



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

John Wicker, Director

Norma E. Garcia, Chief Deputy Director

April 19, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

**RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE  
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS TRAILS MASTER PLAN – PHASE II PROJECT**

On behalf of the County of Los Angeles (County), thank you for participating in the planning process for the proposed Draft Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II Project (Plan) and associated Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The draft Plan identified new multi-use trail opportunities for two distinct planning areas within the Santa Clarita Valley and the San Fernando Valley as follows:

- 1) Phase II.a is an approximately 22-square-mile area located in the north-facing slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains and the Santa Clarita Valley.
- 2) Phase II.b is an approximately 2-square-mile area located in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains, including Bell Canyon, Dayton Canyon, and Woolsey Canyon, west of San Fernando Valley.

The purpose of this letter is to update parties that participated in the planning and environmental scoping and review process of the County's determination to remove the Phase II.b area from the Plan at this time. This change is the result of environmental and health concerns related to an ongoing evaluation of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), by the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control. The SSFL is located northwest of the Phase II.b area and is currently the focus of an active environmental investigation that evaluates cleanup options. Upon careful consideration, the County believes it would be prudent to defer consideration of a multi-use trails master plan for the Phase II.b area until the DTSC has completed the environmental review and decision-making process.

The County Department of Parks and Recreation intends to advance the Phase II.a portion of the Plan, inclusive of 67 miles of multi-use trails, to the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) for consideration. The Plan is key to advancing the County's trail planning objectives, including the opportunity to implement adopted trail networks through the entitlement process. There has been widespread community support for the Phase II.a area and is an area of the County that continues to experience a high level of residential growth and increased demand for trails.

The MND and Final Plan are to be considered for adoption of the environmental document and project decision-making in the summer of 2018. Once available, the Final Plan and MND, and the date of the BOS Meeting will be provided in advance on the project website: [www.santasusanatrailspan.org](http://www.santasusanatrailspan.org) and via e-mail notice, where available.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Zachary Likins of my staff at (626) 588-5318 or by email at [zlikins@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:zlikins@parks.lacounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Kathline King  
Chief of Planning

KK:ZL/ SSMTMP-P11 Project Update

c: DPR (A. Bokde, M. O'Connor, J. Yom, Z. Likins)  
Supervisory District 5  
County Counsel (C. Youn)