



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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August 1999 Newsletter

A Non-Profit Organization
Incorporated August 31, 1971

CA Environmental Bond Acts

By Patricia Milow

Senate Bill 57 passed in the Senate on July 15, 1999, and is now in the Assembly. Assembly Bill 18 passed the Assembly on June 21, 1999, and is now in the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee. This is good news, especially since during the 1990s, *no* bonds have yet been passed for parks, wildlife habitat and open space.

For generations, California voters approved selling general obligation bonds to fund acquisition and development of state and local parks and wildlife habitat. From 1980 through 1988, the California electorate passed six different park and wildlife bonds, totaling over \$1.9 billion.

With this background, it can be seen that SB 57's proposed bond of 2.21 billion for California parks, coast, recreation, and natural resources (Hayden/Murray) and AB 18's proposed bond of \$1.53 for California parks, water and coast (Villaraigosa/Keeley) are not out of order, and indeed have been created in an effort to catch up for these by now very underfunded areas.

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association supports both of these State bills. We urge you to write your state representative about your support for them. From the analyses provided by State legislative analysts, it looks like SB 57 provides much more funding for habitat acquisition and restoration than AB 18, but neither bill really provides enough funds in this area.

However, we need to put across another important point to state legislators — *the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills need to have funds slated specifically for them* so that critical purchases can be made in order to maintain and restore the wildlife corridors between the Los Padres and Angeles National Forests and the Santa Monica Mountains. Without these wildlife corridors, *the diversity of the wildlife gene pool in the Santa Monica Mountains is in danger.*

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CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE

By Dorian Keyser

The Tuesday, July 27, meeting of the City of L.A. Dept. of Water and Power included the distribution of copies of the "Chatsworth Reservoir Site Action Plan" to its attendees.

DWP General Manager David Freeman recommended the discussion of this plan be postponed until late September or early October to permit interested parties to review it at their leisure and submit comments in writing. The Commission accepted this suggestions.

However, several people, including me, were allowed to testify. I stated that I would submit the comments for the SSMPA in writing. Others did mention reservations about the interpretations of ambiguities.

The following are candidates to manage the site in cooperation with the DWP:

- California Science Center
- L.A. City Recreation and Parks Dept.
- Los Angeles Zoo
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Resource Conservation Dist. of the Santa Monica Mtns.

In my opinion, SSMPA's objective is to preserve all of the site in its natural state with passive recreational activities, but no development and no active recreational activities such as soccer, softball, mountain biking, etc. We strongly recommend that an "easement in perpetuity" be generated to accomplish this. ☼

August: No General Meeting

Since many SSMPA members take advantage of summer weather for a vacation or a long trip to see more of beautiful Mother Earth, the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association does not schedule a General Membership meeting for August. The next SSMPA General Membership meeting will be Monday, September 20, 1999 ☼

Cal. Environment Bond Acts, continued

Please contact Senator Hayden, Speaker Villaraigosa, and other key State legislature players (see list at right) requesting funding for the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills. Say that critical opportunities will be lost in Southern California due to the press of developers for presently open spaces. ❁

Sample Letter

Dear (your local Senator or Assemblyman),

I am writing in support of SB 57.

We need to preserve the rapidly disappearing open space in the Santa Susana Mountains. The Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills contain the primary wildlife corridor connecting the Angeles National Forest and the Los Padres National Forest to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

We are trying to save this diminishing natural open space at the borders of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties for passive recreation as well. The wildlife need it and our children need it.

The Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor is part of the above-described wildlife corridor and contains land that is in danger of imminent development and, if not acquired this year, may be lost forever.

Thanks you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

AB18 / SB57 Contact List

Assemblyman Fred Keeley
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-2027

Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl
16130 Ventura Blvd. #230
Encino, CA 91436
Phone: (818) 501-8991

Assemblyman Tom McClintock
10727 White Oak Avenue, #124
Granada Hills, CA 91344
Phone: (818) 368-3838, Fax: (818) 885-3307
email: Tom.McClintock@asm.ca.gov

Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa
Room 219, State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Tom Hayden
Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Room 2080, State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-1353, Fax: (916) 324-4823
10951 West Pico Blvd., Suite 202
Los Angeles, CA 90064
Phone: (310) 441-9084, Fax: (310) 441-0724

Senator Cathie Wright
2345 Erringer Road, #212
Simi Valley, CA 91365
Phone: (800) 458-8500
State Capitol, Room 4052
Sacramento, CA 95814
email: Senator.Wright@sen.ca.gov

Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-2841, Fax: (916) 445-4633

Tips for Writing Effective Letters to Politicians

By Terrie Brady

Why write to your political representative? After all, it takes time and many of us are uncertain of our skills as writers. The reason is that even one letter or phone call makes a difference. Every letter indicates to a politician that 100-1,000 of their constituents feel the way you do. Many people do not take the time to write. Therefore, politicians believe that each letter reflects the feelings of not only the writer, but also of many of their other constituents who have not taken the time to write.

