

LOWER LA RIVER RESTORATION PROPOSAL UPDATE (AB530) as relates to DeForest Wetlands Project Pending Approval.

This legislation should serve as the immediate guideline to begin the process of correcting the decades of planning documents have been filled with errors and omissions regarding the equestrians who have become minority group, plans that have failed to meet the critical needs of the equestrians, the historic user group in the region. The outcome has been a cumulative negative impact to the equestrian community, thereby dramatically diminishing the integrity of the historic trails, and driving down the number of riders and reducing the number of "ranchos" in Long Beach and the South LA Region to the point of near extinction

- **Historic Preservation - Equestrian Trail Historic Preservation not adequately addressed**  
The trails date to the 1700s and tie to our Spanish and Mexican heritage when Ortega, Anza, Nieto, Neve, Dominquez...were populating California under Spanish rule and the Viceroy of Mexico. In the 1800's, Sarah Bixby-Smith references these same trails during the Rancho days, travelling from Rancho Los Cerritos south to (PCH) and then north to the City (San Francisco) to take their sheep/wood to market. In the 1940's riders travelled to the coast on these trails patrolling for enemy subs during WWII on horseback. The nations' judicial branch and Supreme court evolved, as per Sandra Day O'Conner, in a large part due to circuit court judges riding the trails. The equestrian trails and community are a part of the fabric of Long Beach, Los Angeles, California, and our nations' rich history. Now is the time to embrace the trails and equestrian communities, provide for their survival.
- **Minority Community – no voice being heard, inherently not willing to speak out, no social media, disillusioned with past decision makers, numbers & facilities diminished consistently**
- **Legislation - Regional Planning & Legislative History not considered, 1947 Regional Trail maps, 1966 Federal Trail Act, Current State Legislation AB530 *Update to L.A. River Master Plan Aligns Upper & Lower River Restoration Plans* – October 9<sup>th</sup> signed by Governor Brown, acknowledges the complex nature of the South LA River and the need to re-evaluate on a regional basis all the stakeholders in the area. Unanimously supported by our state legislature, & supporters include Mayor Garcetti, Coastal Conservancy and Mountains & Rivers Conservancy. In 1966 The Federal Trail Act was enacted law protecting our nations rich trail heritage. That trail act further allows for protection of associated connective/feeder trails (i.e. LA River, Compton Creek, Rio Hondo, Coyote Creek, San Gabriel River..) which are an aggregate of 100+ miles and connect to one or more trails already protected (i.e. Anza).**
- **EIR - Inadequate EIR studies regarding cumulative negative impact to the equestrian communities, historic trails, corrupted trails, unsafe connections, despite "Enhancement of existing trails" being part of the original mission statement of the LA River Master plan.**

- Signage - Safety right away yield signage inadequate or non-existent in most locations along the rivers & trails and there is basically no public information about the existence of the historic equestrian trails, the dangers of crossings. Also separation of the user groups/trails is recommended on a federal level (NPS) due to the real dangers when commingling occurs. These are just a few of the points that allow continued risks and hazards to prevail to the detriment of safety of all the general public as well as the equestrians.
- Amenities - Inadequate or no provisions for equestrians at trail gateways & destinations, parking, corrals, rest stops, overall amenities. Despite your predecessors enacting legislation in 1947 as a result of review by a Regional Planning Commission to preserve and protect the LA River and vicinity historic equestrian trails for the future recreational enjoyment by the general public, the equestrian community has become a minority voice unheard by elected and appointment officials and planners for years with legislation that has been virtually forgotten. The result has been that the trails we depend upon for survival, their safe connections, key equestrian facilities and many equestrian communities and riders have been methodically eliminated. The consistent corruption of the historic trails & open spaces that are the lifelines of historic equestrian communities and riders has occurred through the methodical elimination of the necessary facilities and amenities' in local and regional projects over time and the lack of acknowledgement of this minority groups' needs has had a cumulative negative impact on the future survival of the equestrian communities and their safe riding experience.
- Education - Lack of yield, right of way protocol education to the general public. Multitudes of added users have been channeled toward the LA River areas in recent decades, such as bikers, hikers, & dogs and no adequate review of the cumulative negative impact those users have had to the existing equestrian communities and their historic trails.
- Risks & Liability –Currently all groups on the “multi-use trails” are at risk enormous liability to County of Los Angeles and City of Long Beach, et. Al due to inadequate signage and information available about the equestrian trails.
- New State Legislation AB530 – Should supersede prior plans and be the doctrine with respect to correcting inconsistencies in planning for trail enhancements and the minority equestrian community. I urge you uphold State law AB530 and not vote to approve any further projects adjacent to the LA River such as the DeForest Park Wetlands project or Wrigley Greenbelt until further review.

