

Inter Canyon League
Minutes of the General Meeting
Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM Modjeska Community Center

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President May.

II. General Announcements

Mary Schreiber announced that this year's Christmas in the Canyons event will be Saturday, December 9, from 10am to 4pm in Silverado. Flyers are here. Volunteers are welcome to help put up decorations December 2, and tractor drivers are needed for the hayride.

Fran Williams announced a community potluck to take place the Saturday after Thanksgiving in Silverado. Turkey and ham will be donated, but volunteers are needed to cook it.

III. Director Reports

a. President---Linda May

1. Proposed Resolution: History Committee

Melody McWilliams described the local archives formerly at the Silverado library: about 20 boxes of material, no longer in any order, currently stored in the Modjeska Community Center. A group of residents interested in digitizing and displaying this record of canyon history would like ICL to authorize a committee for this purpose, which could then accept tax-deductible donations. To that end, Lina moved that the following resolution be adopted:

Whereas artifacts of historical significance to the canyons exist;
Whereas a group of canyon residents has created a purpose, mission and vision statement to guide any person who may want to archive and display said artifacts;
Be it RESOLVED, the Inter-Canyon League (ICL) Board of Directors do hereby establish the History Committee, with all rights and responsibilities of an approved ICL committee, to supersede any previous history or historical committee creation, resolution or approval.

This motion passed 5-0.

Susan Hardy added that she knew someone who might be able to contribute an original Silverado-Modjeska Specific Plan document to the archives.

b. Vice President---Janet Wilson

1. Mesa Report

Besides the Irvine Mesa, The Wildlands Conservancy owns property above Williams Canyon and in Modjeska Canyon. Steve Enochs, Phil McWilliams, and others are talking with TWC about TWC's idea of giving the 45 Modjeska acres to a non-profit such as Canyon Land Conservation Fund for free, subject to certain conditions.

To preserve the Irvine Mesa, OC Parks would need about a million dollars to buy it. Janet and others collected postcards at the Silverado Fair appealing to Supervisor Spitzer to look once more for county funds to make this happen. Those postcards have now been mailed. Next is the CAN Campaign: mailing the Supervisor empty soda cans bearing messages like "We CAN save the mesa" or "CAN you help us?" Geoff moved that ICL provide up to \$300 for postage (cost is \$3 per can now). This passed 5-0.

Along with Janet, Maureen Voehl is also organizing a separate fundraising effort to buy TWC property. If this were done through ICL, donations would be tax-deductible. Janet moved that "ICL accept donations for purposes of permanent preservation of some or all of The Wildlands Conservancy's Orange County land." Linda posed the question of whether that would fit the mission of the ICL, but concluded that it would, by preserving and protecting the area's rural character. Geoff and Janet said that they would not be in favor of ICL owning land. Carl Armbruster asked if Supervisor Spitzer could provide matching funds; the consensus was yes. Details like donations vs. pledges and returning unused donations would need discussion. Ultimately the motion passed 5-0.

2. Red Rock Special Use

Geoff and Scott gave an update on the proposed Red Rock Gardens event center near Modjeska, subject of a September 27 county Planning Commission meeting which Geoff and Dion attended. Per the commission's request, county staff prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) indicating that the project would not have any significant environmental impact as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA

). In response to public circulation of this MND, Dion sent planners a video of the traffic situation at the site, and Scott drafted a response citing four sections of the MND that appeared flawed. Geoff moved that ICL send that response (attached) as a public comment on the MND. This passed 5-0.

c. Secretary---Scott Breeden

1. Approval of Minutes

The October minutes, amended per comments from Janet and Geoff, were approved 5-0.

d. Treasurer---Geoffrey Sarkissian

1. Finance Report

There was little activity in September. The corresponding financial report was approved 5-0.

At the Silverado Fair in October, ICL raised \$362.00 from the Disney tickets raffle, and \$4,494.98 from the saloon, totaling \$4,856.98 in net income.

e. Director---Dion Sorrell

Amanda Zar is tentatively scheduled to offer Shakespeare for Children in January or February, a six-week program concluding with a performance staged at the new library.

