

OC Parks Volunteer Program & Process

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee | July 10, 2025

Presentation Agenda

- Volunteer Program Overview
- Engagement Events
 - Volunteer TREKS
 - Quarterly Volunteer Community Events
- Trail Ambassador Role Update
 - Role Review
 - Training and Events
 - Volunteer Guest Speaker – Jeff Mikoleit
- Mountain Bike Volunteers
- Looking Forward



Program Overview

- Currently 1,022 trained volunteers serving OC Parks (including non-profit partner agencies)
- FY 25: Volunteers have contributed approximately 61,000 hours of service!
- FY 24: 984 volunteers contributed 58,000 hours of service
 - Additional 9,685 hours of service by short term volunteers

Engagement Events

Volunteer TREKS:

Training

Resources

Education

Knowledge

Stories

- Bimonthly educational lecture series beginning in July 2023
- 13 TREKS lectures held as of 6/18/25
 - Total # of participants: 502
- Past topics include:
 - “Facts on Scat”
 - OC Historic Highlights
 - OC Archaeology & Paleontology
 - Identifying CA Mushrooms
 - Nature Photography

Special Volunteer Community Events:



- Quarterly engagement events for volunteers and guests
- Designed to engage a wide range of interests and skills

of events: 6 as of 6/1/25

of participants: 714

Role Review: What is a Trail Ambassador?

- OC Parks Volunteer role in which volunteers are trained on various aspects of **trail safety** and **etiquette**
- **Educates** visitors about responsible trail use
- Helps ensure a **safe** and **enjoyable visit** for all trail users
- Helps **protect** local wildlife and natural habitats
- Stationed at trailheads, intersections, or designated points along a variety of trail types and park facilities



Trail Ambassador & BCP Events and Onboarding

- TA = Trail Ambassador
- BCP = Backcountry Patrol



- Volunteers trained and requested by facility staff via activity listings on Let's Go Outside website
- Where to find Trail Ambassadors:
 - 13 Wilderness and Regional Park facilities
 - Safe Trails Awareness Days
 - Weekly park assignments
 - Special event support

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Safe Trails Awareness Day



Back Country Patrol (BCP) Volunteers share their trail knowledge with park visitors while working the monthly Safe Trail Awareness Day informative booth at Santiago Oaks Regional Park. BCP Volunteers share how trail users can maximize their enjoyment while in the parks.

The Trail Etiquette Triangle is highlighted at the booth and is a friendly reminder when each hiker, biker and equestrian have the right-of-way while passing each other on the trails. BCP Volunteers answer questions, encourage

Date: Sun, 06/29/2025
Time: 7:00 am - 11:30 am
Where: Santiago Oaks Regional Park
Difficulty Rating: 1
Minimum Age: 12



TA & BCP Role Training basics:

- Delivered onsite by facility staff using role manual
 - 3-to-4-hour training in classroom and field
 - Usually combined with BCP role
 - What's the difference?
- Monthly trainings held at Santiago Oaks Regional Park and Laguna Coast/Aliso & Wood Canyon Wilderness Parks (in partnership with Laguna Canyon Foundation)
- OC Parks Trail Volunteers By the Numbers:
 - 24 BCP/TA trainings conducted
 - 160 certified TA volunteers
 - 277 certified BCP volunteers
 - 91 Trail Crew Volunteers

Trail Ambassador/ BCP Training



Mountain Bike Volunteers

MTB: Mountain Bike
IRC: Irvine Ranch Conservancy



IRC MTB Volunteer activities on OC Parks property:

	FY 24 (7/1/23 - 6/30/24)	FY 25 (7/1/24 - 6/30/2025)
# of MTB Activities	53	54
# of MTB Volunteers	254	311
# of MTB Volunteer Hours	981.5	1229.5
# of MTB activity participants	344	450
# of MTB skills clinics	24	23
# of Volunteers supporting clinics	82	73
# of Volunteer hours	377	331.5
# of Clinic participants	174	179

Looking Forward

OC Parks Foundation funded:

- Training and recruitment of MTB volunteers for IROS
- New uniforms for MTB volunteers on IROS

IROS: Irvine Ranch Open Space

- Adapt the current IROS MTB volunteer training model to allow similar role throughout OC Parks facilities
- Leverage community resources to instill MTB best practices and enhance trail experience for all users
- Measure impact across all volunteer roles by coordinating with OCP staff to ensure efficient reporting procedures



Thank You!