Plans for the Deforest Park/Wetlands, Riverlinks Home Development Project, Wrigley Greenbelt, the 1996 & 2006 LA River Master Plan and subsequent Riverlinks plans continue to fail with regard to preservation and enhancement of the equestrian trails and their associated community of users. The horseback riders and equestrian home owners in the South LA Region have become a minority by the most classic definition and our still visible historic lifestyle in Wrigley for instance, is subject to extinction in this Southern region.

There is opportunity to work with the equestrian community, in concert with Congressman Rendon & his task force in implementation of AB530.

By Renee Lawler, Wrigley Heights Equestrian non-profit Assn member, CSSDAR member, Long Beach and California native, Small business owner, local volunteer

~~LOS ALTOS RENTAL - FRESH, CLEAN, CLASSIC, REMODELED 2 BEDROOM~~

BILL NUMBER: AB 530      INTRODUCED  
BILL TEXT

INTRODUCED BY    Assembly Member Rendon  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Lara)

FEBRUARY 23, 2015

An act to add Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 32622) to Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code, relating to the Los Angeles River.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 530, as introduced, Rendon. Lower Los Angeles River Working Group.

Existing law provides for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of rivers in this state. Existing law establishes the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the purpose of, among others, providing for the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and education experiences on public lands in the San Gabriel Watershed and Lower Los Angeles River.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to appoint, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, a local working group to develop a revitalization plan for the Lower Los Angeles River, called the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group. The bill would specify a prescribed membership for the working group, including, among others, representatives from the County of Los Angeles, and elected officials of the cities riparian to the Los Angeles River. The bill would require, by March 1, 2017, the working group to develop, through watershed-based planning methods, a revitalization plan that addresses the unique and diverse needs of the Lower Los Angeles River, that is consistent with, enhances, and is incorporated into the County of Los Angeles's Master Plan, and that includes watershed education programs. By imposing additional duties on local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would require the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to provide any necessary staffing to assist the working group.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the Lower Los Angeles River.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

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SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The Los Angeles River has a complex ecological and political history. The river originally ran freely along an alluvial flood plain, which today is the City of Los Angeles. In the 1930's, destructive flooding led the United States Army Corps of Engineers to design and build facilities to minimize the impacts of future floods, a process that included lining most of the river with concrete. Since then, the city, county and federal government have all played a role in restoring the Los Angeles River, including the county's 1996 adoption of a master plan for developing and restoring the entire Los Angeles River. The City of Los Angeles developed a "revitalization plan" to restore the Upper Los Angeles River, which lies within the city's boundaries. Most recently, the Corps of Engineers approved "Alternative 20," a substantial restoration and infrastructure project along the Upper Los Angeles River.

(b) The City of Los Angeles was given responsibility for managing the river's resources through a charter by the King of Spain at the end of the 18th century. After serious floods in the 1930's, the federal government, through the United States Army Corps of Engineers, stepped in to take responsibility for building and managing infrastructure projects to reduce the risk and damage from flooding, with the county as the local partner. The county also works with the city in managing the Upper Los Angeles River, where court decisions have held that the King of Spain's charter gives the city "pueblo" water rights with authority to manage the Upper Los Angeles River's resources. The courts have not given the city authority over the Lower Los Angeles River.

