



de la Guerra, Sheila *General Public Comment*

From: Robin Martinek <robinma101@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 5:45 PM
To: sbcob; Chapjian, George; Lindgren, Jeffrey; Stepien, Todd; menzies@sbparks.org; minthavong@usbr.gov
Subject: Live Oak

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May 17, 2021

- Bob Nelson, Chair, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- Joan Hartman, Vice-Chair, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- Das Williams, 1st District Supervisor, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- Gregg Hart, Second District Supervisor, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- Steve Lavagnino, Fifth District Supervisor, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

RE: Live Oak Equestrian Trail Data Collection & "Pilot Project"
(VIA EMAIL TO sbcob@countyofsb.org)

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Board:

My name is Robin Martinek and I am an equestrian who enjoys riding in the Santa Ynez Valley. The Live Oak Trail was opened to hikers without adequate environmental and public review on April 15, 2021 for a "Pilot Project" (project) to collect trail user data over a period of 18-months. The project has now been in operation for over one month and there is no method in place to count trail users adequately nor accurately.

The Parks Division has installed an "iron ranger" at the Live Oak trailhead that manually collects Daily User Fees, however, fees are collected from trail users via a Cachuma Lake Recreation Area Annual Pass (Pass) as well. The iron ranger does not capture Pass holders, the bulk of which are equestrians. For Pass holders, no fee is collected at the trailhead - it is paid once per year at Cachuma's main gate. The glaring exclusion of the trail users for which the creation of the Live Oak Trail is intended (equestrians) is unacceptable and inaccurate and renders the month's-worth of current data collected by the iron ranger method unusable.

Please direct Mr. George Chapjian, Director of the Community Services Department to review the current data collection method and its validity to support the stated goal of collecting Live Oak trail user counts. Parks must implement a process (trail counter or other method) that will capture ALL trail users immediately. Additionally, the study period must be a full 18-months as stated in the Parks project description, the project approved by the Bureau of Reclamation and assured by our Supervisor, Joan Hartman. The study period must be restarted to begin when an accurate data collection method is implemented. I do not

understand why the study was not adequately designed BEFORE the Live Oak Trail was opened to additional users.

Thank you for considering my request and I request a response. The project is not going on as planned nor as presented to the public, or the landowner and Cachuma Lake Lease Agreement partner, the Bureau of Reclamation. The data collection must occur under fair and accepted research protocols.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue. In any case, the Live Oak Trail must remain open and safe equestrian trail riding.

Sincerely,

Robin Martinek

YOUR NAME & CONTACT INFO

Cc:George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department (gchapjian@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

Jeff Lindgren, Parks Superintendent, County Parks Division
Community Services
Department (JLindgren@sbparks.org_)

Mr. Jon Menzies Santa Barbara County Parks Division
Community Services Department (jmenzies@sbparks.org)

Todd Stepien, Parks Operations Manager, Cachuma Lake Recreation Area, Santa Barbara County Parks Department(tstepien@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

Michael Inthavong, US Bureau of Reclamation(minthavong@usbr.gov)

Sent from Robin's iPhone