

FEBRUARY 1989

Proposition 70 Hearings

Two public hearings have been scheduled to discuss the land acquisition goals and establish priority projects that will be facilitated through Proposition 70, the California Coastal, Wildlife and Parks Bond Act. SSMPA's participation in these hearings is of monumental importance in order to secure a place for our areas of interest in the Santa Susana mountains and Simi hills on the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation's list of priority acquisitions. Ken Collier from the State Parks and Recreation Planning Division will be meeting with groups and individuals from Los Angeles and Ventura counties who want to utilize Prop. 70 funding for various land purchases. SSMPA will be competing for funding with other groups and areas, and it is absolutely vital that we demonstrate our strong desire to preserve important wilderness and recreation areas within our mountains. SSMPA is currently organizing a group of speakers to present the many attributes and features of our area to Mr. Collier and the Department of Parks and Recreation. All members are encouraged to attend both meetings. Other groups will be bringing in their supporters and members, and SSMPA must show a strong supportive force. PLEASE plan on attending! The Los Angeles county hearing will be held on March 15, at Saugus High School, 21900 Centurion Way, Santa Clarita, CA at 7:30 p.m., and the Ventura county hearing will be held on March 16 at the City Council building in Simi Valley, 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, at 7:30 p.m. SSMPA has devoted literally years of work to the passage of Proposition 70. Now it is time to reap the rewards of our dedication and labor!

Elections

SSMPA's annual election of officers will be held at the general meeting on March 20. Any paying member is entitled to vote and hold office. Names can be taken from the floor on the day of the meeting. If you or someone you know would like to serve in any of the following positions, whether vacant or slated, let us know. Call Nancy Razanski, (818) 341-3512.

Slate for 1989

President.....Dan Cooper
Vice President.....Nancy Razanski
Treasurer.....Zelma Van
Secretary.....Corina Roberts

Founder.....Jan Hinkston
Member At Large.....Pauline Aue
Member At Large.....Bill Scott
Member At Large.....Kent Kellegrew
Member at Large.....Connie Couture
Member At Large.....Bonnie Tompkins

The election of SSMPA officers is an important task, and we welcome our membership to get involved. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of Glendale Federal Bank, 21821 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, at 7:30 p.m. There will be refreshments, and a slide presentation of our areas of interest. See you there!

Wildlife Corridor Research / Grant

Feb. 20 Agenda

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy recently granted The Nature Conservancy \$40,000 to conduct a scientific study of the wildlife corridor. The Nature Conservancy will be studying areas that are thought to be wildlife passageways from north of the 118 freeway to south of the 101 freeway. The Nature Conservancy is a large and well-respected group with a nation-wide interest in the preservation of vital wilderness areas. The Nature Conservancy owns land throughout the United States, taking an interest in a wide variety of regions and habitats. Their study will begin around the middle of February and is expected to last about 6 months. Their participation and interest in our area's wilderness is a positive and welcome event. SSMPA member Corina Roberts will be working with The Nature Conservancy on a voluntary basis in the Santa Susana mountains and Simi hills, gathering data and specimens in the corridor areas.

Strategies for the hearing on Prop. 70 funds with Ke-Collier of the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation will be discussed at the General Meeting this Monday, February 20, to be held at the Glendale Federal Bank Community Room at 7:30 p.m. SSMPA needs to develop a strong "story line" to illustrate the importance of preserving open space and recreation areas in our hills. All members are invited to attend. There will also be a slide presentation by photographer Dan Bayer featuring the recent snow in the Simi/Santa Susana hills as well as wildlife. If you would like to speak at the Prop. 70 hearings, please contact Jan Hinkston at (818) 884-9610.

DUMP SITES !

Property owned by Big Sky Ranch, generally located near Tapo Canyon Road in Simi Valley, is currently being considered as a future landfill site. A portion of eastern Alamos Canyon is being eyed by two Simi Valley City Council members as an ideal place to make a new dumpsite, which they estimate could be utilized for about 30 years. Separated from the Simi 118 freeway by two mountain ranges, the site is thought to have good potential by Councilman Bill Davis and Councilwoman Ann Rock. In the coming months a preliminary proposal will be presented to the East County Wasteshed Task Force, which is charged with locating future landfill sites. The permit process for a landfill site in Ventura County may take five to ten years.

