

AGENDA

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

6:30 P.M.

All agenda items and supporting documentation are available for public review at the Kern County General Services Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, in Bakersfield, CA 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item that is distributed after the agenda is posted and prior to the meeting will also be available at the same location.

Commissioners: Ryan Abler, District I;
William Chapman, District II;
Kathleen Arnold-Chambers, District III;
Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and
Ucedrah Osby, District V

Disclaimer: This agenda includes the proposed actions and activities with respect to each agenda item as of the date of posting. As such, it does not preclude the Commission from modifying the recommendations of staff or taking different actions than those proposed.

Salute to the Flag

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS, AND REQUESTS

1. This portion of the agenda is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. No response is required from the Commission or staff, and no action can be taken on items not on the agenda; however, Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. Commissioners may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD.**
 - i. Presentation by Rich O'Neil of the Kern River Parkway Foundation regarding Educational and Protection Signage – **HEAR PRESENTATION**
 - ii. Public Comments and Requests.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by staff. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Commission or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence.
 - i. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on March 16, 2022; **APPROVE**
 - ii. Miscellaneous Correspondence; **RECEIVE AND FILE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. General Services – This portion of the meeting is reserved for General Services staff to provide a report regarding new and ongoing projects, programs, and plans relating to Kern County Parks, including the items listed below; **INFORMATIONAL**
 - i. Kern River Parkway projects
 - ii. California Ave. property
 - iii. Grant updates
 - v. Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Park
 - vi. Miscellaneous small projects
4. Park Ranger – Status Update; **INFORMATIONAL**

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

5. Appointment of additional ad hoc subcommittee membership for the establishment and naming of trails (if needed); **APPOINT ADDITIONAL AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND NAMING OF TRAILS**
6. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **DISCUSS POTENTIAL MEETING LOCATIONS IN EACH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND SET SCHEDULE**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. On their own initiative, Commission members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. Commissioners may request that an item be agendaized at a future meeting, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request that staff report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

8. Adjourn to next regular meeting, scheduled for May 18, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., to be conducted at the County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Bakersfield, CA 93301, unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or cancelled by the Commission.

**Americans with Disabilities Act
(Government Code Section 54953.2)**

The Kern County Administrative Center is accessible to persons with disabilities. Disabled individuals who need assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission may request assistance at the Kern County Parks and Recreation Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bakersfield, or by calling (661) 868-7000. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternate formats. Requests should be made five (5) working days in advance whenever possible.

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<https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/>



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Presentations

Matthew Howard

From: Yvette Zaragoza
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:12 AM
To: Matthew Howard
Subject: Fw: Presentation at next P&R meeting

Hi Matt~

Forwarding this to you just in case you have not received this request from Kathy.



Administration

Yvette Zaragoza

Office Services Specialist
GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION

Phone Direct: 661.868.3027

Phone Office: 661.868.3000

Email: Zaragozay@KernCounty.com

County Administrative Center

1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: kckuke@yahoo.com <kckuke@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 10:37 PM
To: Carl Brewer <brewerc@kerncounty.com>
Cc: Yvette Zaragoza <zaragozay@kerncounty.com>
Subject: Fwd: Presentation at next P&R meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Carl,

Please include a public presentation by Rich O'Neil, President of the Kern River Parkway Foundation, on the agenda for the next Park and Recreation Meeting scheduled for April 20, 2022.

Thank you,
Kathleen Chambers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: kckuke@yahoo.com
Date: April 6, 2022 at 10:24:04 PM PDT
To: oneilpedal4@gmail.com
Cc: Bill Cooper <wtcooper47@aol.com>, Eddy Laine <eddylaine@aol.com>, Jonathan Yates <yates.jonathane@gmail.com>, Lauren Franconi <lsfranconi@yahoo.com>, Katherine/Steve Winters White Wolf Wellness <info@whitewolfwellness.org>
Subject: Re: Presentation at next P&R meeting

Rich,

I will ask Carl to place your presentation request on the agenda. Please let Carl know if you have any photos you would like to share with your presentation.

Kathleen

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 6, 2022, at 5:13 PM, oneilpedal4@gmail.com wrote:

Kathleen;

I , on behalf of the KR Parkway Foundation would like to make a presentation at our next County P&R Commission meeting,

Can we have a sufficient amount of time to discuss "educational and protection signage" at the KR Riparian Preserve?