Questions?

Contact us at volunteer@ocparks.com

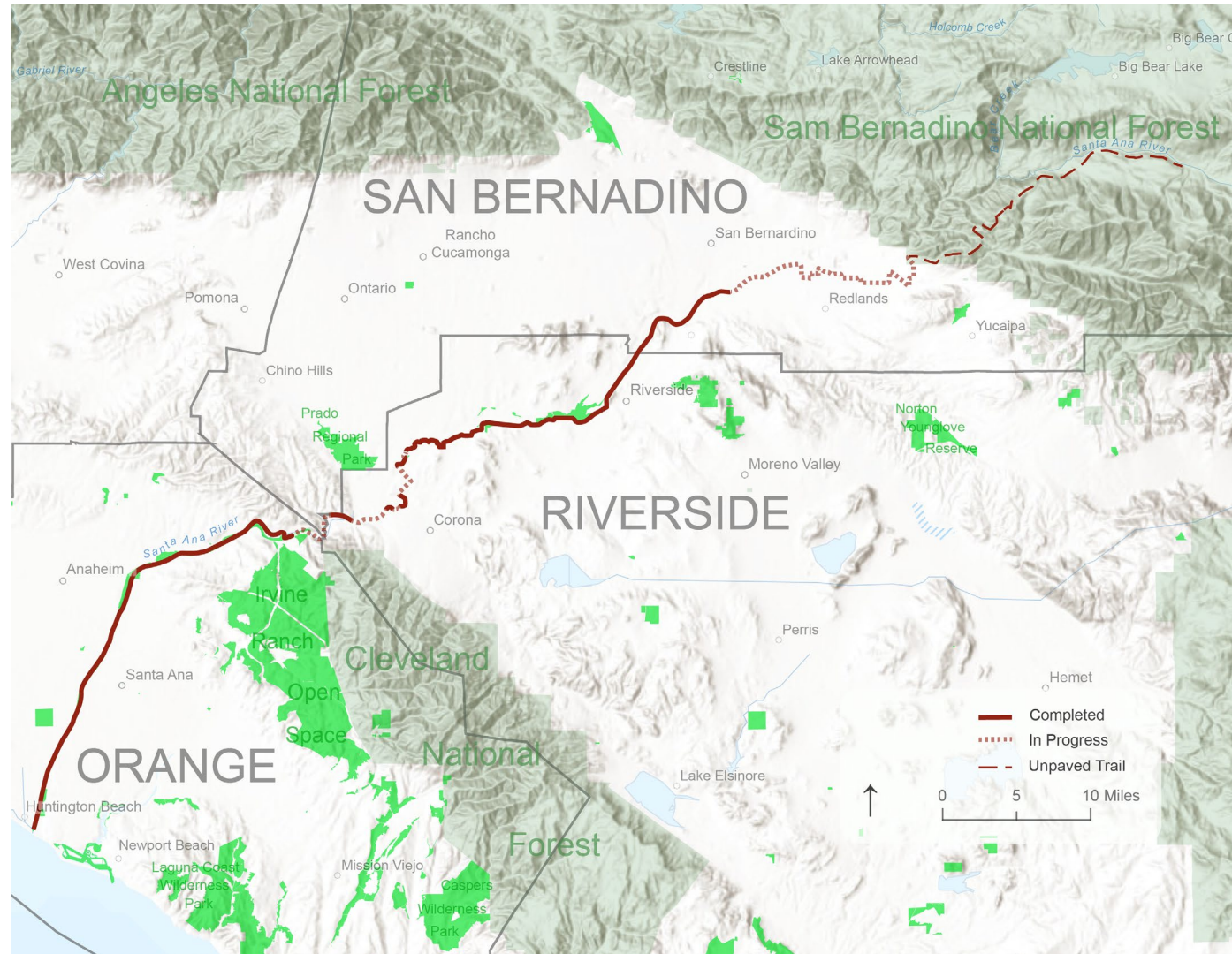
Santa Ana River Trail

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee | July 10, 2025



- Crest to Coast Trail
 - 110 miles at completion
 - 68 miles are complete (60%)
 - Will be the 2nd longest urban recreation bikeway in US
- 1st Master Plan - 1955
- Designated as a National Recreation Trail in 1977
- Coastal Conservancy Interactive Site:
scc.ca.gov/projects/santa-ana-river-conservancy

110-mile Crest to Coast Trail – 68 Miles Completed to Date



Santa Ana River Trail

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee
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SART in Huntington Beach

Orange County

- 30 miles completed
- Part of Regional Trail System, maintained by OC Parks
- Adjacent to Featherly, Yorba, Talbert Regional Parks
- Multimodal
 - Class I Bikeway
 - Hiking
 - Equestrian