On a disasterous note, the Simi Valley based Enterprise newspaper also reported on February 4 that the Los Angeles Sanitation District is considering a dumpsite in Blind Canyon, located on the Los Angeles/Ventura County line, off of Rocky Peak Road. Rocky Peak would be developed as the primary access! This area lies in the midst of our priority regions, provides excellent recreational opportunities, historical significance, and is considered the critical chokepoint of the wildlife corridor! The L.A. Sanitation District sees it as an area that could hold 125 million tons of trash. An environmental impact report is in the works. SSMPA members must take action against this horrendous proposal. We are currently working on a plan of action. We cannot lose Rocky Peak!

PORTER RANCH HEARING

An important public hearing on the enormous Porter Ranch development will be held on Thursday, February 23 at the Chatsworth High School Multi-Purpose Room, 10025 Lurline Avenue, Chatsworth. A 2.3 million dollar development is being planned for the area north of the 118 freeway known as Brown's Canyon. The project area encompasses a large part of Brown's Creek. It includes a large commercial use area of approximately 7.7 million square feet, 2,195 single family houses and 800 condominiums, and cover 1,300 acres between Brown's Canyon and Tampa Ave. Public hiking trails, equestrian trails, bike lanes and public parks are included in this development plan. It is very important that people come to the hearing and voice their support for the inclusion of these improvements. The time to support open space, recreation opportunities, scenic and watershed preservation is NOW. Once the specific plan becomes city ordinance, it will be too late. For further information contact Ms. Nancy Scrivner, Project Manager, City Planning Dept., (818) 989-8440, or telephone Dr. Mary Lee, Chair, Subcommittee on Recreation, Open Space and Trails at (818) 998-5090.

ssmpa - smmc tour

On February 20, Esther Feldman of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will be given a tour of the properties held in high priority by the SSMPA. This is an opportunity for SSMPA to illustrate the many scenic, historical, wild and recreational areas which our local mountains are so rich with, and to demonstrate the urgency of preserving these. Many of the regions which we hope can be preserved are in immediate danger of development. To find out about the outcome of this tour, attend the General Meeting Monday evening, February 20, at the Glendale Federal Community Room, 7:30 p.m.

HELP !!



If there has ever been a time when the SSMPA needs support and membership, that time is NOW! Many projects are in the works, as you can see, and there are many issues to deal with. We have seen some wonderful progress and success, as well as heartbreaking setbacks. In order to keep working on so many vital issues, we need volunteers and we need members, and we need more of both! If your membership is expired, please renew today. Have a friend interested in our hills? Sign them up! Can you donate some time or expertise? Please do! The SSMPA needs the support of its members to continue in our efforts. THANK YOU!!!

Name _____ Address _____

Student/senior \$5. ___ Individual \$10. ___ Family \$15. ___ Business \$25. ___
Supporting \$25. ___ Life Member \$100. ___

Send to SSMPA, Membership, P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

SSMPA NEWS

SSMPA will have a small booth at the Mason Park Arts and Crafts Fair, April 29, 1989. Display articles featuring our mountains, wildlife, recreational use and artifacts are needed. If you have any you would like to donate for the event, please contact Corina Roberts, (818) 715-0069.

SSMPA will play a part in the continuing history of Chatsworth through our involvement in two events sponsored by the Chatsworth Centennial Committee; we will have printed information and photos in a time capsule, as well as a plaque to be included in a wall of plaques which will be displayed in the city of Chatsworth.

During the third week in April California State University Northridge and Pierce College will host Earth Week, a week of educational programs and displays devoted to ecology and natural sciences. The SSMPA is welcome to participate in this event, which draws a large number of potential new members, and volunteers are needed to contribute to and attend a booth or display at both campuses. For more information please contact Dan Cooper, (818) 882-4943.

During the month of May the Simi Valley Library will host a display of photos of our local mountains by photographer Dan Bayer and Corina Roberts. The display will be in the library throughout the month of May. For library hours call the Simi Library, (805) 526-1735.

~~Congratulations to Glenn Bailey, former SSMPA president and long standing supporter, who will receive a Conservation Award from the Audubon Society at a banquet on March 3. For more information call the San Fernando Audubon Society.~~

On February 25 the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club will hold an awards banquet at which several SSMPA members will be presented with awards. For further information please call the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Dan Cooper, current Vice President of the SSMPA, is an exterior decorator specializing in unique landscaping with native plants, non-native plants, and water-conserving designs. For more information please contact him at (818) 882-4943.

Thank you to the dedicated members whose efforts have made this newsletter and the extensive work done in preparation for the Prop. 70 hearing possible; Nancy Razanski, Pauline Aue, Glenn Bailey, Jan Hinkston, Dan Cooper, Corina Roberts.

Foundation for the Preservation of
the Santa Susana Mountains
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**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
Enclosed**

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