

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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HELP! HELP!

SAVE THE CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR AS A NATURE PRESERVE!

by Dorian Keyser

It is very ironic - for years we have worked hard to obtain additional land for the public sector so as to preserve the environment. Now, the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir is in danger of being developed as reported in an article in the Sunday, August 8 LA Times, Valley Section.

DWP Commission President Rick Caruso, a well-known developer, ignoring the unanimous vote of the LA City Council, has terminated negotiations with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to manage the property and will start a study to determine how much of it to sell to developers!

We need your help to foil this action! **Please:**

1) Obtain signatures on the enclosed petition (next page) and return it by Sept. 4 so that we can make copies and present them at the Sept. 8 hearings: 9:00 a.m., the Commerce, Energy, and Natural Resources Committee; 10:00 a.m., the full City Council.

2) We need at least 30 people to carpool and testify at both hearings as per the advice of Mr. Bernson's office. To accomplish this, we need people to drive their cars and take passengers. Please volunteer to drive by calling Dorian Keyser at 818-345-3795. People needing a ride should also call Dorian.

3) Write letters or phone: L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, your L.A. Council member (if L.A. City resident), and Committee Chair Ruth Galanter.



THE "ASSOCIATION", THE "FOUNDATION" AND THE "TASK FORCE"

by Dorian Keyser

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Santa Susana Mountain Task Force of the Sierra Club are a triumvirate of volunteer, non-profit organizations that have worked together for many year's to educate the public on environmental needs and issues; to obtain land for publicly owned open spaces and parks; to preserve wild life, native plants, and geological, archeological, and historical features; and to provide recreational and educational opportunities for the public. Although entities overlap and frequently work together, each is careful to abide by limitations. For example, the Foundation, being tax exempt and tax deductible, carefully avoids participating in political processes which jeopardize its role in applying for grants that are not available to the other organizations. On the other hand, the other two are involved with some aspects of the political process, as well as environmental education, sponsoring hikes, etc.

Some ongoing activities of interest are:

- 1) Sunday morning Sierra Club hikes and other hikes when the weather permits.
- 2) Children's weekday morning, docent-led education programs in Chatsworth Park South.
- 3) A Visitor's Center at the Chatsworth Park South Recreation Building, which is open every Sunday afternoon.
- 4) The activities of the SSMPA/Lands Committee to evaluate and promote the preservation of open spaces via public ownership.
- 5) Educational slide shows and presentations at SSMPA membership meetings
- 6) Work with the California Department of Recreation and Parks to define and develop the infrastructure of the recently dedicated Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park

We cordially invite you to attend the next SSMPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on Monday, September 21 at (NEW LOCATION!) Rockpointe Recreation Center, 22300 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth CA (1/2 mile west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard). Our business meeting will start at 7 p.m.; the program will start at 7:30 p.m. (with the concurrence of the membership.)

Executive Board Meeting!


Join us on Tuesday (not Monday, because of Labor Day), September 8, 1998 at the Visitors Center for our monthly Board Meeting. We will be planning our General Membership Meeting agenda and reviewing the critical issues raised during the summer.

Chatsworth High School Has Volunteers

By Diana Dixon-Davis

If you could use high school student volunteers to carry out you conservation, political action, or other projects, you might find the solution to your needs at Chatsworth High School.

Chatsworth High School requires all students to "volunteer" twenty hours in order to graduate. The volunteers are organized through the Career Center; Bruce Pena is the Director. Call Chatsworth High School at 818-341-6211 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday for more details.



Open House Thanks

By Theodore Dent

May 16, 1998, the day many of us wanted to call Park Dedication Day, proved to be memorable for those who joined the Open House for the new Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Some people expressed thoughts that we could make it an annual event and expand on how best to honor the past and utilize our incomparable heritage. Any board member will welcome your thoughts on how we can continue to honor our environment. For all of those who worked so hard, we send thanks:

- To Jan Hinkston, thanks for coming from Oregon for the celebration and for 28 years of encouraging so many to be a part of something so enormous in concept and so life-affirming in development.
- Our thanks go to all the people who worked so hard, especially our president, Jeff Johnston, who brought carpenter tools and enthusiasm along with his charm and public relations attitude. Yeah! And a fine speech, Jeff.
- To Charlie Cooke, we also send thanks for adding the profound wisdom presented during the Sage Ceremony. Many were touched and greatly appreciative.
- To Joanne Kerbavaz from California State Parks who came from Sacramento to share the day with us, thanks very much, especially for the fine report which directly led to the classification and whose conceptualizations we are using on our web page.
- To Norm Grow, Store Manager of Office Depot, Topanga Canyon/Roscoe, Canoga Park, many thanks for all the support, and especially for the donation of printing of flyers and this newsletter. I think we owe him an honorary membership. Yeah! And he's a nice guy, too. Visit him at the store or call 818-704-0511 and tell him how much he's appreciated!
- To each of the rest of the volunteers who did so much, please call or write, we want to publicly say thanks.

