

Ramirez, Angelica

General Public Comment - Group 1

From: Susie Snow <nssnow10@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 3:22 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Live oak trail



Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

May 2, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

I am a Santa Barbara County equestrian rider. For several weeks now our Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, the last equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. To date, the County has not considered nor complied with our request.

Live Oak is enjoyed by multiple generations and as a resource, is truly invaluable as it provides the required equity in the County trail system for all ages, genders, and all trail sports.

We see what is happening and know the agenda all too well. The mountain bikes are coming. All other trails in the County and Los Padres National Forest allow for mountain bikes but because of reckless and aggressive riders, equestrians no longer ride there out of fear for their safety. Recreation management agencies have neither the staff nor funding to patrol and enforce rules and etiquette. This is true of the County Parks Division. Live Oak is the only safe trail left to us.

The multi-use trail concept is a failure in terms of equity on local trails, caters to one trail sport group, and is prejudicial. In fact, there is a dedicated mountain bike trail/track at Cachuma's main recreation area on the south shore of the Lake at the Mohawk Group Camp area. Horses are already prohibited from the main recreation area and cannot access any of the trails located there. I am adamant that mountain bikes have no place and should not be allowed on Live Oak Trail and that the trail remain safe for equestrian trail riders.

I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

Please no mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail, it just won't be safe for both horse, rider and bicyclist.

Thank you,

Susie Snow
285 Meadowlark Road
Santa Ynez, Ca

Sent from my iPhone

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Robin Martinek <robinma101@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 4:29 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Live Oak Trail

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May 2, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail! Please, please consider our enjoyment and safety!

Thank you,

Robin Martinek
1710 Cottonwood Street
Solvang, CA 93463

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Amalia Coffey <accoffey9@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 4:43 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: May 4, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting - No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Attn: Clerk of the Board

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Amalia C. Coffey

2512 Meadow Ranch Road
Solvang, CA 93463

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jennifer Calderwood <jennifercalderwood@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 7:25 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Jennifer Calderwood
1627 Oramas Rd
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103

Sent from my iPhone

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Bonnie A. <bonnieadams111@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 7:30 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: NO mountain bikes on Live Oak Trail

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May 2, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

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We see what is happening and know the agenda all too well. The mountain bikes are coming. All other trails in the County and Los Padres National Forest allow for mountain bikes--but **because of reckless and aggressive riders, equestrians no longer ride there out of fear for their safety.** Recreation management agencies have neither the staff nor funding to patrol and enforce rules and etiquette. This is true of the County Parks Division. Live Oak is the only safe trail left to us.

The multi-use trail concept is a failure in terms of equity on local trails, caters to one trail sport group, and is prejudicial. In fact, there is a dedicated mountain bike trail/track at Cachuma's main recreation area on the south shore of the Lake at the Mohawk Group Camp area. Horses are already prohibited from the main recreation area and cannot access any of the trails located there. I am adamant that mountain bikes have no place and should not be allowed on Live Oak Trail and that the trail remain safe for equestrian trail riders.

I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes should be allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Bonnie Adams
1490 Brandon Dr.
Santa Ynez, Ca. 93460

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Marcia Nelson <mnhorsin@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 2, 2021 9:34 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Live Oak Equestrian Trail

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May 2, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

I am and have been a Santa Barbara County equestrian rider for the past 25yrs.

For several weeks now our Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, the last equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. To date, the County has not considered nor complied with our request.

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I am adamant that mountain bikes have no place and should not be allowed on Live Oak Trail.

I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes at Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,
Marcia Nelson
1515 Edison St
Santa Ynez, Ca 93160

Marcia
Sent from my iPhone

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Janette Wesch <w.janette71@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 4:57 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Fwd: Live Oak Trail Your Action Needed!!!

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

DATE 5-3-21

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

I am a Santa Barbara County equestrian rider. For several weeks now our Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, the last equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. To date, the County has not considered nor complied with our request.

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Janette Wesch

863 Eastview Way
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

To speak during Public Comment, at Tuesday, May 4th's Board of Supervisors hearing, 9:00am please register at:
https://countyofsb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K_FqbDqhR2-rTq7ydBM2dg

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Have a happy day!

Janette Wesch

w.janette71@gmail.com

805-310-1990

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Balinda Dickson <bubblesdickson@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 6:12 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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May 3, 2021

Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Barbara

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Balinda Dickson

4117 Casey Avenue
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Darryl Buck <dbuck@semi.org>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 6:47 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Kathy Buck
Subject: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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May 3, 2021

Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Barbara

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Darryl Buck

541 Diego Rivera Lane

510-390-0122

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Dawn Perrine <dawnperrine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 6:52 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Live Oak

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May 2, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

I am a Santa Barbara County equestrian rider for 2 decades. For several weeks now our Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, the last equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. To date, the County has not considered nor complied with our request.