(c) The State of California retains its sovereign authority to manage the rivers within its boundaries, including the Los Angeles River. Historically, however, it has not exercised that authority, due to the dominance of the federal Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the county. The county's master plan addresses the entire river but is close to two decades old, and would benefit from renewed attention to resources and development, especially on the lower river. The Lower Los Angeles River has many cities, but not one city with the responsibility and the resources to invest in restoration of that part of the Los Angeles River. There is therefore opportunity and need for the State to aid in the development and implementation of the county's Master Plan, especially for the Lower Los Angeles River.

(d) In 2014, California voters approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, which included \$60 million for the Los Angeles River, authorizing funding for both the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which has responsibility for the Upper Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, which has responsibility for the Lower Los Angeles River. The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 allocated \$30 million to each conservancy for the purpose of multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects for the watersheds.

SEC. 2. Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 32622) is added to Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

## CHAPTER 6. LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WORKING GROUP

32622. (a) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency shall appoint, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, a local working group to develop a revitalization plan

## LOS ALTOS RENTAL - FRESH, CLEAN, CLASSIC, REMODELED 2 BEDROOM

for the Lower Los Angeles River, called the Lower Los Angeles River Working Group. The working group shall include, but need not be limited to, representatives from the conservancy, the County of Los Angeles, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Joint Powers Authority, elected officials of the cities riparian to the Los Angeles River, and non-profit organizations serving the Los Angeles River region.

(b) On or before March 1, 2017, the working group shall develop, through watershed-based planning methods, a revitalization plan that addresses the unique and diverse needs of the Lower Los Angeles River and the communities through which it passes. The plan shall be consistent with, enhance, and be incorporated into, the County of Los Angeles's Master Plan for the entire Los Angeles River. The plan shall include watershed education programs that help the Los Angeles River communities recognize the value of the river and the importance of protecting the river's watershed resources and its vitality to their communities.

(c) The conservancy shall provide any necessary staffing to the working group to assist in the development of the plan.

(d) The development and implementation of the revitalization plan may be eligible for funding from any public or private source, including, but not limited to, funding pursuant to Section 79735 of the Water Code. Entities that are eligible to implement the revitalization plan include, but are not limited to, state agencies, local agencies, and non-profit organizations, and may be eligible for state funding.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the Lower Los Angeles River's complex ecological and political history and the unique obstacles the local governments of the Lower Los Angeles River encounter when managing the river and its surrounding areas.

SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
 LONG BEACH, CALIF.

CITY OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA  
 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

1947 JUN 23 PM 5 02

TO Honorable Mayor and City Council

DEPT. Legislative

DATE June 23, 1947

FROM Werner Ruchti  
 Director of Planning

DEPT. Planning

SUBJECT Recommending Approval for "Preliminary Plan  
 Equestrian Trails, City of Long Beach and  
 Vicinity."

Gentlemen:

It is recommended that your honorable body consider and approve the comprehensive plan of equestrian trails as shown on the plan entitled, "Preliminary Plan Equestrian Trails, City of Long Beach and Vicinity," copy of which plan is submitted herewith.


This plan was approved by the City Planning Commission on February 27, 1947, and subsequently prints thereof were furnished many organizations and persons interested and concerned in a system of bridle trails. The Riding and Hiking Trails Committee of Los Angeles County approved this plan as a general guide for the future development of riding and hiking trails in the Long Beach area. This Committee is composed of the following County Departments and Department Heads:

County Surveyor and Engineer, G. E. Arnold, Chief Deputy  
 County Flood Control District, R. E. Hedger, Chief Engineer  
 Department of Parks & Recreation, J. R. Wisner, Director  
 Regional Planning Commission, Wm. J. Fox, Chief Engineer

Corral No. 1, Equestrian Trails, Inc., approved the plan on March 28, 1947, and the Recreation Commission of the City of Long Beach gave its approval on April 24, 1947.

