hollister Road  Monument 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. | | | Attend meetings. No meeting currently scheduled. |
| BACKCOUNTRY | | | | | | | |
| Bolder Oaks Campground (Forest Service) | Off I-8 E of Buckman Springs Road | BCHC-SD  Marty Jorgensen | | Advocate for suitable areas that can accommodate larger rigs. | | | Attend meetings. No meetings currently scheduled. |
| Indian Flats Campground  (Forest Service) | Warner Springs area | BCHC-SD  Marty Jorgensen | | Advocate for equestrian access to campground. | | | Attend meetings. No meeting currently scheduled. |
| Anza Borrego Desert State Park | Borrego Springs area | BCHC-SD  Marty Jorgensen | | 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 | BCHC-SD  Marty Jorgensen | | 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-SD  Marty Jorgensen | | 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,  Marty Jorgensen | | 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-SD  Marty Jorgensen | | 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 Marty Jorgensen | | 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-SD  Marty Jorgensen  Maryanne 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  Marty Jorgensen  Maryanne Vancio | | 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-SD  Marty Jorgensen  Maryanne Vancio | | Advocate for trail development and safe access and staging areas. | | | Attend meetings and participate in work days. None currently scheduled. |