We have met with County Staff on this important issue so we will also be summarizing our discussion with them.

Thank you Kathleen.

Call me if you have any questions.

Rich Oneil

President

Kern River Parkway Foundation

661-706-1096

Sent from my iPhone



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Consent Agenda

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Board of Supervisors Chambers**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
6:30 p.m.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Chairman Arnold-Chambers presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Flag Salute: Commissioner Abler.

Present: Commissioner(s): Ryan Abler, District I; Kathleen Arnold-Chambers, and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Absent: William Chapman, District II; and District III; Lorena Cervantes, District IV

Staff: Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer; Carl Brewer, Senior CAO Manager – General Services; Isaac Preston, General Services Manager – General Services; and Matt Howard, General Services Manager – General Services; and Shane Denton – Chief Ranger – General Services

Others: There were three (3) others present

NOTE: Ab, Ch, Ar, Ce, and Os are abbreviations for Commissioners Abler, Chapman, Arnold-Chambers, Cervantes, and Osby. As an example, Ar-Ch denotes Commissioner Arnold-Chambers made a motion and Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

1. This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. No response is required from the Commission or staff, and no action can be taken on items not on the agenda; however, Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. Commissioners may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting.
 - I. TRAVIS BEHRENS OF THE MOJAVE LITTLE LEAGUE WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE THE BACKGROUND OF THE MOJAVE LITTLE LEAGUE AND TO DISCUSS REQUESTED IMPROVEMENTS AT MOJAVE EAST AND MOJAVE WEST PARKS AND THE BASEBALL FIELDS.
 - II. EDDY LAINE WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO STATE THE NEED FOR A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KERN RIVER RIPARIAN PRESERVE PARK AND TO PROVIDE THE MINUTES FOR THE LAST KERN RIVER PARKWAY FOUNDATION MEETING.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by staff. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Commission or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence.
 - I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on February 16, 2022. AB-OS TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 16, 2022, MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES – 0 OPPOSED
 - II. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE. AB-OS TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DATED FEBRUARY 26, 2022, REGARDING THE CAT STATISTICS AT HART MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY. MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES – 0 OPPOSED

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. General Services – Status Updates
 - I. Kern River Parkway projects – GEOFFREY HILL, CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT PROJECTS WITHIN THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY.
 - II. California Ave. Property – GEOFFREY HILL, CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE CALIFORNIA AVE. PROPERTY. GEOFFREY HILL ADVISED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD ARE IN PROGRESS. THE FINAL AGREEMENT IS SET TO GO TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN MAY AND THE PROPERTY TRANSFER DATE IS JUNE.
 - III. Grant updates – CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE REGARDING RECENT AWARD OF ROUGHLY 19.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANT AWARDS TO THE COUNTY. CARL BREWER ADVISED THAT THE GRANT AWARDS INCLUDE THE LAMONT PARK GRANT AWARD THROUGH THE STATEWIDE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM; THE GRANT AWARD FOR MOJAVE EAST PARK, HERITAGE PARK, AND LOST HILLS PARK THROUGH THE CLEAN CALIFORNIA GRANT PROGRAM, THE OHV GRANT AWARD FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND THE GRANT AWARD FOR THE LAUNCH RAMP REPLACEMENT AT BUENA VISTA. CARL BREWER ALSO PROVIDED AN UPDATE REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE HART MEMORIAL PARK ADVENTURE PLAY PROJECT THROUGH THE PER CAPITAL PROGRAM.
 - IV. Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Park – CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) GRANT FOR A FUTURE OHV PARK IN KERN COUNTY.
 - V. Miscellaneous small projects – CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON OTHER PROJECTS TAKING PLACE IN KERN COUNTY PARKS. THE PROJECTS INCLUDE A NEW PLAY

STRUCTURE WITH SHADE SAILS AT VIKI ARAUJO PARK; AND THE STATUS OF THE DESIGN FOR THE LIGHTING PROJECT AT CASA LOMA PARK.

