

# Trail Riding in Jeopardy 2010

Please sent out to your entire list! This will affect everyone as the county has trails everywhere that connect with other cities, parks, you name it. Because of the poor economy trail opportunities are opening up each day as developers and common folk see the benefits of trails. The county is now paying for the surveying costs of trail dedication which is bringing in miles and miles of trails that will go away if no staffer is available to do the work to get the trail dedicated. Please take a minute and email all the supervisors asking them NOT to eliminate the trails position in the Parks department as it would be a deadly blow to the trails plan. Thank you, Nancy Reed

District 3 Chairwomen Pam Slater-Price,  
[pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov)<[pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov)>;

District 1 Greg Cox [greg.cox@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:greg.cox@sdcounty.ca.gov)

District 2 Dianne Jacob [dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:dianne.jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov)

District 4 Ron Roberts [Ronald.Roberts@sdcounty.ga.gov](mailto:Ronald.Roberts@sdcounty.ga.gov)

District 5 Bill Horn [bill.horn@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:bill.horn@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Hello Trail Supporters,

My name is Janis Shackelford. I am a member of the Blossom Valley Riders and Gardeners, former member of the Lakeside Community Planning Group, and an active advocate for the County of San Diego's Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP). Unfortunately I must warn you of a serious threat to the CTMP program that is coming from an unexpected direction.

The Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisor agenda includes the following action item: #10 WORKFORCE REDUCTION PLAN. I have determined the Workforce Reduction Plan includes the proposed elimination by the Department of Parks and Recreation(DPR) of one of the two staff positions assigned to implementing the CTMP. When you realize that the CTMP covers the entire County which includes 26 unincorporated community's trails maps, cutting in half the staff time dedicated to the program will clearly have a detrimental effect.

Since its adoption the CTMP has received awards and garnered state and national recognition. The two county staff members not only review all types of plans submitted to DPLU and DPW for various discretionary applications, they must interact with the community members, coordinate with other jurisdictions and the various river parks for trail connectivity, and make site visits to evaluate proposed trail alignments. This is only a fraction of their responsibilities.

My worst fear is that the duties the being fulfilled by an experienced staff person fully cognizant with trail needs and issues will be transferred to another staff planner with no trail planning experience. We lost trails and pathways in Blossom Valley due to inadequate review of final maps and too many of our trails are almost unusable since they were sited in ravines and watercourses, through boulder fields, and down steep slopes without adequate width for switchbacks. The current review by two experienced staff members entirely familiar with the requirements for a viable trail must not be reduced to one overburdened person.

**What you can do to help is pass the word to other trail supporters that help is needed. The time is much too tight to write letters, so you must call or email the Supervisor for your area and ask them to**

**continue to support the CTMP and not reduce the staff support for it. If possible appear at the hearing on Tuesday to oppose the proposed reduction in the DPR Planner I position currently assigned to the CTMP.**

If you are able to reach your Supervisor's office and receive indications that they are leaning toward the elimination, try to push for the position to be retained part-time. If development picks up next year the CTMP will be left behind. Finally, ask the Supervisors to determine a permanent funding source for CTMP staff. The program especially benefits the unincorporated communities and extends well beyond ephemeral new development applications.

Janis Shackelford

=