

REC NEWS

RECREATION & EQUESTRIAN COALITION

President's Message

The warm, summer days have arrived. Let's be a part of the great outdoors and enjoy the beauty and opportunities available. We are very lucky in Southern California to have so many different recreation areas and such wonderful weather for enjoying them.

As always, the issues continue to swirl around equestrians and recreation at the National, State and local levels. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that REC has become very aggressive in protecting public access to recreation lands. There is a well organized national movement to deny the public access to taxpayer purchased lands. Some government bureaucrats even see it as their sole mission. Local newspapers have even gone so far as to criticize the President's environmental budget proposals because some of the money *might* be used for recreation rather than preservation. Imagine that!

When I began this position with REC, I never suspected that I'd be vilified for trying to expand recreational opportunities. I do believe that there are more of "us" than "them", and that our rights, principles, and goals are realistic, true, and on target. I hope that you will join me in protecting the people's right to use and enjoy the public lands.

Ruth Gerson

Special points of interest:

- Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan
- Annual Trail Ride Update
- REC Mission Statement
- Decision Makers Contacts

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North Area Plan Workshop

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning has scheduled a workshop on Saturday, July 21, 9am – 12pm, at the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District to present the "implementation" program for the recently adopted North Area Plan. This program includes zone changes to make the zoning consistent with the new plan designations, Plan amendments to adjust some map categories, and a newly proposed Community Standards District (CSD). *The CSD is the tool that the County will use to tightly regulate individual property use, regardless of the zoning or plan designation.* It is the one proposal that could be the most problematic for horse owners. On previous occasions Supervisor Yaroslavsky has threatened to impose CSDs to add prohibitions that could not be approved by any other means.

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County Horse Boarding Ordinance

In response to the recent motion by the Board of Supervisors, REC has prepared a position paper on the issue of boarding in the A-1 zone in the County of Los Angeles. You can access the detailed document on our web page at “www.gotorec.org.” REC representatives have been meeting with County officials to persuade them that a “Director’s review” for boarding horses is an onerous and expensive burden on backyard boarders, and that a further requirement for a Conditional Use Permit, CUP, for all other boarding is unacceptable.

Letters, Faxes and E-mails to the Supervisors would be very helpful; please send us a copy if you can. This boarding issue is extremely important. If the county adopts these new regulations, the other cities won’t be far behind. Let your County Supervisors know that you will not accept any more regulations on your horses. Don’t wait until your town or city won’t let you use your horses the way you do now. MORE RECREATION, not more regulation!

Gallegly Legislation

Congressman Elton Gallegly (R), Oxnard, has introduced legislation that would add several thousand acres north of the 101 Freeway to the National Recreation Area boundaries. It’s a fine idea with one exception; we want some guarantees from the National Park Service that recreation access and use of staging areas and trail improvements will be completed in a reasonable time period. Given the National Park Service’s draft General Management Plan, which plans for reduced visitor access to the National Recreation Area, REC has questioned the need to add more land to the National Park Service holdings if it will only result in fewer recreational opportunities for the public.

In a meeting with REC representatives, Gallegly’s staff has promised to seek some necessary assurances from the National Park Service.

North Area Plan Workshop

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As many people as possible should attend this workshop to let the County know that RECREATION, not regulation, is what the citizens want from their County government. It is quite interesting, and rather pathetic, that the documents are not expected to be available for public review prior to the workshop. Without reviewing the documents, maps, and draft CSD ordinance ahead of time, it will be difficult to question their program at the workshop. This is another opportunity where government makes it difficult for citizens to participate in the process. Keep in mind that in the NAP there is a provision, which I strongly objected to, that no resident who lives in the unincorporated area may serve on any policy committee. Only representatives from surrounding cities and certain agencies may serve on the policy committees. They know what is best for you? So, if you live in the unincorporated area, you have no voice in how you are governed. Tea Party Time?

Additionally, the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the implementation program on Wed., August 29th, at 9am at the Hall of Records. This hearing is important so that our issues are on the public record. Comments may also be submitted in writing.