4. Park Ranger – Status Update – SHANE DENTON, CHIEF RANGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A REPORT REGARDING THE METRO PARK STATISTICS OVER THE PART YARD. SHANE DENTON FURTHER REPORTED ON OPERATION SAFE PARK.

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

5. Referral by Commissioner Osby related to park restroom closures - CARL BREWER, SENIOR CAO MANAGER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT THAT HE IS PLANNING A MEETING WITH THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD TO VISIT A NEW VANDAL PROOF STYLE RESTROOM THAT WAS RECENTLY INSTALLED IN A CITY PARK. CARL BREWER FURTHER REPORTED THAT HE AND STAFF WILL BE LOOKING AT ALL COUNTY PARK RESTROOM NEEDS AND PRIORITIZE THEM FOR FUTURE FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND REPLACEMENT.
6. Referral by Commissioner Abler related to appointing a subcommittee for the establishment and naming of trails. AB-OS TO APPOINT AN AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND NAMING OF TRAILS WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AS ABLER AND ARNOLD-CHAMBERS, SUBJECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP. MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES, 0 OPPOSED.
7. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); THE COMMISSION DIRECTED STAFF TO COME UP WITH A LIST OF LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY FOR REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION AT THE APRIL MEETING.

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. On their own initiative, Commission members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. Commissioners may request that an item be agendaized at a future meeting, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request that staff report back to the Commission at a later meeting. NONE

ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjourn at 8:19 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for April 20, 2022, at 6:30 P.M., at the County Administrative Center – 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, 1st Floor – Board of Supervisors Chambers.

Matthew Howard

From: Carol Lair <carollair@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 7:42 AM
To: Geoffrey Hill; Carl Brewer; Matthew Howard; John Pimienta; Nicholas Cullen; Jeff Flores; Shane Denton; Barbara Hays
Subject: REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICE & KCAS FOR FEBRUARY 2022

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

2-5-22 Cat at west entrance died

2-7-22 Large long haired orange cat was taken to KCAS and found not to be adoptable in January. He was returned to the park briefly and is now in foster care with us receiving treatment. There is a family that wants him.

2-14-22 Husky dog abandoned and not sure what happened to it.

2-15-22 An injured gray cat was taken to KCAS.

2-16-22 Medium sized black dog abandoned and was rescued by a park visitor.

2-19-22 Calico cat found dead.

2-20-22 Gray cat was in foster care briefly and then taken to KCAS for adoption.

2-27-22 Brown pitbull abandoned and not sure what happen to it.

2 cats died at the park

1 cats taken to KCAS

1 cat in foster care

TOTAL CATS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 4

TOTAL DOGS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 3

Carol Lair

Matthew Howard

From: eddylaine@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 1:27 PM
To: oneilpedal4@gmail.com; wtcooper47@aol.com; kckuke@yahoo.com; mjdvargas@gmail.com; Matthew Howard; Carl Brewer; Geoffrey Hill; samonty@pacbell.net; harrylove1944@gmail.com; bell.margie@gmail.com; shabri970@gmail.com; Jeff Flores; mariapolite@gmail.com; carollair@yahoo.com; markcsalvaggio@yahoo.com; Mike Maggard; kernriverparkwayfoundation@gmail.com; Michael Herrera
Subject: Signage issues
Attachments: COMMENTS TO THE MARCH 16 PARKS COMMISSION.doc; NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 3 MEETING.doc; SECTION 13.16.020--B THROUGH H.doc

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is a follow-up to the e-mail from you last night regarding signage in the Riparian Preserve.

1. The December 4, 2021 e-mail (below) reviews the signage discussion held in the dirt parking lot near the southeast entrance to Hart Park on December 3. Again, you offered several suggestions. I referenced the Ordinance with regard to the requirements of signage (may have passed out a copy). Permit me to repeat those requirements here (sorry for the small print):

H.