IV. **Committee Reports**

a. Canyon Watch---Marion Schuller

We are grateful that we made it through fire season.

b. Fair---Jane Bove

No report (Jane absent).

c. SMRPD Report---Francesca Duff

Janet reported that at their last meeting, the park board considered removing “open space” from their mission statement, but wound up not doing so.

d. Emergency Preparedness---Joanne Hubble

No report (Joanne absent).

e. Friends of the Library---Fran Williams

FOL raised \$2100 at their Silverado Fair boutique, and received \$300 from donations at the library. They spent \$380 for the license to show movies at the new library site, and the Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District agreed to fund three email blasts for library events, starting in December.

FOL hired a magician for the library Halloween event, which got even more excitement from the helicopter (and K-9) that landed for the Sheriff's Department program the same day.

More Disneyland tickets were promised, but new volunteers and new ideas are needed for things like replacing the annual holiday quilt raffle, which can't be held at the new library.

Many thanks from Fran and Mary for donations to the Halloween party for children, which got rave reviews on NextDoor. There was a craft table and four separate game booths, a huge increase.

V. **Adjournment**

Linda and Janet reminded everyone that they will not be running for the ICL board next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19.

***** The next ICL meeting will be held December 5, 2017 at the Silverado Community Center *****

**Attachment:
ICL Comments on MND PA080053**

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November 8, 2017

Kevin Shannon
OC Development Services/Planning
300 N. Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92703

RE: Mitigated Negative Declaration (“MND”) PA080053 for Red Rock Gardens

VIA EMAIL ATTACHMENT (Kevin.Shannon@ocpw.ocgov.com)

Dear Mr. Shannon:

As residents of the Specific Plan area where the proposed Red Rock Gardens project is located, we the Inter-Canyon League submit the following comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. Section numbers refer to those in the associated Initial Study.

(1) In Section 3.12, Noise, the Noise Impact Analysis Report concerns itself only with impacts on residences east of Santiago Canyon Road, which the report acknowledges are at “relatively great distance from [the] patio located on the westerly portion of the [project] residence.”

Noise impacts need to be considered at other locations as well, in particular in the wilderness park immediately west of the project's patio. The edge of the project property is visible from the park's Red Rock Trail in the canyon below. The current ambient sound down there is silence.

(2) In Section 3.16, Transportation/Traffic, it is stated that no mitigation measures are required for bicycle facilities since existing bike lanes on Santiago Canyon Road would be retained. But “retained” is not “unaffected.” Bicyclists on Santiago Canyon Road would encounter traffic congestion at the Bolero Lookout Road intersection that they did not have to deal with before. This is an impact not addressed by the traffic study, which focused on vehicular traffic. Since Santiago Canyon Road is especially popular with bicyclists on weekends, it is recommended that a bicycle impact study concentrate on bike use during daylight hours of those days.

(3) Also in Section 3.16, proposed mitigation measures for limitations in vehicle deceleration distance include adding intersection warning signs as well as flashing portable changeable message signs (PCMSs) along northbound and southbound Santiago County Road during every event at the project site. This would be in addition to new signage and traffic control on Bolero Road, as well as widening of both roads to accommodate event traffic and emergency vehicles.

These measures would conflict with Santiago County Road's designation as a scenic viewscape corridor, where one of the goals, as stated in the county's General Plan, is to “[p]reserve and enhance unique or special aesthetic and visual resources through sensitive highway design and the regulation of development within the scenic corridor.”

Substitution of one CEQA violation for another is not mitigation. If traffic problems cannot be solved without creating land use problems, then the MND should not claim that impacts to traffic would be less than significant.

(4) In Section 3.19, Mandatory Findings of Significance, the cumulative impact of this project was considered less than significant based on a County list of related projects. For proper context, the list should include the Saddle Crest housing development on Santiago Canyon Road, which the county

approved and which can be expected to have future impacts on traffic, for instance. In addition, related activity at nearby event sites like the previously-approved Giracci vineyard and Rancho Las Lomas, regardless of EIR or MND status, should also be considered as part of the same environmental context.

Sincerely,

Inter-Canyon League
P.O. Box 301
Silverado, CA 92676