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I am adamant that mountain bikes have no place and should not be allowed on Live Oak Trail.

I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes at Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,
Dawn Perrine

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Tammy Evans <welsht2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 7:14 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Live Oak Trails

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DATE

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

tammy Evans
3595 west oak trail
santa ynez, Ca 93460

fatponydesign.com
Instagram @ fatponydesign

612 669 3377

"the Gift that is the Horse will always be my inspiration"

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Tracy Ward <equineward@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 7:22 AM
To: sbcob

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May 3, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Tracy Ward
POBox 1693
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Cathy Mehl <cathymehl@west.net>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 9:09 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: No mountain bikes on Live Oak Trail!

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May 3, 2021
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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We support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,
Robert and Cathy Mehl
4854 Lookout Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Cynthia M. Horney <chorney@calpoly.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 9:47 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Live Oak Trail Equestrian Use

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05/03/2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Keep us safe! No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

I utilize the Live Oak Trails for the beauty and safety (and bring in revenue to the county by doing so). For several weeks now, the Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, the last equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. To date, the County has not considered nor complied with their request.

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

Please keep us safe! No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Cindy Horney
PO Box 427
Nipomo, CA 93444

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Carol Abeloe <cabeloe@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:22 AM
To: sbcob

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

May 3, 2021

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

I am a Santa Barbara County equestrian rider. For several weeks now our Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, the last equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. To date, the County has not considered nor complied with our request.

Live Oak is enjoyed by multiple generations and as a resource, is truly invaluable as it provides the required equity in the County trail system for all ages, genders, and all trail sports.

We see what is happening and know the agenda all too well. The mountain bikes are coming. All other trails in the County and Los Padres National Forest allow for mountain bikes but because of reckless and aggressive riders, equestrians no longer ride there out of fear for their safety. Recreation management agencies have neither the staff nor funding to patrol and enforce rules and etiquette. This is true of the County Parks Division. Live Oak is the only safe trail left to us.

The multi-use trail concept is a failure in terms of equity on local trails, caters to one trail sport group, and is prejudicial. In fact, there is a dedicated mountain bike trail/track at Cachuma's main recreation area on the south shore of the Lake at the Mohawk Group Camp area. Horses are already prohibited from the main recreation area and cannot access any of the trails located there. I am adamant that mountain bikes have no place and should not be allowed on Live Oak Trail and that the trail remain safe for equestrian trail riders.

I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Carol N Abeloe
4365 Kris Dr
Orcutt, CA 93455

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Susette Warynick <susettew@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:41 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Live Oak Trail

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>
>3 May 2021

>Board of Supervisors

> County of Santa Barbara
>
> 105 East Anapamu Street
>
> Santa Barbara, CA 93101

> No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

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> reckless and aggressive riders, equestrians no longer ride there out
> of fear for their safety. Recreation management agencies have neither
> the staff nor funding to patrol and enforce rules and etiquette. This
> is true of the County Parks Division. Live Oak is the only safe trail
> left to us.

> The multi-use trail concept is a failure. In fact, there is a
> dedicated mountain bike trail/track at Cachuma's main recreation area

- > on the south shore of the Lake at the Mohawk Group Camp area.
- > Horses are already prohibited from the main recreation area and cannot
- > access any of the trails located there. I am adamant that mountain
- > bikes have no place and should not be allowed on Live Oak Trail and
- > that the trail remain safe for equestrian trail riders.
- >
- > I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on
- > the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail
- > to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.
- >
- > No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail! PLEASE!

I submit this letter to be included in the official record.

- > Thank you,
- >
- >Susette Warynick
- >
- >4800 Calle Camarada

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Jane Lodalas <jvlodalas@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 10:44 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Mountain bikes at Live Oak opposition

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I am an equestrian resident and user of the trails at Live Oak and I strongly oppose you allowing mountain bikers there for many reasons including our safety.

Thanks

Jane Lodalas

Ramirez, Angelica

From: ollarealty@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 11:57 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Re: Live Oak Trail Your Action Needed!!!

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

y 3,2021

-----Original Message-----

From: ALICE OLLA <ollarealty@aol.com>
To: Susie Snow <nssnow10@gmail.com>
Sent: Mon, May 3, 2021 10:44 am
Subject: Re: Live Oak Trail Your Action Needed!!!

Will do but what about study the bureau of reclamation wanted?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2021, at 8:51 AM, ALICE OLLA <ollarealty@aol.com> wrote:

Thought they were doing an 18 month study?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 2, 2021, at 9:27 PM, Susie Snow <nssnow10@gmail.com> wrote:

This is easy to do. Copy paste and add to email and send to name listed.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: SYVR Mail Manager <info@santaynezvalleyriders.org>
Date: May 2, 2021 at 2:53:07 PM PDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;
Subject: Live Oak Trail Your Action Needed!!!