The county shall post educational and instructional signs that shall be conspicuously visible along the boundaries of the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park as well as at access points, and that shall contain wording substantially in the manner and form as follows:

NOTICE: KERN RIVER RIPARIAN PRESERVE PARK . UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES, THE USE OF ANY FIREARMS, OPEN FIRES OF ANY KIND, OVERNIGHT CAMPING, SMOKING, LITTERING, MOLESTING AND DAMAGING FLORA AND FAUNA ARE ALL STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Kern County Ordinance Code [Section 13.16.020](#)

2. Please note the "post educational and instructional signs that shall be conspicuously visible along the boundaries..." and "shall contain wording substantially in the manner and form as follows" language. The sign posted last week reads, "Welcome to Kern County Kern River Riparian Park Preserve" with "Kern County "Parks" and "Park Open 5:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M." The only reference related to the Ordinance is "Please Help Keep The Park Clean." As such, this sign does not reflect the requirements of the Ordinance (I will send a picture of the sign by separate e-mail). Nor is the Ordinance referenced (as is often the practice with Kern County signs).

3. The issue of this Ordinance (including signage) was discussed in a meeting (I do not have notes) in the General Service conference room--perhaps a year to year and a half ago--maybe two years ago. Commissioner Chambers, Bill Cooper, Marion Vargas and Geoffrey Hill and I attended that meeting. And, the request for the Preserve originated with the Sierra Club with the strong support of the Kern River Parkway over four years ago.

4. Again, this primary purpose of the Preserve is to preserve the flora and fauna that is on the Preserve.

5. A separate, but closely related issue is the ability of the public to contact Kern County Rangers with issues of concern. This issue was discussed with regard to Hart Park issues (including the hills above Hart Park) at a meeting on November 3, 2021. Those notes are attached. There was extended discussion about **"the need for a single telephone number for reporting issues. It was suggested that signs be placed around Hart Park with that number to report problems/concerns (Harry Love's suggestion). Marion Vargas stressed the need to have someone who would answer the phone on a 24-hour basis—as well as the need for staff training."**

6. Another separate issue for possible discussion is having some signage in Spanish--given that many of those who enjoy the Preserve speak Spanish.

While the discussion November 3 of Hart Park discussion did not relate directly to the Riparian Preserve, it would seem to make sense to include that issue in discussions about additional signage in the Preserve. Especially in consideration on-going Commission discussions about the hills above Hart Park and the formation of a new Parks and Recreation Commission Committee to explore the possibility of naming trails above Hart Park. (I will include my comments about trail safety and the liability to Kern County at an attachment).

My suggestion is that you consider a meeting (possibly a separate meeting or follow-up meeting) about signage in the Riparian Preserve--and include the last two issues just noted. You might consider inviting those who attended the November 3 meeting.

I am including those who attended the November 3 meeting in this e-mail--and Mark Salvaggio (who Jeff Flores gave credit for advocating for graffiti removal equipment in that November 3 meeting).

And--thank you Rich for expediting this discussion.

-----Original Message-----

From: eddylaine@aol.com

To: floresjeff@kerncounty.com <floresjeff@kerncounty.com>

Cc: oneilpedal4@gmail.com <oneilpedal4@gmail.com>; wtcooper47@aol.com <wtcooper47@aol.com>

Sent: Sat, Dec 4, 2021 3:39 pm

Subject: Signage issues

A brief report on a signage issue meeting held yesterday afternoon at 1:00 P.M. in the dirt parking lot--northern end of the Riparian Preserve (guess that parking lot is getting pretty popular for meeting). Carl Brewer and Matt Howard and someone else (sorry--didn't get the name) from General Services met with us to discuss signage issues in the Riparian Preserve.

Some aspects of the meeting (which was informal--notes not in order of discussion):

1. Rich O'Neill provided several many examples of signs from Ventura County and Panorama Vista Preserve (and perhaps elsewhere). Some had kind of a single purpose (such as do not litter and signs about flora). Others signs included several "dos" and "don'ts. These examples (the signs were in color) were handed to Carl Brewer.

2. I gave Carl Brewer a copy of the Riparian Preserve Ordinance and meeting notes from the recent meeting which you held--highlighting signage issues. I mentioned that signage in Hart Park itself had been discussed during that meeting.