2nd Annual Trail Ride October 20th

Mark your calendar for October 20th for the 2nd Annual REC Ride. This year's ride will honor three tireless, volunteer "Legends" from the equestrian community - Liz Blackwelder from La Canada, Darrell Readmond from Agua Dulce, and Linda Palmer from Calabasas. These people have worked very hard with Federal, State and local governments and agencies, and with private landowners, to acquire trails, to keep trails, to maintain trails, and to ensure the horse's place in our greater communities. For those of you who remember our wonderful first ride last October, this year it will be even more spectacular. The ride will begin at Malibu Valley Farms and will be followed by the famous Calamigos Ranch barbecue. Plenty of parking is available on Stokes Canyon Rd., and there will also be parking in one of the pastures; large rigs will be easily accommodated. Two trail routes are planned, a short ride of about 1 1/2 hours and a longer ride of 3 hours. Non-riders are most welcome to join us for socializing, for helping with the event, and to enjoy the barbecue. A donation of \$25 would be appreciated and includes lunch and a REC hat. Flyers with more details will be at the feed and tack stores, as well as on our website and the websites of other organizations. Let's have a big turn out to show Liz, Darrell, and Linda how much we have appreciated their efforts over the many years they have toiled for us and our horses.

Sponsorships are available for \$100 from individuals and businesses that would like to help underwrite this event. Sponsor names will be in the newsletters and on flyers.

Shovel Brigade

Grant Gerber, the infamous organizer of the Shovel Brigade, who successfully beat the Forest Service and reopened the Jarbridge Road near Elko, Nevada, recently visited with REC representatives to discuss local efforts to maintain access to public lands throughout Southern California. Jarbridge became a national cause celebre when the Forest Service placed a seemingly immovable boulder on an old logging road to stop hikers, equestrians, bikers and vehicles from using it to access the forest. Gerber organized thousands of volunteers with shovels and picks in a nationally televised display of civil disobedience to remove the boulder. The government sued Gerber and others, and the Forest Service lost. The road remains open to this day.

Gerber shared numerous mobilization strategies with local recreation enthusiasts. He was both amazed and pleased that there was even an organized group of "access advocates" in crazy Southern California. He has offered support at the Federal level to assist our public access campaign.

Sullivan Canyon

The Sullivan Canyon Preservation Association has been making very slow but dogged progress in their efforts to acquire the Old Ranch Road school site for continued use as an equestrian facility. The discussions have bogged down over issues of property valuation and whether mediation would be successful. Hopes are that the newly elected School Board Member, Marlene Canter, will be able to provide some effective leadership to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion for the benefit of all equestrians on the west side of Los Angeles.

Pasadena Anti-Rodeo Ordinance

This letter was written by one of the directors for the Miss Rodeo California...I hope that each of you will take the time to write to the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Star News protesting this ordinance...It is important that we protect our "right to the pursuit of happiness" and our freedoms of choice! Sue Stauffer

When I first heard that the Pasadena City Council was considering an ordinance to regulate and ban most animal activities in the city, my reaction was - SO WHAT! Not living in the city of Pasadena my inclination was to refrain from interfering with their local politics and to let matters just take their course.

Then it occurred to me that the citizens of Pasadena may need a "wake-up call" from someone in a neighboring city to call attention to the continued erosion of their freedoms. Besieged on every side by Federal, State and County regulations, laws and new bureaucratic rulings that slowly gain full control over every aspect of one's freedom, it might be time to at least take issue with a local government bent on doing the same thing. For those who are "dog lovers", be alert! While you may be exempt from this ordinance at the moment, be aware that a vocal minority may soon want to close down your dog shows because of those nasty choke collars you use to control your dogs during training. "Cat lovers" are using all sorts of material to rearrange the fur on their pets and pin ornaments on them that may be swallowed, thus creating great alarm to animal activists who will want an ordinance to guide you properly on how to handle your animal. As soon as a Constitutional review is applied to this ordinance, the Rose Parade may also have to come up with a burdensome permitting process to allow horses into that. Then the matter will no longer be a local issue concerning Pasadena, but an International issue with the notoriety that comes with it.