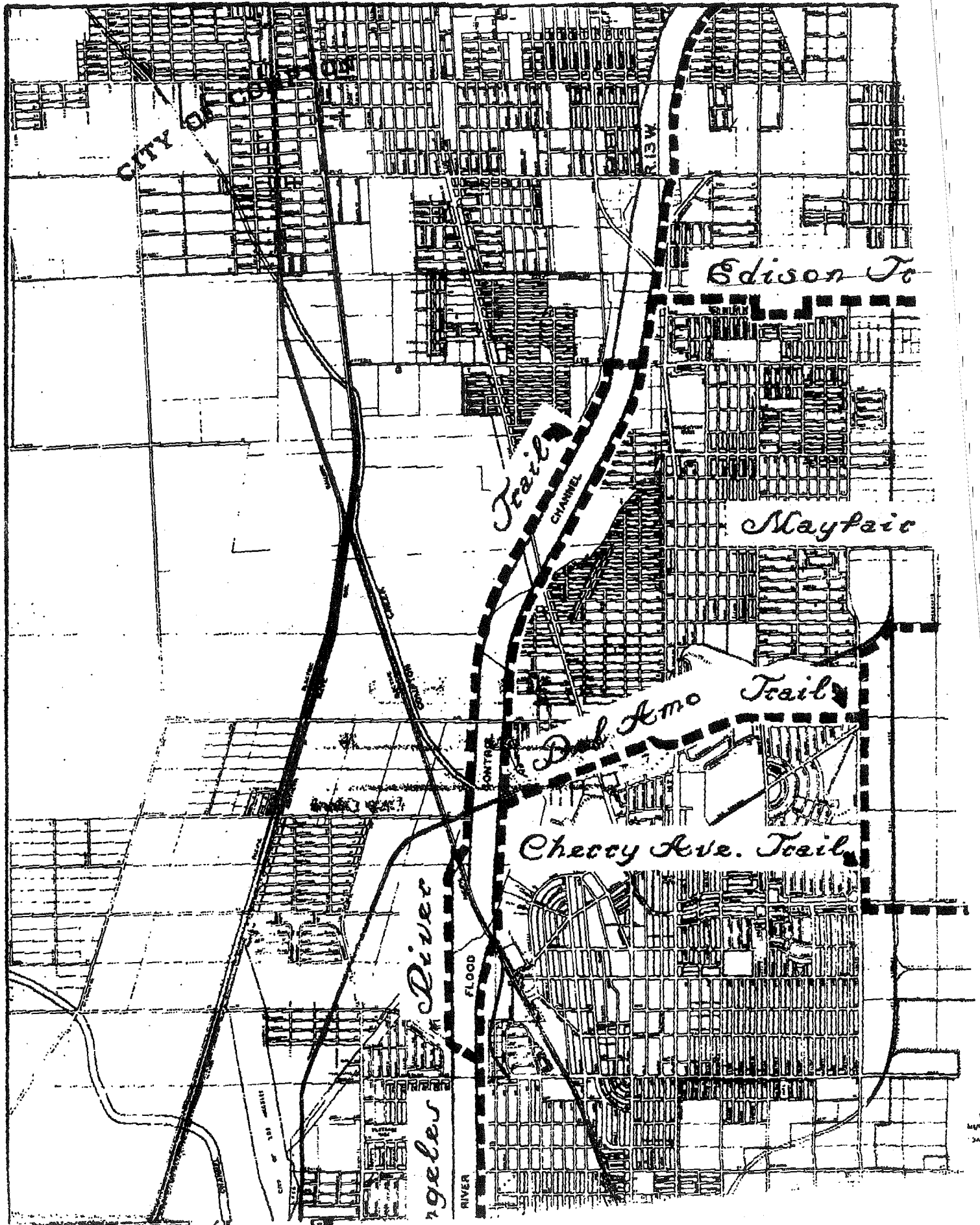
In approving the Preliminary Plan of Equestrian Trails, it should be considered and should serve as a guide or a long term general plan for the establishment of equestrian or bridle trails in Long Beach and vicinity, subject to such changes, amendments or extensions as may be appropriate from time to time. Equestrian and hiking trails are elements of the over-all recreation plan for our Community and will later be included in the Master Plan, after holding public hearings as provided by The State Planning Law.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 WERNER RUCHTI  
 Director of Planning

WR:zm

Encl.