3. I asked that Carl Brewer send proposed signage around to us and other stakeholders before it is finalized.
4. Rich O'Neill suggested the possible use of pails and plastic bags for those who choose to defecate in well-used areas of the Preserve.
5. Rich O'Neill suggested that there be a restroom in or near the dirt parking lot. There was also discussion about the need for such a restroom in the Pyles Boys Camp Parking lot (the "other end" of the Preserve).
6. There was a discussion about trash and graffiti and illegal fires along the river. Carl Brewer indicated that his staff only looked at "hot spots" and was not currently walking the trails. He also indicated that he would have two additional staff hired to do clean-up work county-wide, but said that attention to this particular area would be quite limited--and only be in the context of county-wide efforts. Seemingly the Hart Park-Riparian Preserve area would be competing county-wide for attention (Note: we neglected to bring up the issue of the six new ranger positions authorized in this year's budget--not did we see a ranger presence.)
7. There was a brief discussion about the degradation of the hills above Hart Park--and the need to develop a plan to deal with access points (note: after the meeting Rich and I were talking and saw four or five motorized dirt bikes going on the dirt road along Alfred Harrell Highway toward the City Bike Path--such activity is illegal on the Bike Path and there was certainly a possibility that they were also headed to the hills above Hart Park).

Again--informal notes--wanted to keep you in the loop. Share as you believe these notes might be useful.

Eddy Laine

MARCH 16, 2022 COMMENTS TO THE PARKS COMMISSION
ISSUE—THE HILLS ABOVE HART PARK

These comments are regarding the hills above Hart Park. These have been the subject of considerable discussion during many meetings of and recommendations from the Hart Park Working Group as well as a front page article on May 6, 2021 in *The Californian* (titled “A habitat languishes.”) There was also a meeting a year ago involving the City of Bakersfield, the BLM, State Fish and Wildlife and the County of Kern. There was a need for further collaboration—which has not occurred.

Now there are further discussions—at this point about naming trails. Having been a volunteer ranger at the Dinkey Creek Ranger Station from May to September in 2013 and Huntington Lake in 2018, worked for a non-profit in the busy Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park in the summer of 2014 and worked in Mt. Rainier National Park during the summers of 2015, 2016 and 2017, my experience is that trail conditions and information about trails is of critical importance to visitors. The first priority of the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service is the safety of those using the trails. This needs to be the first priority of the County of Kern.

Unlike hazardous, unsafe trail conditions in portions of the Multi-Use Trail between the grassy area of Hart Park and the Kern River, the trail conditions in the hills above Hart Park are appropriate for bicycle and hiking. However, trails above Hart Park are not safe because of illegal Off Road Vehicle usage.

There is no signage for visitors to report incidents such as I recorded last Thursday and sent to staff and many others (without a response). Again, the issue of the need for a phone number to call to report problems has been repeatedly discussed at meetings—one including staff from Supervisor Maggard’s office. On February 6 when I attempted to report an ORV in the same location as last Thursday I called 911. I told the operation where I was and he switched to a city operator. That operator hung up on me.

Without the ability to report unsafe behavior and without vigilant, daily enforcement of ordinances prohibiting this illegal behavior it will continue. As will the continuing liability exposure to Kern County. Should a hiker or bicyclist get injured by illegal ORV activity Kern County would be the responsible party.

My experience both in the National Park Service and National Forest Service is that unsafe trails were closed.

Issues of trail safety including signage indicating how to contact rangers, a clear written procedure for handling complaints including follow-up contact with those making complaints and the use of bollards as in Kern County’s Riparian Preserve need to be implemented and addressed prior to naming trails which are currently not safe.

Eddy Laine

NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2021 MEETING

This meeting was convened and chaired by Jeff Flores, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Mike Maggard—at the request of Third District Parks and Recreation Commission Kathleen Chambers.

Those present included: Jeff Flores, Kathleen Chambers, Michael Herrera, Third District Field Representative, Sharon Briel, Sierra Club, Carol Lair, Cat People, Stephen Montgomery, Sierra Club, Bill Cooper, Kern River Parkway Foundation, Harry Love, Audubon of Kern, David Schaad, Audubon of Kern, Marion Vargas, Community Member-at-large, Margie Bell, Sierra Club and Eddy Laine, Sierra Club.

What follows are brief summary notes of some of the issues discussed. These notes are not intended to be formal minutes or comprehensive.

These issues discussed initially generally followed issues identified in a September 22 meeting and walk in the western portion of the Kern River Parkway Riparian Preserve and a separate meeting which included Jeff Flores, Supervisor Maggard and Kern County General Services staff.