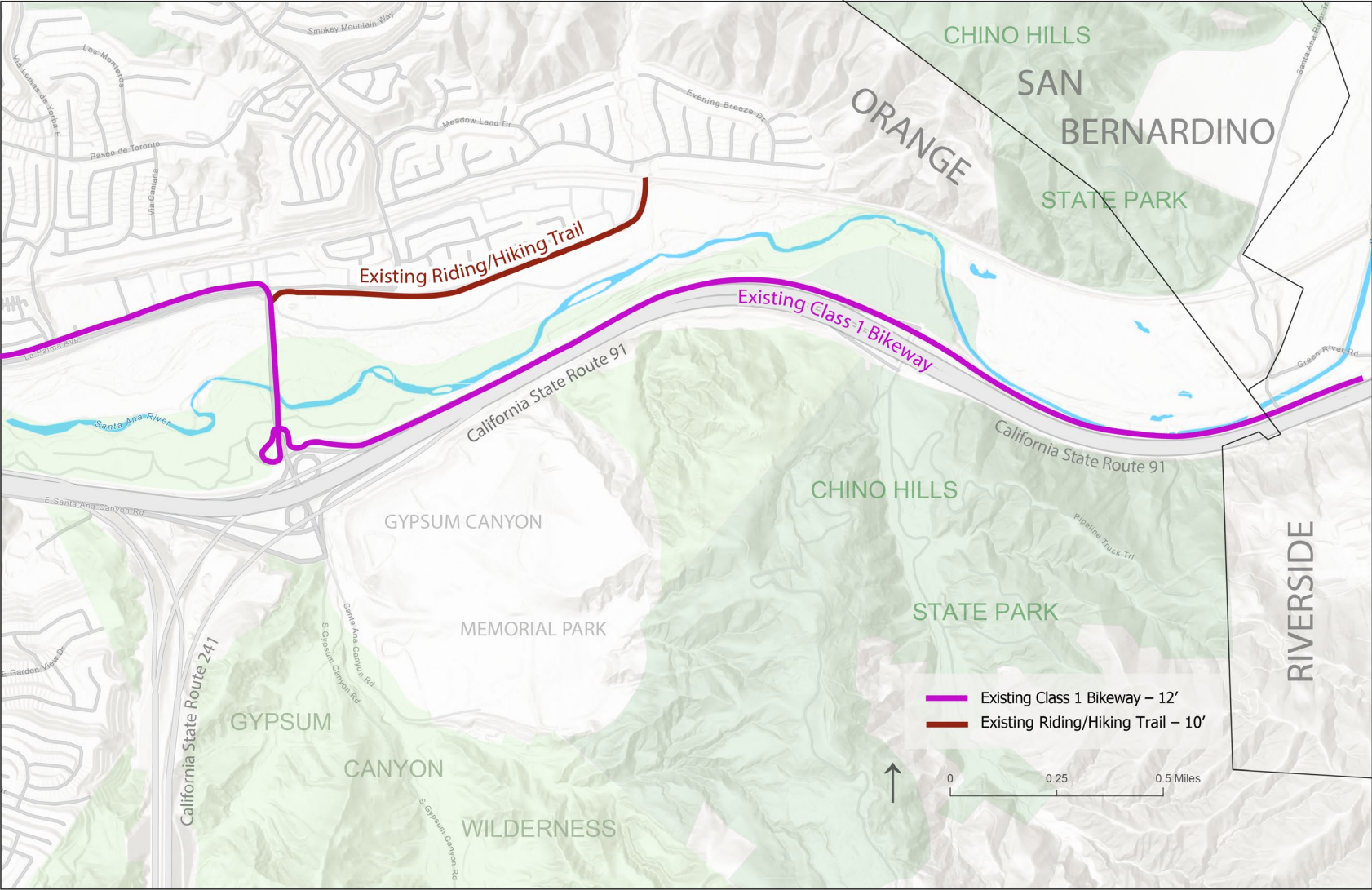
Orange County

- Remaining segment:
 - 3.5-mile gap at eastern border
 - CEQA approved in 2016
- Coastal Conservancy Grant
 - \$250,000 awarded in February
 - Phasing Plan/Environmental Permits
- Goal: Phase I Shovel Ready
 - Project restarted July 1st



