

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 7:00 PM Silverado Community Center

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by President May.

II. General Announcements

Francesca Duff announced that rattlesnake aversion training for dogs will be offered September 24 at the Silverado Community Center.

Fran Williams plans on asking ICL for about \$100 for the annual kids Halloween party.

III. Presentation by Orange County Public Works

Linda May introduced Orange County Public Works Director Shane Silsby and staff, who gave an update on planned changes to Santiago Canyon Road and canyon bridges. Cards were distributed for questions from the audience.

Three bridges in Silverado and one in Modjeska are “Functionally Obsolete” with a low “Sufficiency Rating” so they need to be replaced. Since standards have changed since construction in 1935 and 1947, replacements may be similar but not identical. Project Manager Wei Zhu said that OCPW is “looking into” standards for the Modjeska bridge that might be able to meet CalTrans requirements without taking private property or damaging nearby trees.

Santiago Canyon Road is being addressed in three phases. Short term measures include the recently installed speed feedback signs, changeable message boards, and a review of the Santiago/Chapman and Jamboree intersection with the City of Orange. Medium term (2019) plans include flashing beacons, delineators, reflectors, high friction surface treatment, and a bicyclist buffer zone. The long term plan (construction beginning 2023) is to add four passing lanes plus retaining walls, metal beam guard rails, drainage improvements, storm water treatment, and relocation of utilities. The \$24 million cost is expected to be covered by federal grants, the Santiago Canyon Road Fee Program, and county Road Funds.

According to Director Silsby, the passing lanes project is made possible by amending the county's Master Plan of Arterial Highways (currently in process). This would change Santiago County Road's designation from four lanes to two (its current actual size), but this “reduction” would not preclude adding passing lanes to the existing road. Silsby characterized passing lanes as a safety improvement rather than a means to increase road capacity, though there could be an unknown increase in capacity. Passing lanes would be located based on accidents and environmental impact—maps are at OCPW's web site.

Janet Wilson asked to receive all CEQA documents related to the road and bridge projects.

Some audience questions and Silsby's answers:

Q: Why does the MPAH stakeholders list not include canyon representatives?

A: The list came from the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Q: What about keeping the canyons rural?

A: Safety and passing lane projects will both have public meetings.

Q: Is there proof that adding passing lanes adds safety?

A: Passing lanes are based on accident type—passing illegally.

Q: Will increasing the level of service allow new development along Santiago Canyon Road?

A: Unknown; this should be in traffic study documents that aren't out yet.

Q: Are there similar success stories in rural areas where passing lanes have been added?

A: Yes, in Michigan and northern Arizona.

Q: Why do we need all these improvements?

A: “You tell me.” The road has been called the deadliest in the county. Supervisor Spitzer supports making changes.

Q: There seems to be increased traffic from outside the canyons. Why are we not encouraging use of the toll roads?

A: Unknown. Cities control the major intersections.

Q: Why did OCPW reach out to a Fullerton bicycle group for support on adding passing lanes?

A: Unknown. Staff did that.

IV. Director Reports

a. President---Linda May

1. Public Works Presentation

See Presentation by Orange County Public Works above.

b. Vice President---Janet Wilson

1. Mesa Report

Janet called Paul Meltzer of The Wildlands Conservancy. He believes property was pulled from real estate listings because of discussions with the Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District and the Transportation Corridor Agency. TWC would like updates. There was a drainage settlement in the 1970's, leaving one current lawsuit. Issues with Modjeska parcels on Mark Road could be solved.

c. Secretary---Scott Breeden

1. Approval of Minutes

The August minutes were approved 4-0 (Janet abstaining since she did not attend).

d. Treasurer---Geoffrey Sarkissian

1. Finance Report

Revised, up to date ICL Treasury Reports for May, June, and July 2017 (little changed) were approved 5-0. A spreadsheet will be put on the ICL web site.

e. Director---Dion Sorrell

1. Shakespeare Fest Postponed

There is a September 30 Modjeska House Shakespeare performance scheduled for park workers but not the general public—a public performance will have to be done later.

Dion put video of ICL's Wildlands Conservancy special meeting up on the web site.

Francesca added that the site's domain name cost is going up.

V. **Committee Reports**

a. SMRPD Report---Francesca Duff

The Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District met with the Transportation Corridor Agency about considerations for taking ownership of Irvine Mesa land: public access, CC&R's, no new trails, management costs, lawsuits, and drainage. Non-contiguous parcels are “troublesome” since the owner would need to manage those as well.

b. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

A “Fire and Ice” public meeting will be held Sunday at 7pm in the new library building (former Silverado School). Ice cream plus tips on how to be prepared for wildfire and other emergencies will be provided.

Mary Schreiber added that another dumpster will be available for All Canyons Cleanup on September 16.

c. Friends of the Library---Fran Williams

Melody McWilliams will provide library information on NextDoor; she will get a list of activities from the library staff.

Besides baked goods, FOL would like to collect bodies for setting up, running, and taking down their boutique at this year's Silverado fair.

There will be no holiday raffle this year because library staff is not supposed to touch FOL money. FOL would like to hear other ideas for fundraising.

Library aide Ruth Loc will probably not be coming back to Silverado. It would be good to send email to Jane Dealy at Orange County Public Libraries praising Ruth and expressing our desire to get her back. Fran has contact information.

d. Canyon Watch---Marion Schuller

Help with parking at the Silverado fair is needed. The fire Explorers are unavailable.

e. Country Fair---Jane Bove

Booth applications are coming in for this year's Silverado Country Fair (October 14-15). Bands are set, but expenses are expected to be about \$1,100 more than last year. A lot of help is needed.

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held: October 3, 2017 in Modjeska *****