For those who want to sit by and let the government run your life - that is a right you also enjoy. It comes at the expense of your freedom.

A. F. Feldbush

The Pasadena City Council voted to add the amendment banning circuses and rodeos to the Municipal Code with only one no vote, that of Joyce Streater. The result is mostly symbolic since the city has not had a rodeo since 1981. The practical result will be more paperwork for small petting zoos, pony rides, etc. who want to have an event on city property. Basically, the city is supporting the proposition that circuses and rodeos are inherently cruel to animals. As horse owners, we all should understand and be concerned that people have very different opinions about what constitutes cruelty to animals. There was a letter in the LCF Valley Sun several months ago suggesting that Flintridge Riding Club should be forced to close because the horses were kept in corrals. The animal rights activists have done some good things to raise people's awareness of abuses against animals, but we need to be alert to this kind of extremist thinking before we find public opinion turned against us as well.

Mary Barrie, Rose Bowl Riders

RECREATION & EQUESTRIAN COALITION

Membership Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____

FAX _____ (EMAIL) _____

I can help with...

Phone Committee _____

Attend Hearings _____

Organize Events _____

Distribute Flyers _____

Other _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Individual \$25 _____

Family \$50 _____

Organization \$100 _____

Business \$250 _____

Donation _____

REC Cap \$12 _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail your check payable to: REC
 P.O. Box 245
 Agoura Hills, CA 91376

REC Mission Statement

The mission of the Recreation and Equestrian Coalition (REC) is to inform the public and policy makers about access to and the use of diverse recreational opportunities available throughout Los Angeles County and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. REC will protect and defend the region's rich natural diversity and promote public/private partnerships to preserve and expand visitor-serving recreational facilities.

Time to Join and Renew Membership in REC

It's time to renew your REC membership. Your annual contribution of \$25 dollars is tax deductible, and it's the primary source of funds for REC activities – to educate politicians; to spread the word about problems that affect your rights and to gather your presence for events; to coordinate county-wide efforts to protect public access to public lands. We greatly appreciate your support at events and through your financial donations.

Some people have given friends a REC membership as a gift, which is a real win-win deal for them and us.

Send Us Your E-Mail

REC is upgrading the E-mail and Web capabilities. Please send us your email address so we can contact you quickly when urgent issues arise. You can still choose if you want to receive future newsletters and legislative notices by e-mail or by snail mail. Let us know your preference, or make a note when you send in your membership renewal.

REC
*Recreation & Equestrian
Coalition*
P.O. Box 245
Agoura Hills, CA 91376

How to Contact REC

Phone (818) 991-1236; fax (818) 889-4540

Email <ruth@gotorec.org>

P.O. Box 245, Agoura Hills, CA 91376

Visit REC's website at:

www.gotorec.org

How to Contact the Board of Supervisors

Board of Supervisors 500 W. Temple Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUPERVISOR	Phone	Fax	Email
Michael Antonovich	213 974-5555	213 974-1010	fifthdistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Don Knabe	213 974-4444	213 626-6941	don@bos.co.la.ca.us
Zev Yaroslavsky	213 974-3333	213 625-7360	zev@bos.co.la.ca.us
Yvonne Burke	213 974-2222	213 680-3283	seconddistrict@bos.co.la.ca.us
Gloria Molina	213 974-4111	213 613-1739	molina@bos.co.la.ca.us

How to Contact the Planning Commission

Regional Planning Commission
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 626-0434 Fax
Email <lstark@planning.co.la.ca.us> or
smmnap@planning.co.la.ca.us>

How to Contact the National Park Service

401 W. Hillcrest Service
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 370-2300 Phone
(805) 370-1850 Fax
To visit the Plan: www.nps.gov/samo
email: samo_gmp@nps.gov