Gap Location Near Green River Golf Course

Orange County – Existing Trail

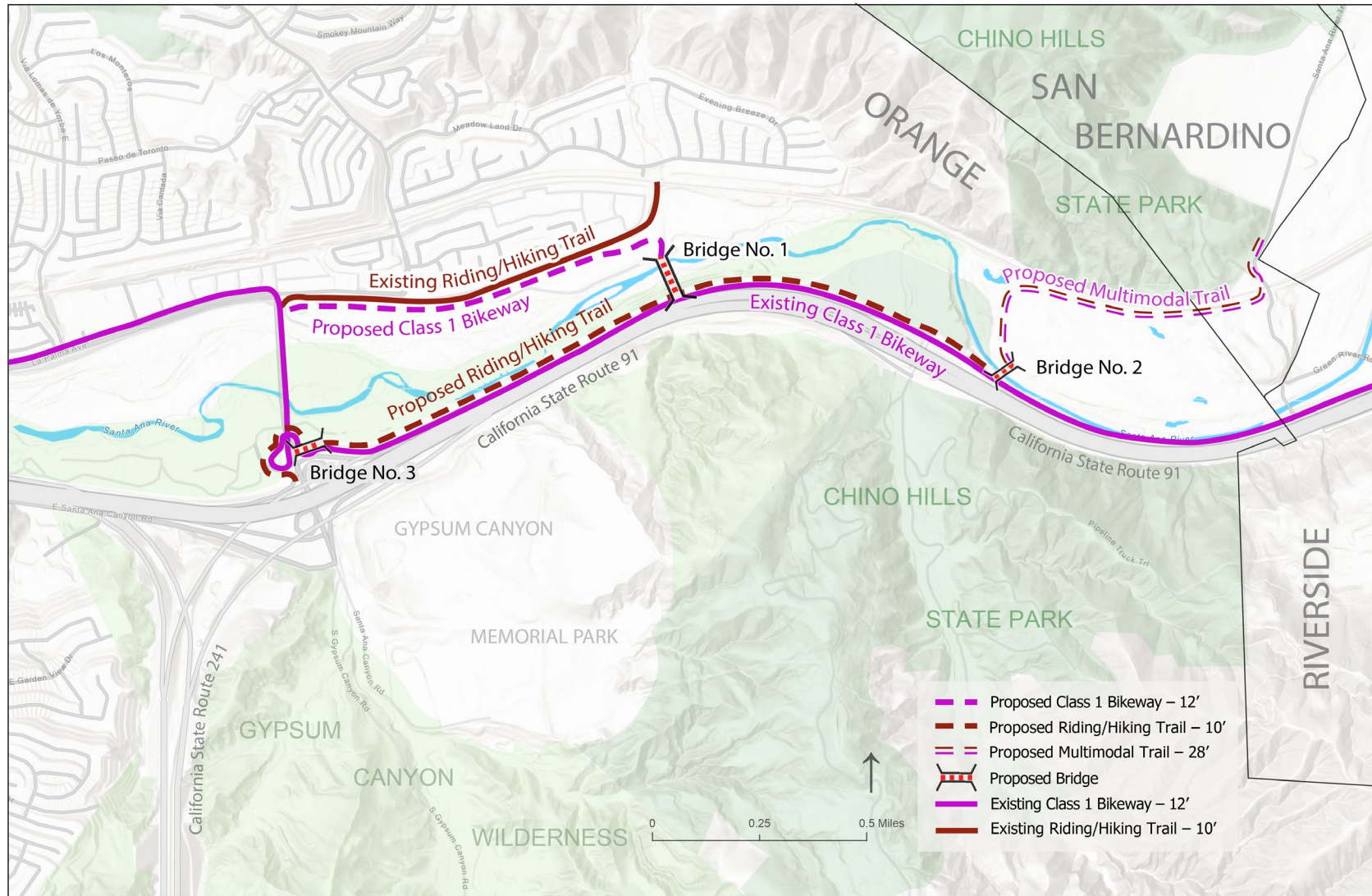


Santa Ana River Trail

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee
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Orange County – Proposed Multimodal Trail



Santa Ana River Trail

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July 10, 2025





Riverside County

- 20 miles completed
- 10 miles remaining
- Remaining segment:
 - Bridge over BNSF railroad crossing
 - Design plans 100% complete
 - Currently in CEQA review

Santa Ana River Trail

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee
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San Bernardino County

- 47 miles total
- 25 miles in San Bernardino National Forest (unpaved)
- 7 miles paved trail completed
- Remaining segment:
 - 15 miles from San Bernardino to Mentone



Thank You

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Shawver and Members Ball, Browning, Schoeck, and Stout were present. Alternate Chair Jones was absent.

Chair Shawver introduced Member Stout as the newest member of the Subcommittee.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Subcommittee on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

Motion to advance Item IV.C to be heard at this time: Member Schoeck

Second: Member Ball

Approved 5–0

Item IV.C was heard at this time.

Item II was heard prior to the public comment portion of Item IV.C.

Craig Dicht, Laguna Canyon Foundation Trails Project Manager, commented on Laguna Canyon Foundation's work on trails.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM A)

The following item will be approved by one motion unless a Subcommittee Member requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2025 MEETING

Motion: Member Browning

2nd: Member Schoeck

Approved 4–0–1 (Member Stout abstained)

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (ITEMS A–C)

A. TED CRAIG REGIONAL PARK BIKE FACILITY UPDATE

Staff will present recent developments related to the Ted Craig Regional Park Bike Facility project.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, introduced staff presenting on the item.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

Tuan Richardson, OC Parks Senior Landscape Architect, presented on the item and answered the Members' questions.

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Member Browning

2nd: Member Schoeck

Approved 5–0

B. NATURAL COMMUNITIES COALITION TRAIL MONITORING STUDY

Natural Communities Coalition staff will present on the Trail Monitoring Study in development.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, introduced the presenter of the item.

Darin Loughrey, Natural Communities Coalition Outreach and Engagement Coordinator, presented on the item and answered the Members' questions.