Jeff Flores reported:

1. Clean-up efforts (one major priority). Jeff Flores spoke of the clean-up crew from the Homeless Shelter which did major clean-up work in the area visited on September 22.
2. Access points from Alfred Harrell Highway to the dirt parking lot and bike path are to be closed using heavy grade grating.
3. General Services does not intend to close the dirt parking lot.
4. New bollards are to be installed on the bike path to limit vehicle access.
5. Four new rangers/officers are being hired (which will impact ranger presence along the Kern River Parkway).
6. In Hart Park a gate will be installed at the Sheriff's Shooting Range to limit access by ORV's.
7. Thanks to a suggestion by Mark Salvaggio, General Service has purchased equipment to remove graffiti on trees.

The discussion moved on to other related issues.

There was a brief discussion about the need for signage with reference to the Ordinance which created the Riparian Preserve. The Ordinance requires "wording substantially in

the manner and form as: Kern River Riparian Preserve Park. Unauthorized vehicles, the use of any firearms, open fires of any kind, overnight camping, smoking, littering, molesting and damaging flora and fauna are all strictly prohibited.” It was noted that such signage does not exist.

Eddy Laine provided recent pictures taken of the Riparian Preserve. There were comments about pictures showing the hazardous conditions on the Equestrian Trail in Hart Park. There was also discussion about possibly flagging trees that have graffiti on them for graffiti removal. Harry Love suggested using yellow tape.

There was an extended discussion with many participants and consensus about the need to develop a formal protocol for reporting graffiti and litter and other issues.

Carol Liar indicated that Sergeant Denton had told her that no rangers were on duty in Hart Park on Mondays and Tuesdays. She had specific information which she needed to report to a ranger, but could not find a ranger at Hart Park on Wednesday. Her basic concern: the lack of enforcement and the need for more ranger presence. She noted that people are dumping cats, but that she cannot report them because of this lack of ranger presence.

Discussion continued about reporting—specifically about the need for a single telephone number for reporting issues. It was suggested that signs be placed around Hart Park with that number to report problems/concerns (Harry Love’s suggestion). Marion Vargas stressed the need to have someone who would answer the phone on a 24-hour basis—as well as the need for staff training.

Discussion continued about the need for a direct number (one suggestion: 912). Another concern was whether the use of rangers at the County Administrative Building instead of in parks was a good use of ranger time and talent (Stephen Montgomery). Another suggestion: adding an app for reporting. And, after a working number is established Marion Vargas suggested doing public service announcements about it—using the “if you see something say something” pro-active approach to problems in parks.

Sharon Briel brought up the issue of ORV access to the Riparian Preserve using the City of Bakersfield’s Bike Path near the soccer fields. Eddy Laine indicated that there are no gates or fences to prevent such access near the newly installed AT and T tower.

The issue of the degradation of the hills above Hart Park was briefly discussed. Bill Cooper noted that there is no control of motorized vehicle access to the hills. He indicated that at one point Sergeant Denton had been asked about the use of drones and indicated that there was a plan to do so, but that there had been no follow-up.

With regard to parking lot issues, Steve Montgomery suggested careful planning—with dividers in parking lots and barriers to limit erratic driving.

There was discussion about another walk. Wednesday, November 17 was selected at the date—again—at 9:00 A.M. It was agreed that those present would go further than during the last walk for a look at a different segment of the Riparian Preserve.

Eddy Laine suggested that the previous suggestion of River Partners (the non-profit organization that has been so helpful with Panorama Vista Preserve) be placed on the agenda as an organization for future work to restore and protect the Riparian Preserve.

Margie Bell spoke about the importance of parks to the general sense of the health and well-being of the community.

Jeff Flores and Kathleen Chambers thanked all present for a productive meeting.

Notes by Eddy Laine

FROM KERN COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE Section 13.16.020

(selected portions underlined)

B.

The intent of this section is for the county to operate and maintain the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park in such a manner that is consistent with the existing Kern River Plan Element and Kern River Specific Trails Plan. Further, it is to protect the natural resource of the lower Kern riparian area for the use and enjoyment of future generations, while providing for compatible passive uses that will not adversely affect the riparian resource along the river.

C.

