

Date: 6/9/2008

TO: VALLEY CENTER COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

From: Valley Center Trails Association

RE: Request for Approval of “Staging Areas” for the County’s Trails Master Plan Update

Requested Actions:

- A. Accept this report;
- B. Approve the proposed “Staging Areas” shown on Exhibit 1 displayed at tonight’s meeting

SUMMARY: On 1/14/08 and 3/10/08 you approved the VCTA’s recommendations for changes to the County’s Trails Master Plan. This report recommends the addition of “Staging Areas” for equestrian rigs to park, to utilize the proposed trails:

- 1. Near Mirar de Valle and Frace Lane (Daley Ranch)**
- 2. At the Southeast corner of the P & R District parcel (Lilac and Valley Center Roads)**
- 3. Mc Mann Trust parcel (off Canyon Road south of water district pump station)**
- 4. Aerie Park (Vaqueros, near Betsworth)**
- 5. Lilac Ranch**
- 6. Sundance Ranch**
- 7. Segal Ranch (Southwest corner)**
- 8. Bell Gardens**
- 9. Near Angela Court and Yellow Brick Road**
- 10. At or near VC/Pauma School District sites:**
 - a. VC High School**
 - b. VC Middle School**
 - c. Lilac School**
 - d. Martin Gang parking area south of Elementary schools’ soccer/lacrosse field (Cole Grade/Fruitvale Roads).**
- 11. Near West Lilac and Lancaster Mountain Road**
- 12. Near Fire Station at Old 395 and Circle R Road**

DISCUSSION:

Thank you again for Planning Group approval of VCTA recommendations for changes to the County Trails Master Plan at your January 14, 2008 and March 10, 2008 meetings. Maryanne Vancio of the County Parks and Recreation Department suggested the community might want to add staging areas. She advises other Planning Areas have already added Staging Areas to their Maps, and they are necessary to make the proposed trails/pathways function. The VCTA approved these additional changes at its 5/28/08 Special Meeting.

Most of the proposed sites are approximate, within a half mile of where marked on the map. Some, such as the Parks & Recreation District and Mc Mann Trust parcels, have already been agreed to, others, particularly the school district sites, still are in discussion/negotiation stages. All are subject to the Trails Master Plan principle of acquisition only from a willing donor or seller.

Staging Areas will provide -acre to 1-acre parking areas for equestrian rigs, large enough for several to park, and turn around to exit without having to back up. They will also provide trailhead parking for pedestrian hikers and mountain bicyclists to access the trails/pathways. Staging Areas would have signage to indicate the location and distances of adjacent trails, along with some other educational information.

#1 would provide access to Daley Ranch via either Frace Lane or Orchard View, and satisfy the City of Escondido's requirement for a parking area outside Daley Ranch.

#2 reflects the staging area proposed by the Valley center parks and Recreation District if they are able to develop the 9 -acre parcel at the VC/Lilac Roads intersection.

#3 reflects the offer by the McMann Family Trust (to complement the trail easement also promised along Keyes Creek in the canyon). There is a large flat area off Canyon Road just south of the water district's pump station.

#4 would provide access to future pathways along Betsworth Road and to Turner Lake.

#5 would use the proposed Lilac Ranch equestrian facilities to access the proposed public trails there, and south to the Keyes Creek Trail.

#6 proposes a Staging Area somewhere within the future Sundance Ranch Project, which would serve its trails, and support trails/pathways to the west on Rabbit Run and Miller Roads, to the east on Cool Valley/MacTan/Yellow Brick, Paso Robles/Fruitvale to the south, and Wilhite/Miller to the west.

#7 provides a second entry into the Keyes Creek Trail, connecting about midway between VC Road and Lilac Ranch.

#8 would service the high school area, and west to the proposed extension of Hilldale all the way to Lilac Ranch, and south and east to Cole Grade and Cool Valley, and enable a loop with Segal Ranch.

#9 would provide a trailhead into the Rincon Reservation to the east, and a loop to Sundance Ranch.

#10 The proposals are just at the beginning discussion stages with the school district. It would use existing parking areas for as many of the schools as possible, at times and areas to be negotiated with the district that would be compatible with joint school use. For example, County Parks and Recreation Department employees, or grant money, might be used to improve the parking area south of the elementary school soccer/lacrosse field (most recently used as the staging area for Western Days).

#11 would be a trailhead for the connection to the Fallbrook planning area via Lancaster Mountain down to the San Luis Rey River.

#12 would provide access to the Bonsal planning area trails and a loop for Lilac Ranch.

Please remember that it is necessary to have the areas on the Map to initiate discussions with willing donors or sellers from whom the Staging Areas would only be acquired, and that the county's trail easement indemnification ordinance will indemnify and hold harmless property owners from any damages arising out of recreational use on or adjacent to the staging area.