ACTION ALERT!!! Mountain bike riders are making their move...

Please add the DATE and YOUR NAME and ADDRESS as indicated to the message below, then cut and paste it into an email and

Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at:

sbcob@countyofsb.org

Your comment will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately.

Also below is how to register to speak at the Board of Supervisors hearing on Tuesday, if you are interested in doing so.

MESSAGE:

May 3,2021

Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Barbara

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: No Mountain Bikes on Live Oak Trail

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

I am a Santa Barbara County equestrian rider. For several weeks now our Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, the last equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. To date, the County has not considered nor complied with our request.

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I support the proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian trail to remain on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.

No mountain bikes allowed on the Live Oak Trail!

Thank you,

Alice & Joe Olla

2475 Long Canyon Rd,S.Y.,CA 93460

To speak during Public Comment, at Tuesday, May 4th's Board of Supervisors hearing, 9:00am please register at:

https://countyofsb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K_FqbDqhR2-rTq7ydBM2dg

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Kathleen Rosenthal <ksrvaquera@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 2:06 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: BOS Letter for 5/4/21 Meeting - Public Comment
Attachments: Citizen Letter BOS 5 3 21.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Please forward the attached letter to all members of the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you.

Best Regards,
Kathleen Rosenthal

May 3, 2021

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
c/o Office of the Clerk of the Board
105 East Anapamu St., Rm 407
Santa Barbara CA. 93101

RE: Live Oak Trail Concerns

Mr. Chair and Honorable Supervisors:

My name is Kathleen Rosenthal representing the Santa Ynez Valley Riders the longest-running equestrian trail riding organization in the Santa Ynez Valley. We wish to thank your Board and the Parks staff for continuing to hear our reports and consider our comments on issues surrounding the Live Oak Trail. We look forward to working with you into the future.

The Live Oak Trail is more than a recreation resource to equestrian riders. We love that it is a peaceful, tranquil place where many of us as older riders can ride in safety and enjoy our own company or the company of others. In the same way, our younger riders can gain valuable riding experience and confidence that will influence them their whole lives. Although the trail is truly as safe as it gets, the Trail challenges riders to increase their skills as they encounter deer, pigs, and other wildlife and horses at Live Oak. **Live Oak is enjoyed by multiple generations and is a unique resource that provides the required equity in the County trail system for all ages, genders, and trail sports.**

Project Definition and Review: For several weeks now, our Equestrian Coalition has come before your Board to ask for a proper public review and project development process for changes to the Live Oak Trail, the only designated equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County. The most evident reason we continue to take issue with the project is the lack of public notice and public input to implement expanding uses in the Live Oak area. A robust public noticing and engagement process is the number one practice emphasized for all trail planning and guidance at the State and Federal levels. Until the current changes at Live Oak Trail were proposed last year, it was the practice for the County of Santa Barbara as well.

Frankly, we remain shocked that there has been total disregard of a transparent, public process to examine changes at Live Oak Trail and more importantly provide notice to us, the equestrian trail riders that have policed ourselves and acted as good stewards of the land on the north shore of Cachuma Lake for so many years. After all, this is the only equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County, and we are more than a little bit protective. The equestrian trail defines the existing conditions or baseline for County trail planning on the north shore of Cachuma Lake, is important to our community, and warrants consideration. All other Counties from Monterey to San Diego have a at least one County-owned equestrian facility and/or horse trail(s). Even in downtown Los Angeles there are 55 miles of equestrian only trails. We are only asking for what is common in other Counties: **TRAIL EQUITY** for equestrian trial riders in Santa Barbara County and to practice our sport safely at Live Oak Trail.

The Parks Division approved the "Pilot Project", - expansion of trail users at Live Oak Trail - and it was also approved by the USBR with the project elements to collect user data, study and establish and enforce safety rules for the trail. However, your Board never knew about the project before we brought it to your attention and the Board has not had opportunity to even consider it. Many discrepancies remain around the purpose and need for the project. The "pilot" or study project isn't a "pilot" project unless it meets the stated objectives, that is, accurate data gathering to assess the needs for future trial

planning – and it is a project that your Board should have had opportunity to review, and the public afforded the opportunity to comment.

At the April 22, 2021 Parks Commission meeting, the Commissioners asked the County Park staff to respond to many keen and relevant questions about the Trail opening: the purpose and need for the trail changes, the CEQA Notice of Exemption project description, existing data and current data gathering and fee collection methods, public noticing for the Live Oak Equestrian and Mohawk Mountain Bike Trails at Cachuma Recreation Area, introduction of pets to the Live Oak Trail, effects on the grazing lease operations, as well as visitor security and safety. We appreciate the Commissioner's attentiveness and initiative to opening the door to those discussions.

