



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

June/July 1996

President's Message - by Doreen Rusen

As we enter the summer months, S.S.M.P.A. begins our phase of hike-free months (as contrasted with October to June, our free-hike months). Although activity related to hiking and membership meetings is put on hold, many of our members are involved in other activities related to creating and protecting the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills. Some of these activities are noted in this newsletter. I would like to thank each of you for investing your time and energies in creating a better quality of life for all. I especially want to thank Grethe Davis who made a donation of a beautiful sign for our Visitors Center; it provides a welcoming, professional first impression for potential visitors. Thank you, Grethe and thanks to all the volunteers.

Good News from the Supervisors by Nancy Razanski, et.al.

On June 18, 1996, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to place on the November ballot the Los Angeles County Park, Beach, and Recreation Act of 1996. The vote was 4 to 1, with Supervisor Michael Antonovich voting "yes" after getting a compromise from Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who was quoted in the Los Angeles Times as saying, "It's not just for us, but for future generations; it isn't about parks and open space, it's about doing something constructive." Supervisor Gloria Molina was the only one who voted "no".

The proposed bond measure, similar to 1992's Proposition A which was passed with 64% of the vote, is designed to protect our quality of life by investing in our parks, beaches, recreation facilities and natural lands throughout Los Angeles County. This measure will improve and repair neighborhood and regional parks, provide positive recreation alternatives for at-risk youth, plant trees, protect our mountains and canyons, build trails, and build more recreation facilities for children, families, and seniors. It will cost the average homeowner about \$6 per year, for twenty years, about the cost of one movie ticket. (continued next page)

Park, Beach, & Recreation Act (continued)

So we're on the ballot for 1996. This is the first very good step. Now we just have to get it to pass. People are encouraged to contact Esther Feldman from the Trust for Public Lands (10951 Pico Blvd. Suite 204, Los Angeles, CA 90064, 310-474-4466), which drafted the proposal, to start up a phone bank to help get it **passed** on the ballot. It's now on the ballot, but we need and want to get it passed.

Planning and Conservation League by Nancy Razanski

The Planning and Conservation League, an environmental lobbying group in Sacramento, announced three legislative bills pending for the November 1996 ballot.

SB 1948 - (Thompson) allocates State Park Bond funds for land acquisition to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

SB 1280 - (O'Connell) would give 10% tax credit to people who donate land to the California State Parks Department and other park entities.

SB 3014 - (Cortessee/Cunneen) gives some funding to state and city parks but mostly for maintenance.

Please voice your support for these bills to: State Senator Cathie Wright, 2345 Erringer Road #212, Simi Valley, CA 93065-2202; 805-522-2920 and to State Assemblywoman Paula Boland, 10727 White Oak Avenue #124, Granada Hills, CA 91344-4631, 818-368-3838. - Sec. of State's #1 (916) 657-2166

Jerry Meral from PCL told me that anyone wanting 24 hour updates on the above bill may dial them up on the web internet as follows:

<http://www.pcl.org/pcl>

Chatsworth Branch Library has a computer you can use free of charge.

Pavers/Friends of SSMPA by the Editor

The following individuals sponsored pavers (bricks) at the new train station and designated SSMPA as "their" organization. We thank them here as a public acknowledgment of our gratitude and as a reminder of our understanding that their efforts help ensure a stronger community.

Jan Hinkston, The Dent Family, Nancy Razanski, Davis Family, Katherine Roy, Margaret Foreman, Robert D. Roy, Doreen Rusen, Nancy K. Shofield, Dorothy Pogue & Glenna Sanderson.

Stoney Point Land Swap - report from L.A. Times article

Under a proposed land swap approved in June by the Los Angeles City Council, Stoney Point park, a 22-acre park near Topanga Canyon Boulevard and the Simi Valley Freeway, would be expanded by 54 acres of undeveloped land north of the site. Francine Oschin, an aide to Councilman Hal Berman, who proposed the land swap stated that there are no plans to develop the land.

Stoney Point has become a favorite for rock climbers from across the country and for movie crews. The parcel is currently owned by the Valley Christian Presbyterian Church who have been persuaded to find another site for their church and to sell the land to the city.

The deal came together when city officials discovered that the city had 14 acres of undeveloped land near the corner of Corbin Avenue and Rinaldi Street, which could be swapped for the 54 acres along with \$2 million in funds from the November countywide parks bond measure, which Bernson is optimistic will be approved.

State Park on Hold - report from Los Angeles Daily News, May 24, 1996

Since 1978, the state of California, through the work of SSMPA and others, has quietly spent \$13 million purchasing 670 acres in the western edge of Chatsworth, a corner of the Santa Susana Mountains, with the intention of forming a new park -- one that would help preserve a unique resource. The area is home to ancient Indian sites, the remnants of a 19th century statecoach line and a rich diversity of animal and plant life. Trails that wind past 80-million-year-old sandstone rock outcroppings offer hikers spectacular vistas of the city and the park itself.

Al Knight, vice president of SSMPA was quoted in the article, "We have a fabulous recreation resource in the Northwest Valley. It's just a matter of making it official and getting a ranger up there to protect the most sensitive parts of it." Dan Preece, superintendent for the Angeles District of the California Parks and Recreation Department was quoted as saying, "We would love to see that park brought on line and staffed and used by the public." The problem is that the state would need up to \$150,000 a year for "minimal" park operations and the state lacks money, so park officials have delayed opening the area as an official state park.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN or REJOIN S.S.M.P.A.

Investing in the future of our communities and its resources is one of the best expenditures of your time and efforts. Please return this cutoff with your contributions for the work to be done. Please make checks payable to SSMPA and send to P.O. Box 4831, Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831

_____ Senior or Student (\$5.00) _____ Individual (\$10.00) _____ Family (\$15.00)
_____ Business or Organization (\$25.00) _____ Life Member (\$100.00)

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

SPECIAL INTEREST/EXPERTISE: _____

Editor's Message - by Ted Dent

Although it would be nice for everyone to have all the news about the Santa Susana Mountains and the Simi Hills in one newsletter, that is not feasible. But what we would like to present is a newsletter with as much information as possible.

If a part of your involvement with our mountains/hills was not mentioned, or an item that you think is important, please write the Editor at the address on the mailing label, telling us what you think is important. If it's important to you, it's probably important to most of us. Thank you ahead of time for sharing your thoughts, ideas, etc.

Memorabilia Room by Doreen Rusen

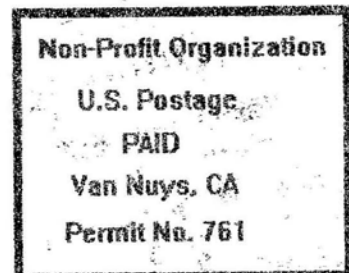
On June 19, 1996, S.S.M.P.A.'s Visitor Center was visited by the committee involved in designing and developing the Chatsworth Metrolink Station Memorabilia Room. Ideas to create a representative presentation of the community, etc. are welcome.

CALENDAR

- July 1** (Monday) Executive Board Meeting
- Aug. 5** (Monday) Executive Board Meeting
- Aug. 17** (Saturday) Deadline for articles for the September Newsletter
- Seep 2** (Monday) Executive Board Meeting
- Seep 16** (Monday) General Membership Meeting
- Cot. 6** (Sunday) Weekly Hike; meet at Chatsworth Park South - 9:00 a.m.

NOTE! If your mailing labels says "96-6" or prior, that means, Please renew.

Foundation for the Preservation
of the Santa Susana Mountains
P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831



Dated Material

Address Correction Requested