National Park Service  
Community Assistance Grant  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
570 W. Ave. 26  
Suite 175

July 22, 2013

SUBJECT: Letter of Support

Dear Park Service:

I support the Wrigley equestrian community located on the Los Angeles River Regional Equestrian trail the southern point of Los Angeles County, City of Long Beach, in their effort to acquire grant assistance via the National Parks System, Rivers, and Trails & Conservation Assistance.

The critical needs of the Wrigley Equestrian HOA relationship to the existing greenbel/right of way and associated/adjacent regional trail and incorporate those findings into the Wrigley Greenbelt demonstration project plans to ensure survival of the equestrian community are met in complement with proposed multi-use urban plans.

As part of the NPS assistance, a broader regional need could be addressed, by reviewing the entire network of regional trails in the lower Los Angeles River area with a goal of enhancing equestrian resources for future generations of the public to enjoy. At this time, there are no other resources that would take a regional perspective. This request is consistent with the excellent work performed by NPS, MaLisa Martin for the City of Compton. Without her work, the diminishing recreational conditions of other equestrian communities located in urbanized areas, would not have come to the attention of other regional agencies or the Coastal Conservancy. This proposed work could be the corner stone for a needed comprehensive approach to recreational projects that preserves open space resources for a wide variety of outdoor experiences, particularly in park poor communities.

A NPS service grant would be the timeliest effort to develop broad base local support, critical to the survival of this established and historic lifestyle, particularly in urban settings such as Long Beach/Compton/Los Angeles where there are plans for integrating multi-users within existing equestrian regional trails and communities such as Wrigley.

Sincerely,  
David Hayes  
Project Manager,  
Coastal Conservancy

1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, California 94612-2512  
510-286-1013 Fax: 510-286-0470



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

August 14, 2013

National Park Service  
Community Assistance Grant  
570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 175  
Los Angeles, California 90065

**Letter of Support**

Dear Park Service:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) support the Wrigley equestrian community located on the Los Angeles River Regional Equestrian Trail in the southern point of Los Angeles County and the City of Long Beach, in their effort to acquire grant assistance via the National Parks System, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance.

The project, South Los Angeles River Regional Trail Assessment, will lead to the re-establishment and enhancement of the regional linkage of equestrian trails within the Lower Los Angeles River watershed, as outlined in Trail legislation such as 1947 and 1968. This grant will protect the integrity of the regional equestrian trail with a goal of enhancing these resources for future generations and the general public to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Melissa Guerrero  
Project Manager  
MRCA

LONG BEACH

# HERITAGE



POST OFFICE BOX 92521 LONG BEACH CA 90809

562.493.7019 LBHERITAGE.ORG

August 3, 2013

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We support the Wrigley equestrian community located on the Los Angeles River Regional Equestrian trail in the southern point of Los Angeles County and the City of Long Beach, in their effort to acquire grant assistance via the National Parks System, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance.

PRESIDENT  
MELINDA RONEY

PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
STAN POE

VP EDUCATION  
CHRIS HOGAN

VP ADVOCACY  
WENDY HARN

We believe that this will re-establish and enhance the regional linkage of equestrian trails in Long Beach and vicinity in South Los Angeles County, as outlined in Trail legislation such as 1947 and 1968.

VP PUBLIC AWARENESS  
RACHAEL RIFKIN

VP BEMBRIDGE HOUSE  
CHARLOTTE MITCHELL

VP MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
DIANE JORDAN

We believe that this grant will protect the integrity of the regional equestrian trail with a goal of enhancing these resources for future generations and the general public to enjoy.

VP FUND DEVELOPMENT  
MARY ELLEN MITCHELL-GONZALEZ

BOARD DEVELOPMENT  
SASHA WITTE

SECRETARY  
BOBBI BURKET

TREASURER  
CHERYL PERRY

Sincerely,

Melinda Roney  
President, Long Beach Heritage  
Post Office Box 92521  
Long Beach, California 90809  
lbheritage.org  
562.493.7019