The county shall operate the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park in such a manner as to preserve the existing natural conditions, including flora and fauna to the extent feasible, to promote education and community use, and provide opportunities for studies, research, and observation of wildlife.

D.

This area shall provide for preservation of native plants, wildlife, and cultural resources of the river area and provide a means of access to the Kern River for public use and enjoyment. Improvements for access, such as trails, parking areas, and existing facilities shall be allowed as long as adverse effects on riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat are minimized.

E.

Recreational uses which require minimum physical development shall be encouraged as long as public health and safety are not put at risk. Such uses would include, but are not limited to, fishing access, viewing area access, hiking/walking/jogging, equestrian access/riding, dog walking on leash, picnicking, use by educational groups, riparian resource (flora/fauna), and bicycle riding (Class I path).

F.

It is unlawful to operate motorized vehicles and off-road vehicles, unless authorized, at the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park. Other uses prohibited and inconsistent with resource protection and passive recreation are, but not limited to weapons use of any kind, unauthorized "take" or molesting or harming any flora or fauna, fires of any kind, smoking, overnight camping, dumping or littering.

Anyone violating the provisions of this subsection may be guilty of a misdemeanor or administrative violation and subject to appropriate penalties.

G.

Access for maintenance, construction, authorized vehicles, equipment, and operations is allowed.

H.

The county shall post educational and instructional signs that shall be conspicuously visible along the boundaries of the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park as well as at access points, and that shall contain wording substantially in the manner and form as follows:

NOTICE: KERN RIVER RIPARIAN PRESERVE PARK. UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES, THE USE OF ANY FIREARMS, OPEN FIRES OF ANY KIND, OVERNIGHT CAMPING, SMOKING, LITTERING, MOLESTING AND DAMAGING FLORA AND FAUNA ARE ALL STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
Kern County Ordinance Code [Section 13.16.020](#)

Matthew Howard

From: eddylaine@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Carl Brewer; oneilpedal4@gmail.com; wtcooper47@aol.com; samonty@pacbell.net; bell.margie@gmail.com; kckuke@yahoo.com; mjdvargas@gmail.com; Jeff Flores; Michael Herrera; Mike Maggard; Geoffrey Hill; harrylove1944@gmail.com; carollair@yahoo.com; davidws@pacbell.net; mariapolite@gmail.com; miseman@sbcglobal.net; anngallon44@gmail.com; info@whitewolfwellness.org; Matthew Howard
Subject: Sierra Club Signage Recommendations
Attachments: April 5, 2022 Letter About Signage.doc; SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING THE DEGRATION OF THE HILLS ABOVE HART PARK AND THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS RESERVE--TWO PAGES.doc; BRIEF NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 3 MEETING.doc

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Several signage recommendations are included in the attached April 5, 2022 letter from the Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter (will be delivered tomorrow). These relate to the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission Committee regarding signage for trails as well as several other discussions during the last several months involving many interested individuals and organizations (including a November 3, 2021 meeting with Jeff Flores, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Mike Maggard). These recommendations incorporate suggestions from many individuals who have attended these meetings (Marion Vargas, Maria Polite, Steve Montgomery, Harry Love and others).

There has also been recent collaboration with the Kern River Parkway Foundation regarding these recommendations.

Eddy Laine, Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter



April 5, 2022

Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA. 93301

Dear Members of the Commission:

This is written regarding Kern County signage issues in the Kern River Parkway—in both Hart Park and in the Kern River Riparian Preserve. At your Commission's March 16, 2022 meeting the issue of signage and naming signs for trails above Hart Park was discussed—with a committee formed.

With regard to the hills above Hart Park, public safety on these trails needs to be the first priority. As discussed last year in a meeting including representatives of the City of Bakersfield, the Bureau of Land Management and California Fish and Wildlife, the development of a collaborative approach and effort (a written plan) to address ORV and dirt bike (motorized) use of these trails is needed. Included with this letter are notes from that meeting ("Special Meeting Regarding the Degradation of the Hills above Hart Park and the Bakersfield Cactus Reserve"—dated May 3, 2021).

We would take this opportunity to make the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that further collaboration and a written plan needs to precede formalizing the naming of trails in these hills.