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

Motion: Member Schoeck

2nd: Member Ball

Approved 5–0

C. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT OF EXPLORING POSSIBLE ALLOWANCE OF CLASS I ELECTRIC BICYCLE USE ON UNPAVED, NATURAL-SURFACE TRAILS IN OC PARKS FACILITIES

The Subcommittee will consider support of whether OC Parks staff should explore the possibility of allowing Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities and, in turn, engage with relevant regulatory agencies on this subject.

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager provided information on the item and answered the Members' questions.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

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THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

Ed Maurer, Sierra Club, expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails over conservation concerns.

John Sisson, Sierra Club, expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails and stated concerns about the weight and speed of e-bikes contributing to trail impacts.

Steven Emter expressed support for e-bikes on trails, citing increased access for individuals with injuries.

Matt Simanski expressed support for e-bikes on trails and commented that there is misinformation on the subject.

David Small expressed support for e-bikes on trails and noted they provide access for those who may not otherwise be able to use trails.

Garry McCoppin, Sierra Sage/Sierra Club and Irvine Ranch Conservancy Volunteer, expressed concerns about enforcement challenges due to the difficulty of distinguishing between e-bikes.

Tyler Makin expressed support for e-bikes on trails as they allow him to bike with his son and others.

Rene Hernandez expressed support for e-bikes on trails as it enables him to participate with his son and others on trails.

Jim Foley commented on the importance of not alienating a significant recreational user group and stated his view that e-bikes on trails do not pose harm.

Lisa Lundquist expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails, citing potential wildlife impacts, safety concerns for pedestrians, and that they are unpleasant for other trail users.

Phil Salzman expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails, stating that they are unnecessary and may degrade trails due to their weight and speed.

Christine Daily expressed support for e-bikes on trails and commented that they provide access for individuals with injuries.

Michael Wellborn, President of Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks, expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails. He stated that e-bikes are already present on trails and raised concerns about potential County liability and recommended review by County Counsel.

Chris Murphy expressed support for e-bikes on trails and noted that Class 1 e-bikes are different than bigger dirt bikes or SurRons.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

Randee Tolentino expressed support for Class I e-bikes on trails since other jurisdictions allow them on trails.

Ron Schran, Sierra Club, expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails and raised questions regarding monitoring and single-track trails.

William Doyle expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails, citing safety concerns.

Joe Bouchard, Sierra Club, expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails, citing limited trail management and a desire to leave single-track trails free of e-bikes.

Marlene Paul expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails, noting liability and fire risk concerns.

Joshua Pierce, OC Parks volunteer, commented that he has hear multiple complaints from park users regarding e-bike use.

Helen Maurer, Sierra Club, expressed opposition to e-bikes, citing the provisions of the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan and concerns about regulation and enforcement.

Marcia Garter, Sierra Club, expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails and stated that a study of e-bikes on trails would not be a worthwhile use of resources.

Peter Leiby expressed opposition to e-bikes on trails, citing safety concerns and potential conflicts with hikers.

Marigold Filasco expressed opposition to e-bikes, stating that motors are not necessary to enjoy nature sharing concerns about the risk of injury as a hiker.

James Dinwiddie, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Members' questions.

Mike Wilson, OC Parks Deputy Director, answered the Members' questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Determine if the OC Parks Trails Subcommittee is supportive of exploring the possibility of allowing Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surface trails in OC Parks facilities and, in turn, further engage with regulatory agencies regarding allowing Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surfaces trails in OC Parks facilities.

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 — 6:00 p.m.

Chair Shawver moved to approve an alternative Recommended Action as follows: Forward to the OC Parks Commission tonight's gathered information, documentation, correspondence, and tonight's public testimony relative to Class I electric bicycles on unpaved, natural surfaces and trails in Orange County for their review and to study with all stakeholders and local agencies.

Motion: Chair Shawver

2nd: Member Browning

Approved 3–2 (Members Ball and Stout voted “No”)

V. SUBCOMMITTEE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Jeaniene Casiello, OC Parks Planning and Design Manager, provided updates and answered the Members' questions.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time, Subcommittee Members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT 8:14 p.m.