



## SUMMER 2007 NEWSLETTER

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[www.gotorec.org](http://www.gotorec.org)

### **President's Message**

We're Back In The Saddle Again! Time is a wonderful commodity for respites, for stress, for connecting, for regenerating, for a million things. Whether planned, unexpected or by default, time outs can be enriching and productive; and they're certainly more valuable than marking time with routines and hoping for a change. So that brings us to the present time. For over a year, Malibu Valley Farms, MVF, has been undergoing a horrendous attack by the California Coastal Commission, CCC. They want to shut down the farm. Your help will be greatly appreciated. EACH ONE OF YOU WHO MAKES THE EFFORT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS TIME.

Ruth

### **THE PROBLEM**

The main issue with the Coastal Commission involves the distance between the structures and the creek. The Coastal Commission generally requires a 100 ft. setback from any creek, but there is not enough land for that. At 100 ft. that would put the structures - barns, arenas and corrals into the street. As a solution, MVF is requesting a permit to have the structures approximately 50 ft. from the creek and to implement various measures to ensure that runoff does not enter the creek. These measures include having vegetated buffers between the structures and the creek, having a vegetative bio-swale that runs the entire length of the creek, and installing gutters and downspouts on roofed structures to collect rainwater and direct it to the creek via underground pipes so that it never comes into contact with the bare ground.

There is also a Best Management Plan (BMP) in place for the daily maintenance of the farm. In fact, MVF won the Los Angeles County Award for the BEST farm in waste management for all of LA County. There is published scientific research proving that all the above methods work in addressing and resolving any and all concerns the Coastal Commission may have regarding run-off into the creek.

The Coastal Commission has no science to back up the arbitrary 100 ft. setback. There are studies, published reports, expert scientific testimony, and a fully engineered plan to support the measures that MVF suggests. More detailed information and the history of MVF is on the CSHA website [www.californiastatehorsemen.com](http://www.californiastatehorsemen.com).

**The hearing will be at Embassy Suites Hotel, 333 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406, phone 805-549-0800.**

**The buses will leave MVF on Monday July 9th at 8:30 am PROMPTLY, so please be on time. There will be 1 or 2 busses from MVF to San Luis Obispo, SLO. It is important that MVF has your name, your telephone, and the number of people going on the bus. Call 818-880-5139 to give them that information.**

Since it is a long ways to SLO, about 200 miles and about a 4-hour drive, there will be coffee, sweet rolls/donuts & other foods on the bus, which also has a restroom.

For the hearing, the contact numbers for Brian and Beth, in case your cell does not work, are: Brian's cell 818-652-2970 and Beth's cell 818-652-0223. Lunch will be taken care of for everyone, so no need to bring a brown bag. If the hearing goes late, there will be food & refreshments provided on the trip home.

If you have children that need to be taken or picked up for camp or school, please let Beth know as MVF will be making arrangements to handle some situations. If you have a special problem, please contact Beth to see how it can be worked out so you can attend the hearing.

Of course, there may be people who prefer to drive themselves, or they may want to carpool. There are options for everyone. If we can help coordinate that, let Beth know.

The more people that can come, the better it will be for MVF. This would be a good time to contact anyone you know who lives in the general area of SLO and who would make the time to come to the hearing at the hotel. Contact them now so they can clear their calendar on Monday July 9.

Over the past years, Brian and Mia have supported every equestrian event they knew of or were asked to support. They have offered their facility to many organizations even before being asked. They have opened their place as an evacuation facility in fire & flood disasters to untold numbers of horses; and they never charged for the feeding and care of the horses. These people are most generous and gracious and have shared their good fortunes with the community. NOW is the time to come to their aid and help them in this time of need. Please make every effort to attend the hearing July 9th.

For further information Beth Palmer at 818-880-5139 / cell 818-652-0223 [beth@malibuvalley.com](mailto:beth@malibuvalley.com) Malibu Valley Farms, Inc. 26885 Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas, CA 91302

PLEASE - take the time to snail mail or fax a letter supporting the position of MVF – it is environmentally safe and scientifically correct to have structures 50 ft. from the creek with mitigating measures to ensure runoff does not enter the creek. Send letters to the CCC with a copy to MVF. The addresses and faxes follow.

