

Ruffin Canyon Enhancement Planning

Workshop #4, Notes

April 27, 2017; 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Serra Mesa Library



Stakeholder Attendees

Kaye Durant

Ron Shepard

Mike Fennel

Pam Hayhurt

Monica Fuentes

Kathleen Ford

Mary J. Johnson

Cindy Moore

Michael Michaels

John Raifsnider

Pat Herron

Phil Ouellette

Kevin Johnston

San Diego Canyonlands

Eric Bowlby, (Executive Director and Meeting Facilitator)

Lauren Kahal, (SD Canyonland Volunteer taking minutes)

Workshop Notes

- Stakeholder group reviewed the Draft Action Plan
 - Items in Draft Action Plan approved, with additional restoration and trail amenity goals
- Restoration of certain unmapped social trails would not occur within Sandrock Canyon – where the trails are regularly used and mostly in good condition
- Several restoration ideas were raised
 - opportunities to promote native bee populations,
 - specify use of proper mulch that doesn't promote mold,
 - prevent non-native ant invasions,
 - add more owl/raptor boxes, etc.
 - construct water sources that could be maintained by the Friends group for wildlife during dry seasons
- There may be a vernal pool within Ruffin Canyon near the Bonnie Hough Native Plant Garden – if positively identified, fence the pool to exclude intrusion
- Proposed trails should allow for multi-uses (non-motorized), though stakeholders voiced that they rarely see mountain bikers in the canyon
- Ruffin Canyon Trail realignment options – if Alternative A is viable, there is support to also construct the Alternative B trail segment, only shifted to the north to connect directly with Sandrock Canyon trail intersection with the Ruffin Canyon main trail.
 - This would allow hikers to continue to the west to Sandrock Canyon from Ruffin Canyon Trail. It is likely that if a sustainable trail is not constructed, people will continue to create unapproved social trails to connect to Sandrock Canyon.
- There is an urgent need to finalize the Action Plan and obtain necessary easement relocation agreement with Escala, as the Developer Impact Fees set aside for the environmental review

for Ruffin Canyon trail improvements will be reallocated in March 2020 if not used.

- An Escala Master Board member in attendance indicated that an easement through Escala property within the canyon may be able to be relocated to the uplands if the pedestrian/bike easement through Escala streets could be closed on Northside Dr., using locked gates and signage to direct hikers to the west using Fenton Pkwy. instead.
- Discussion regarding potential benches within the canyon; however, this would likely attract transients and/or unwanted activity; there are trash concerns, City would probably not allow it
- San Diego Gas & Electric Company may be willing to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding or agreement with the City for public use of social trails within Sandrock Canyon and for San Diego Canyonlands to conduct trail enhancements/maintenance
- Coordination with Kearny High School Construction and local Boy Scout groups for donation of time/materials to construct puncheon bridge and interpretive kiosk(s)
- **With modifications as suggested within these notes, the Ruffin Canyon DRAFT Action Plan was adopted by the Stakeholders.**

DRAFT