

# CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE COALITION

Working Together to Save a Crucial Habitat in Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley

[www.savechatsworthpreserve.org](http://www.savechatsworthpreserve.org)



December 15, 2017

County of Los Angeles Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Planning Division  
Attn: Julie Yom, Park Planner  
510 So. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

E-Mail: [jyom@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:jyom@parks.lacounty.gov)

Re: Comments: Santa Susana Mountains Trail Master Plan (SSMTMP)  
Phase II MND Comments

Dear Ms. Yom:

The Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition in general supports the SSMTMP Phase II-b comments with some concerns that need addressing:

- All trails must be located outside of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, 1325 acres, a wildlife sanctuary for all wildlife from amphibians/reptiles, mammals, including occasional visits of mountain lions, mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, and other larger mammals, and over 200 species of birds, local residents and Pacific Flyway migratory species.
- Valley Circle Boulevard-Lake Manor-Chatsworth is a narrow 2-way road with hairpin turns and blind areas. Even with extra effort to keep traffic flow within safety speeds, bike riders and pedestrians are at risk during peak traffic times. Horses should never be allowed to cross Valley Circle Boulevard from west to east side to prevent accidents and traffic choke holds.
- Woolsey Canyon is another narrow 2-way road with hairpin turns that intersects at Valley Circle Boulevard. A plan for a Trailhead on Woolsey Canyon – Valley Circle Blvd. will put hikers/bikers/horseback riders and drivers at great risk. There aren't parking locations available and shouldn't be to protect this wildlife movement corridor, as well as, prevention of road accident risk.
- Archaeological sites in this region, including inside the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, have been documented by Pierce College and California State Northridge University; anthropological consultants should be consulted prior to establishing trails in the Woolsey Canyon-Box Canyon region.

- Andora Estates subdivision project, located in a wildlife movement corridor alongside DWP and Department of Parks and Recreation's Chatsworth Trails Park, needs to be scaled back so the SSMTMP will have a sufficient trail link between the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP) and Chatsworth Trails Park while maintaining a principal wildlife corridor between the SSPSHP and Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

Phase 11.A Comments:

We appreciate the Trails Master Plan for a recreational trail system that is designed for low-intensity use. The Santa Susana Mountains and foothills are in an urban sprawl battle to remain open space, native habitat, for the survival of wildlife. There are irreversible negative consequences caused by Los Angeles County board of supervisor's approval of the Newhall Ranch Land Project's 21,000 units. The massive building in farmland, Santa Clara River flood plain, open space, places the future of the Santa Susana Mountains land and watershed also at risk. This decision is counter to the intent of the SSMTMP to improve human's quality of life. Newhall Ranch Land development and other urban sprawl developments destroy forever our natural beauty, threaten survival of Southern California wildlife, and create unlivable traffic conditions.

Los Angeles City and County planning departments need to halt any further developments in the Simi Hills and along the south side of the Santa Susana Mountains, adjacent to both 11.A and 11b. The developments are out of control and destructive of the chaparral and native habitat, watershed which supports groundwater and which feeds the Los Angeles River, and the scenic vista. The recent fires throughout Southern California and millions of dollars of cost to save residential and commercial properties built in historic wildlife locations is a burden to taxpayers, not the developers. It's time to save our natural world for both wildlife and humans.

Sincerely,

Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition Delegates

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