

Happy 20th Birthday!

SSMPA News

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association P.O. Box 831, Chatsworth, California 91311

March 1990

by Corina & Dan

SSMPA ELECTIONS MEETING

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association's Board Member Elections Meeting is on March 19, 1990. The meeting will be held at the Glendale Federal bank building in the Community Room at 21821 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include video and oral presentations about SSMPA's activities. Refreshments will be served.

Nominees for SSMPA Board positions will be voted on. There are still openings for several positions such as Secretary. Your vote counts here! This is your organization. Please take a hand in helping us continue into our twenty first year. We hope to see our friends both old and new to help celebrate SSMPA's twentieth birthday, and to help us go boldly forward into the nineties.

If you have any questions about the elections roster or the meeting, please call Nancy Razanski at (818) 341-3512, or Jan Hinkston at (818) 884-9610.



JAN HINKSTON
HONORED AT
A.B.A.
DINNER



On February 27, 1990 a dinner was held by the local chapter of the American Businesswoman's Association to honor SSMPA founder Jan Hinkston. Jan received the Association's Citizenship Award for outstanding community service. The American Businesswoman's Association is a national fundraising organization primarily involved with granting scholarships to women to continue their education. The West Valley Charter Chapter has given previous Citizenship Awards to such women as astronaut Sally Ride, and local women who work to improve the quality of life for the homeless. Congratulations to Jan Hinkston! Your efforts over the past two decades to preserve and protect our wilderness heritage are greatly appreciated and admired.



Congratulations Santa Susana Mountain
Park Association!

SSMPA Celebrates 20 years of
mountain protection and education!
Join Us for our Election Meeting on March 19!

SSMPA AGAINST BLIND CANYON AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD LANDFILL PROPOSALS

We have worked hard since 1970 to set aside the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills as a regional park, in light of the projected population growth; 14-15 million people by 2000 AD, in the Greater Los Angeles area.

A new threat to our efforts has risen its ugly head. The L.A. County Sanitation Districts have proposed three new neighborhood landfills in the mountains bordering the San Fernando Valley, as well as, and the expansion of two existing neighborhood landfills!!!

All of the proposals will fill the very special canyon, or riparian habitats, and destroy the wildlife corridor we want to protect.

L.A. COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS "PROGRAM E.I.R." LISTS PROPOSALS

All of the proposals are part of the "Program Environmental Impact Report" which the L.A. Co. Sanitation Districts are working on presently. These proposals are: BLIND CANYON, in the Santa Susana Pass area...TOWSELY CANYON, east end of the Santa Susana Mtn...and ELLSMERE CANYON, west end of the San Gabriel Mountains, at Interstate 5. The proposed expansions are SUNSHINE CANYON AND LOPEZ CANYON.

L.A. CO. SANITATION DISTRICTS TRY TO SHOVE "NEIGHBORHOOD LAND- FILLS" DOWN OUR THROATS IGNORING BETTER PROPOSALS

At the Public Workshops, in La Crescenta and in Torrance, we learned the L.A. Co San. Districts know the proposed "neighborhood landfills" will net them about five years of landfilling capacity before they will have to ask for an expansion from two to five additional years, which includes the most ambitious of recycling of the recyclables.

We also learned the L.A. Co. San. Dists. know of, but are not considering even blatantly ignoring the alternative proposals submitted to them. The alternative proposals would net the L.A. Co San. Dists. a 100 year capacity, no matter what the population of the Greater Los Angeles area becomes in the future.

SSMPA BOARD MEMBERS PREVIEW PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES AND REPORT FINDINGS

The SSMPA Board Members have previewed the alternative proposals and have found the "EAGLE MOUNTAIN RAIL HAUL PROPOSAL" to be the best of all possible solutions, and oppose the "neighborhood landfill" proposals of the L.A. Co. San. Dists. as the worst of all possible solutions.

The view is shared by all who previewed the "EAGLE MOUNTAIN RAIL HAUL PROPOSAL". Had the L.A. Co. San. Dists. considered the proposal, they would see it makes the "neighborhood landfills" a mute point. The fact that the L.A. Co San. Dists. know about the "EAGLE MTN RAIL HAUL PROPOSAL" and have not taken the proposal seriously, but instead, insist on a plan that would destroy the special canyon areas and seriously impact all of the North Valley neighborhoods from Chatsworth to Sylmar, now and in the future, makes the L.A. Co. San. Dists. suspect. Who do they think they are working for?

THE ELEMENTS OF THE "EAGLE MOUNTAIN RAIL HAUL PROPOSAL"

Eagle Mountain Open Pit Iron Mine is the site owned by the defunct Kaiser Steel Corp, now owned by its employees. The site comes ready with everything that it needs to begin operation as a landfill, tomorrow, if need be:

- the Pit, which has a 100 year capacity, is surrounded by bedrock of granite.
- there are tailings left from the iron ore separation process, rated by Federal standards as better than the standards in landfill operations.
- there is a railroad to and from the mine already in place, built to bear the weight of trains filled with iron ore. The rail line connects with the Southern Pacific Line which follows and then goes under Highway #10 at Desert Center township.
- the infrastructure is in place; houses, stores, schools and recreation stand ready for the operations personnel at Eagle Mountain.