A handful of letters can change the course of legislation. I have heard that the number of letters necessary to change a law is 10.

The first sentence should clearly state the issue you are addressing. The first sentence should also, if possible,

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Tips, continued

tell what you would like the politician to do. Specify the legislation if there is a specific bill, and state whether you would like them to vote yes or no. If you would like them to address a problem, tell them what you think the solution is. This should be the first sentence if possible, or at least in the first paragraph.

Often political aides read the letters, and they read just enough to determine the subject. They count how many support a particular bill, for example.

Letters should be about one topic only. Since aides categorize the letters, one issue of importance to you should be the only subject of the letter. If you include a line or two about another subject, they may not register your opinion on that subject.

Details are important. They show it is an original rather than a form letter. Adding personal experience

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August Hikes

Stagecoach Trail and Exploration Series hikes are offered by the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force (SSMTF) of the Sierra Club and publicized by the SSMPA and the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM).

Tips, continued

makes your letter more influential. If you have expertise as a hike leader, botanist, or history buff, include details about the natural or historical significance of areas you would like saved.

Phone calls are also helpful. They take a lot less time, and politicians do notice them. Many organizing groups now encourage phone calls. It may be that phone calls are getting more attention from politicians these days. When you call, clearly state whether you are for or against a particular issue, bill, etc.

Please express yourselves to our politicians. It does make a difference. *



Garage Sale in the Works

The SSMPA Board asks you to keep all those old things you were going to give away. That way you can participate in the Garage Sale the Association is considering holding in the Fall. *

Many thanks to Randy Ferras, Manager of the Topanga Canyon/Roscoe Office Depot, for the donation of printing services, i.e., the duplication of our newsletter. We very much appreciate it!

Stage Coach Trail Hikes

In July and August, the SSMTF's Stage Coach Trail hikes are suspended. For the benefit of our hiking members, we describe Sierra Club hikes in our area this August here.

Palo Comado's China Flats

Thursday, August 12, 1999. A moderately paced, 8-mile, 1000-foot gain hike to China Flats through oak grasslands, possibly crossing streams, and with some steep uphill portions. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at King James Court. Take the Ventura (101) Freeway, exit on Lindero Canyon Road, drive 3 miles north to just past Kanan Road, park on Lindero Canyon Road. Wear hat, lugsoles, and sunscreen; bring water and lunch. Leaders are Ramona Dunn (818-783-8318) and Art Rich (818-340-5955), both of the SFV Sierra Club.

Mission Peak Moonlight Hike

Wednesday, August 25, 1999. A moderately paced, 5-mile, 1200-foot gain hike to see the city lights of the San Fernando Valley. Meet at the trailhead at 7:00 p.m. Take the 405 Freeway to the 118 Freeway, west to Balboa, north about 2 miles to Sesnon, west about 1 mile to Neon Way, right to end of street. Wear lugsoles; bring water. Rain cancels. Leaders are Casey Bialas (805-251-4619) and Henry Schultz (805-284-5613), both of the Santa Clarita Sierra Club.



SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN / RENEW / REJOIN S.S.M.P.A. (Please circle one.)

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831.



- Senior or Student (\$5.00) Individual (\$10.00) Family (\$15.00)
 Business or Organization (\$25.00) Life Member (\$100.00)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Fax: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Special Interest/Expertise: _____

Come join our mailing parties! Food, fun and camaraderie!
Perform a useful service! Call Mary at 887-1345 to find out more!

If the expiration date on your label is marked in pink, your dues have expired.
Please send in your dues if you wish to continue your SSMPA membership
and continue to receive our newsletter. If you already paid, please disregard this notice.

If the expiration date on the label is marked in blue, payment of your membership dues is due this month.
If the expiration date is marked in green, payment of your dues will be due next month.

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association
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Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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