At the end of the meeting, The Commission asked Park Staff to return to the Commission with information about:

- Trail visitor counts and how it is done,
- Education for visitors: horseback riders and hikers
- “No Dogs” and safety rule enforcement
- Way finding- maps, etc.
- A summary of amenities and possible horse camping opportunities at Live Oak Camp and Trail.

We look forward to learning more information with the Commission following fulfillment of these tasks.

Project Element Implementation, and Ways to Help: The trail was opened to other users almost three weeks ago. The Parks Division has no method in place to accurately accomplish data gathering in the field but has been promising to install counters since our conversations began months ago. Enough time has passed, and a data collection system must be put in place immediately. Otherwise, the “Pilot Project” as approved by the USBR, presented to our Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann and to our coalition by the Parks Division is null and void.

We ask that the Board to direct the Parks Division to revert to the previous method of visitor check-in to use the trail, that is, checking in at the main gate where the data collected included name, contact information, user type, then provides the gate code for entry and requires keeping the entry gate closed. This system is also a reliable way to collect user fees and has worked for the equestrian riders for over 30 years. It costs no more than checking any other visitors to the Cachuma Recreation Area at the main gate.

Additionally, if there is not enough available Parks Division funding or staff to do the required data gathering and otherwise take on responsibility for the trail safety and security, then the trail should not be opened to more intense use. These are the Parks Division's responsibilities. We believe that a secure trailhead, as well as a dedicated staff presence (Ranger) for safety, security and rule enforcement is the duty of the Park Division and in the best interest of all.

Our Equestrian Coalition has partnered with the Santa Barbara Trails Council to raise funds for the new kiosk, access control, a volunteer program, trail amenities such as picnic tables and hitching posts at Live Oak Trail. We were fortunate enough to tour the Trail with Parks staff to identify some new, beautiful picnic sites, yet our offers to contribute toward the improvements at the Live Oak Trail are denied or met with resistance. We want the Board to know that we stand ready to assist the Parks Division in any capacity that a partnering non-profit has offered on similar trails to improve the Live Oak Trail.

Additional concerns and a proposal: Because our generous offers to provide help and funding (and we have done extensive access control research to the point of arranging a vendor's site visit) have been turned down, we remain concerned that the "pilot project" is only a gateway to move into the next project phase without proper study and ultimately an excuse to allow mountain bikes on Live Oak Trail. We are against mixing horses and mountain bikes for our safety and resolute in our stance that mountain bikes have no place and should not be allowed on Live Oak Trail. Our lives and those of our equine partners are literally at stake.

We do, however, support a proposal for mountain bike activities to continue on the trails on the southern shore of the Lake and the equestrian activities to continue on the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail. Neither user need encroach on the other's designated trail.

Indeed, there is a dedicated mountain bike trail/track at Cachuma's main recreation area on the south shore of the Lake, at the Mohawk Group Camp area, with acres to the east for expansion. The Boy Scout Camp across Highway 154 is developing mountain bike amenities as well, in this same area. Horses are already prohibited from the main recreation area and cannot access any of the trails located there (confirmed by Cachuma Recreation Area Main Gate staff, May 1, 2021) and **confirms that the trails at the Cachuma Main Recreation area are not multi-use, sets precedent, and Live Oak Trail can be designated as the ONLY equestrian trail in Santa Barbara County that prohibits mountain bikes.** This is not a revolutionary idea. Hikers and equestrian trails are becoming more popular than ever.

In summary, we ask your Board to please:

- Hold the Parks Division accountable to the "Pilot Project" and all its elements as approved by requiring accurate data gathering and safety and security measures be implemented immediately.
- Direct the Parks Division to revert to the previous secure method of visitor check-in: checking in at the main gate where the data collected includes name, contact information, user type, then provides the gate code for entry and requires keeping the entry gate closed. This system is also a reliable way to collect user fees.
- Direct Parks staff to work cooperatively with our organization as they have with mountain bike groups on the south shore mountain bike track/trail east of Mohawk Group Camp, to improve Live Oak Trail and would include, but not be limited to a volunteer equestrian patrol, trail amenities and trail maintenance among other activities.
- Consider the proposal to limit mountain bikes to the south shore of Cachuma Lake and equestrians to the north shore at Live Oak Camp/Trail.
- Direct the Park Division to hold a proper planning process, including robust public participation for any further physical or user type/number changes to the Live Oak Trail.

We continue to voice our concerns and inform your Board of the way the "Pilot Project" was approved and the methods (or lack thereof) to implement the project's stated purpose: accurate data gathering. We believe this project is only the first phase to introduce mountain bikes on the Live Oak Trail which we are steadfastly against. We thank you for your time and attention to our concerns.

Best Regards,

Kathleen Rosenthal
2021 President
Santa Ynez Valley Riders