-the permits and agreements with the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, Southern Pacific Railroad, and the other operating agencies are finalized.

The only things that need to be constructed are the transfer stations where the trash trucks bring the trash to be loaded onto rail cars. These transfer stations will be at local railhead sites and will be constructed in such a way as to minimize unsightliness and noise pollution.

The Mining Reclamation Corporation, which has made the proposal and will be the operators of the project, is a conglomerate made up of the owners of the mine, Kaiser Steel; a container company into whose containers the trash will be compacted and loaded onto the rail cars; a transportation company who will operate the trains; and a waste management company who will operate the transfer stations.

I've saved the best part for last. The Mine Reclamation Corporation has added a bonus to its proposal. It will separate the trash at the transfer stations, separating out the recyclables, the compostables, and the hazardous waste from the waste stream. If need be they will use the expansive areas at the mine site to store the recyclables for the best time for resale. It is the hazardous waste separation that will allow the toxic material to be processed for reuse, resale, or to be detoxified.

There are plenty of precedents which have been set across the country. The City of Chicago is a good example. The citizens did not want any more neighborhood landfills, they expressed their views in various ways, applied pressure, and finally won a rail hauling system. They are all happier for it.

NO MORE NEIGHBORHOOD LANDFILLS! GO FOR RAIL HAUL!!!!

SSMPA is establishing a letter writing campaign to the L.A. County Sanitation Districts, to convince them that we, the public, know about the alternatives to neighborhood landfills and will not stand by while they try to force these proposed "neighborhood landfills" down our throats.

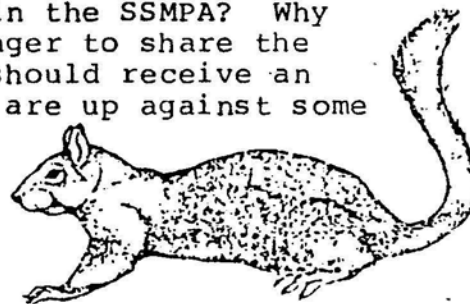
You may use this article word for word, or change it around as you see fit. However, write a letter and then copy it for our records.

Send to- Joe Haworth
L.A. County Sanitation Districts
PO Box 4998
Whittier, Ca 90607



Membership Renewal

Do you know someone who is interested in the SSMPA? Why not send us their address or phone number? We are eager to share the splendor of our mountains with new friends. If you should receive an extra copy of our newsletter, please pass it on. We are up against some tough opposition...we need some strong support!



YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE **Santa Susana Mountain Park Association**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:	
-- Student or Senior	\$5.00
___ Individual	\$10.00
___ Family	\$15.00
___ Supporting	\$25.00
___ Business	\$25.00
___ Life Member	\$100.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO S S M P A.

Mail to: S S M P A Membership
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313

Tax deductible contributions are also encouraged to the FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS (F P S S M)



OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

AT THE MARCH MEETING:

At the March general meeting, John Otter will give us an orientation to the Green Movement and its local group, the San Fernando Valley Greens. The S.F.V. Greens are one of 40 Green groups in California. Like all the group in the U.S., it is focused on ten key values, among which are ecological wisdom, grassroots democracy, personal and social responsibility, and community-based economies. The S.F.V. group is over a year old, and has active working groups for education, administration, socializing, and politics.

On the political front, voters are being registered to qualify a California Green Party. Candidates are running on a platform of Green values in both the 38th and 40th State Assembly Districts, which are in the Valley.

Come and learn what we can do locally for a sustainable future for all humanity.

THE DOCENT PROGRAM:

The Docent Program has secured a grant of \$1500 from the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. Our first expenditure from the Prop 70 funds.

EARTH DAY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

SSMPA will participate in the events and activities planned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the EARTH DAY as a national day.

- April 16th - 20th, Earth Week, sponsored by the EarthWatch Group at LA Pierce College. We will supply a speaker, and displays.
- April 18th - 20th, Earth Fest, sponsored by the Earth Day Coalition, at Cal. State Northridge.
- April 22nd, Earth Day. We will conducting a special hike.

SSMPA urges you to join the celebration of this special day.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES:

We are half way through the campaign to get signatures for the "Stop Ocean Dumping Of Toxic Waste" in order to qualify for the ballot. This is one of the most important initiatives, since Prop 65, addressing our need to keep toxic waste out of our environment and out of our bodies. Dan Cooper is leading the volunteer efforts in north LA County, and asks for your help in getting signatures.

Congratulations to Glenn Bailey, recently chosen to be Regional Coordinator for the soon to be arriving Forest Initiative. He will leading petitioning efforts to qualify for the ballot, the most important wildlife habitat initiative since the Mountain Lion Initiative. The measure will "Stop the Clear-cutting of Our Ancient Redwoods, and other Forest Areas".

Both Glenn and Dan will combine their efforts in a campaign to be at the malls, and events and activities, and ask for your help to petition. Call Glenn at 818 344-1992.

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