ARE YOU READING THIS?

By Theodore Dent

You are because of the work of many volunteers and especially our new Editor, Patty Milow. Editing seems to be a job that is never noticed when it is done well. The text and art just flow together to present our experiences, ideas, and dreams in logical, understandable sequences. Patty took on the difficult, often solitary task of editing with a great deal of enthusiasm and energy, and with some help from the rest of the Ad-Hoc Newsletter Committee Bob Garrick, Judy Garris, and myself. Production, folding, enveloping, addressing, and mailing of the Summer newsletter was accomplished through the combined efforts of additional volunteers: Pauline Aue, Nancy Razanski, and Christopher and Vellerie Yergensen. Each of these people cared enough to give an hour (and often more) of their time. What do they get in return? Call 818-882-4664, and I'll be glad to give you the secret answer. (Too subtle?)

New Life Members - R. Roy & Gloria Buoncristiani,

New Members - Marc Anthony Hernandez, Christopher & Vellerie Yergensen, Mark & Patricia Gabler, Kenneth Hall, Duke Mulholland, Dana Bleitz, Cathy Holst, Gail Hartung, Irene Tonius, Roberta Greenwood, Fred Wiggins, Marillyn Holmes, Bob Frak, Jack & Barbara Levin, Billie B. Mendelson

Renewing Members - Willis & Melba Simms, Michael & Frieda Gockel, Jeanette & Eugene Davis, Leon & Shirley Brown, Paul A. Dentzel, Jeffrey Pomerantz, Jere DuBois, Christine Selem, Yvonne Ash

Many thanks for your support and encouragement!

Sample Copies

SSMPA sends sample copies of our newsletter to individuals and organizations who might benefit from joining with us in pursuing our life-affirming goals. If you have received a sample copy, please understand that we thought that you would appreciate this association. We would like to join us as a member of SSMPA. because the history of civilization shows that groups of dedicated individuals have accomplished great things together. To accomplish great things with a group of dedicated volunteers, simply complete and mail the form below. AND, if you know of others who would appreciate a sample copy, please advise the Editor at the address below and they can read this announcement, too.

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN/RENEW/REJOIN S.S.M.P.A.

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is probably one of the best expenditures of our time and efforts. Please return this cutoff with your contributions to help ensure our futures. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

____ Senior or Student (\$5.00) ____ Individual(\$10.00) ____ Family (\$15.00)
____ Business or Organization (\$25.00) ____ Life Member (\$100.00)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ e-mail _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

SPECIAL INTEREST/EXPERTISE: _____

LET'S PRESERVE THE CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR AS A NATURE PRESERVE!

(A cooperative project of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association - SSMPA)

Whereas: The Los Angeles City Council has officially designated the Chatsworth Reservoir as the "Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir" because it contains an astonishing variety and number of bird, mammal, and reptile species, varied grassland, oak woodland, and riparian habitats and significant Native American and other archeological remains and early marine fossils, and thus has great value for young people's educational programs and guided tours for families, and

Whereas: The LA City Council has voted unanimously to request the LA City DWP Commission to lease this facility to the Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy for ten years to maintain it as a nature preserve, and this lease will save the DWP about \$250,000 a year in maintenance costs, and

Whereas: Mr. Rick Caruso, President of the DWP Commission, has ended negotiations and has publicly stated that the Commission will implement studies to determine the financial benefits for providing some of the property to developers, and

Whereas: There is massive support for preserving all of the 1300 acres as a nature preserve,

Therefore: We, the undersigned respectfully request that the Commerce, Energy, and Natural Resources Committee and the LA City Council oppose the re-confirmation of Mr. Rick Caruso to the DWP Commission unless he commits to a 10 year lease to the Conservancy on reasonable terms.

1	Name	Address	City, Zip
2	Name	Address	City, Zip
3	Name	Address	City, Zip
4	Name	Address	City, Zip
5	Name	Address	City, Zip
6	Name	Address	City, Zip
7	Name	Address	City, Zip
8	Name	Address	City, Zip
9	Name	Address	City, Zip
10	Name	Address	City, Zip

Please return completed petitions to SSMPA, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth CA 91313-4831 not later than September 4, 1998. We need a large turnout to attend the Hearings on Tuesday, September 8, 1998 at 9:00 am (Commission, in Room 315) and 10:00 am (City Council). To obtain a free parking pass, call Councilman Hal Bernson's office by Friday, Sept. 4. Other worthwhile actions include letters or phone calls to Mayor Riordan, your council member, and Mr. Caruso (c/o LADWP, 111 North Hope Street, L.A. CA 90012-2694). For more information and for car pool accommodations, please phone Dorian Keyser at 818-345-3795.