## BOARD MEMBERS

DAVID WALLER

LOUISE IVERS

MIKLE NORTON

SANDRA DE DUBOVAY

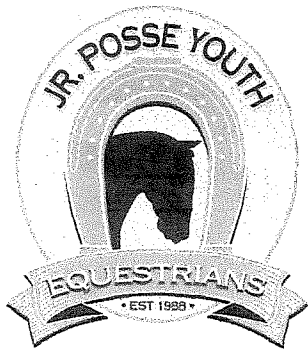
KAREN HIGHBERGER

YVONNE MARKHAM

JULIE NEMECHEK

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARY KAY NOTTAGE



# Jr. Posse Youth Equestrian Program

*"KEEPING KIDS ON HORSES AND OFF THE STREETS"*

July 29, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the Wrigley equestrian community located on the Los Angeles River Regional Equestrian trail the southern point of Los Angeles County, City of Long Beach, in their effort to acquire grant assistance via the National Parks System, Rivers, and Trails & Conservation Assistance.

The primary immediate goals for initiating a grant request with NPS to start assistance on a State & Federal level are as follows:

- 1) IDENTIFY the deficiencies of the regional equestrian trail along with Los Angeles River in south Los Angeles County, City of Long Beach, starting from Willow St in Long Beach, north including the point of connection of the equestrian communities identified on the Compton Creek.
- 2) ASSESS the critical needs of the Wrigley Equestrian HOA relationship to the existing greenbelt/right of way and associated/adjacent regional trail and incorporate those findings into the Wrigley Greenbelt demonstration project plans to ensure survival needs of the equestrian community are met in complement with proposed multi-use urban plans.

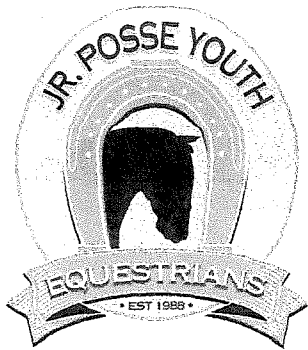
## FUTURE GOALS:

- 1) RE-ESTABLISH & ENHANCE the regional linkage of equestrian trails in Long Beach and vicinity in South Los Angeles County & adjacent counties, as outlined in Trail legislation such as 1947 and 1968.

453 W. Caldwell St., Compton, Ca 90220, Ranch phone: (310) 632-1247

Email: [contact@comptonjrposse.org](mailto:contact@comptonjrposse.org) , Website: [www.comptonjrposse.org](http://www.comptonjrposse.org)

A 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, TIN 95-4699219



## Jr. Posse Youth Equestrian Program

*"KEEPING KIDS ON HORSES AND OFF THE STREETS"*

2) INITIATE a broader scale review of the entire network of regional trails with a goal of enhancing equestrian resources for future generations of the general public to enjoy. EDUCATION & planning in order to protect the integrity of the regional equestrian trail network and recognition of the unique dedicated needs of equestrian riders & communities is critical to a successful regional trail system, to the survival of the equestrian way of life and the remaining pockets of equestrian communities. Proper assessment and assistance from NPS & support from agencies such as the MRCA, the CALIFORNIA COASTAL CONSERVANCY and local support are all vital to the survival of this established and historic lifestyle, particularly in urban settings such as Long Beach/Compton/Los Angeles where there are plans for integrating multi-users within existing equestrian regional trails and communities such as Wrigley.

I recommend without hesitation that the Wrigley Equestrian Community be awarded a grant to do the aforementioned research. Please feel free to contact me for additional information.

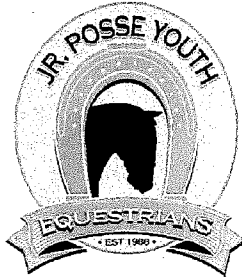
Sincerely,

Mayisha Akbar  
Executive Director

453 W. Caldwell St., Compton, Ca 90220, Ranch phone: (310) 632-1247

Email: [contact@comptonjrposse.org](mailto:contact@comptonjrposse.org) , Website: [www.comptonjrposse.org](http://www.comptonjrposse.org)

A 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, TIN 95-4699219



# COMPTON CREEK TRAIL SYSTEM EQUESTRIAN RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

COMPTON JR. POSSE & CITY OF COMPTON  
RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
JULY 11, 2013