**FILE NUMBER 4-06-163 must be included on all correspondence.**

**Send letters to:**

**California Coastal Commission  
89 S. California St. # 200  
Ventura, CA 93001-2801  
Fax: 805-641-1732**

**Send copies to:**

**Malibu Valley Farms  
26885 Mulholland Hwy,  
Calabasas, CA 91302  
Fax 818-880-5414**

**Every facility we lose is a loss for everyone, whether we personally used the facility or not. Each defeat to even one equestrian is a defeat for all equestrians. Let's join together and Support Malibu Valley Farms.**

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## IT'S SUMMER TIME –

Horses require circulation of air, even if the air is hot. Trailers are so enclosed that many do not provide enough air circulation and severely restrict the air flow. A couple of small vents are not adequate on a hot day, especially if the back doors are solid and go to the roof. Stock trailers and slant loads with drop down windows afford good air circulation. Be sure the horses cannot stick their heads out windows and get struck by flying road debris. For trailers with 2-piece back doors, it would be healthier for the horses if the top doors were removed during the summer to allow more air circulation. If the horses get a small amount of dirt on them from the air circulating, that is easy to clean, as compared to overheating a horse so it's sweating & stressing during a trailer ride. Stand back there one day and be a horse – wear a jacket to compare to the horse's hair and see if you can handle the ride for an hour or more on an 80 degree day. Care for the horse with the same consideration you would want if you did not have air conditioning that was cooling you as you drive.

## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REC RIDE

**REC RIDE date is OCTOBER 20, 2007.** Mark your calendar now so you'll be there.

Last year's October 2006 REC RIDE was a great success. Why wouldn't it be? We had perfect weather, a wonderful turnout of 100 horseback riders, a scrumptious barbeque for 130 hungry hombres, a raffle with oodles of horsey prizes, and a silent auction of high caliber. All the trails were in good shape; and we added the Phantom Trail for horses & riders that were in condition to do the challenging hills. The parkland was covered with horseback riders strung along for miles. The camaraderie was outstanding as we saw many old friends and enjoyed meeting new ones – all horse folks. People rode many different trails through Malibu Creek State Park. REMEMBER – All the REC RIDES have been staged at Malibu Valley Farms.

*Sponsors for the 2006 ride were:* Bill & Inger Hogan, Gwen Allen, Liz Blackwelder, Country General Store, Coastal Vision, Inc, Zacharosa Ranch, Fair Hills Farms, Calamigos Ranch, Malibu Valley Farms, Michael & Cheryl Murphy, Doug Stoutenborough, Vera Stewart, DDS, JohnPaulRichard, The Hogan Family Foundation, Nona Green realtor, Schmitz & Associates, The Rogers Group, E-Views, American Horse Products, Five Star Automotive, Orion Ranch-Star Rt, Australian Stock Saddle Co.

*Raffle donations were made by:* the Cardiel & Daneshmand Families, Bright Star Saddlery, Laurie Ballard Sculpture, Calabasas Saddlery, Agoura Feed, Tamara Friend, The Equestrian News, West Valley Horse Center, Supervisor Antonovich, American Horse Products, Joanne Asman, Sherli Leonard, Saddlerock Wines.

## Purpose of Annual REC RIDE - TO CELEBRATE RECREATION & ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

**OUR MISSION - to inform the public and policy makers about the access to and the use of diverse recreational opportunities available throughout Los Angeles County and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). REC will protect and defend the region's rich natural diversity and promote public/private partnerships to preserve and expand visitor-serving recreational facilities. REC is a 501-C-3 tax deductible, charitable/educational organization.**

NOTE: Please give us any corrections to spelling your name and to your correct address. If you know of individuals and organizations who would like to be on our mailing and email lists, please let us know. For further information and to contact REC -

Ruth Gerson, president 818-991-1236, fax 818-889-4540, email [Ruth@gotorec.org](mailto:Ruth@gotorec.org)

There are many other equestrian organizations doing good things for equestrians and horses.

**CHC - California Horse Council** - a statewide organization that includes all breeds and disciplines and works for the good of the horse industry to educate California politicians and the general public about horses in general, their historic and cultural values, and their \$7 billion contribution to the CA economy.

**BCHC - Backcountry Horsemen of California** has 25 units throughout the state. Their mission - to perpetuate the common sense use & enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry; to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use; to assist government & private agencies in maintenance & management of resources; and to educate, encourage & solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the backcountry resources. BCHC is a member of BCHA, Backcountry Horsemen of America, with 15 states as members and another 8 states as affiliates. [www.bchc.com](http://www.bchc.com)

**ETI - Equestrian Trails, Inc.** - Established in 1944 and dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of trails, good horsemanship and equine legislation. Members belong to Corrals/units that are local to them or have events they like. Some activities include day rides, overnight rides, clinics, parades, trail trials, play days, and horseshows. [www.etinational.com](http://www.etinational.com)

**CET&LC - California Equestrian Trails & Lands Coalition** - comprised of many horse organizations, CET&LC addresses issues that help equestrians to enjoy a safe, quality experience on the trails and to access public lands. [www.calequestriancoalition.com](http://www.calequestriancoalition.com)

**CSHA - California State Horsemen's Association** [www.californiastatehorsemen.com](http://www.californiastatehorsemen.com)