Also with regard to the hills above Hart Park, aside from public safety (the first priority) ORV and dirt bike access has degraded hills in violation of Kern County Ordinance Chapter 19.73.110, page 391 which requires that "native vegetation . . . remain undisturbed." That would include the sparse native vegetation throughout this area. It appears as if this Ordinance is not being enforced. A related relevant Southern San Joaquin Valley Air Resource Board Statute is Rule 8011, Section 3.11 (adopted November 15, 2001 and amended August 19, 2004) which defines disturbing a surface area as follows, "an area in which naturally occurring soils, or soils or other materials placed thereon, have been physically moved, uncovered, destabilized, or otherwise modified . . ." Again, it appears as if this Statute is not being enforcement.

2. We recommend that a resource management plan be developed for these hills above Hart Park by Kern County in collaboration with the previously noted public agencies.

An issue related trail naming which can be addressed without trail naming is the issue of signage in Hart Park. There was considerable discussion about the need for such signage at a meeting called by Third District Supervisor Mike Maggard's Chief of Staff Jeff Flores on November 3, 2021. Signage-related recommendations which were voiced during that meeting included two that we are naming here:

3. We recommend that there be a single telephone number for reporting issues of concern to Kern County rangers for visitors to Hart Park—and that such signs be posted in various locations throughout Hart Park and to include entry points for those walk in the hills above Hart Park. (Note: this recommendation was from Harry Love of Audubon at the November 3, 2021 meeting).

4. We recommend that someone be available to answer this number on a 24-hour basis—as well as staff training of/for those answering the phone. (Note: this recommendation was from Marion Vargas at the November 3, 2021 meeting).

5. We further recommendation that these two recommendations (signage with a single telephone number for reporting issues of concern and the availability of someone to answer the phone on a 24-hour basis) extent to the adjacent Kern River Riparian Preserve Park.

Somewhat related to the last issue, the Sierra Club's Maria Polite recently reported that there has been indiscriminate shooting (as if in a shooting range) in the hills above Hart Park and that Bakersfield Police Department vehicles have been sighted patrolling the hills in response to one of more complaints about this shooting. She added that this shooting seemed to be related to Off Road Vehicles which were camped overnight on the hills above Hart Park.

6. We recommend that signage near the hills above Hart Park expressly include the prohibition of shooting.

Trail naming for the "social trails" (meaning not formally presently identified) going up the hills above Hart Park would need to be included in the Kern County-adopted Kern River Specific Trails Plan. That Plan as well as the Kern River Plan Element of the Kern County General Plan would be relevant for trail development/naming efforts.

We believe it will be necessary to do biological studies and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before any trails are formally adopted and named. Previous studies in this area have shown the presence of the kit fox, blunt nose lizard and borrowing owl. In addition, in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (including those which identify mitigating environmental impacts) would need to be reviewed regarding any proposal.

7. We recommend that there be a careful review of the Kern River Specific Trails Plan and Kern River Element of the Kern County General Plan especially as they relate to possible Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impacts as they relate to the formal development and naming of new trails.

8. We recommend that your Commission's work also include signage issues in the Kern River Riparian Preserve (which adjoins Hart Park) as several of the issues are similar.

With regard to signage in the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park, the Ordinance creating the Preserve which deals with signage states, "The County shall post educational and instructional signs that shall be conspicuously visible along the boundaries of the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park as well as access points, and that shall contain wording substantially in the manner and form as follows: NOTICE; KERN RIVER RIPARIAN PRESERVE PARK. UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES, THE USE OF FIREARMS, OPEN FIRES OF ANY KIND, OVERNIGHT CAMPING, SMOKING, LITTERING, MOLESTING OR DAMAGING FLORA AND FAUNA ARE ALL STRICTLY PROHIBITED." This language is in Kern County Ordinance Code Section 13.16.020.

Recently Kern county staff placed one sign near the Pyles Boys Camp Overflow Parking Lot. That sign reads, "Kern Welcome to Kern County Kern River Riparian Park Preserve" with "Kern County Parks" and "Park Open 5:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M." The only reference related to the Ordinance which created the Preserve is "Please Help Keep The Park Clean." As such, this sign does not reflect the requirements of the Ordinance. Nor is the Ordinance referenced (as is often the practice with Kern County signs).

9. We recommend that signage requirements in the Ordinance creating the Kern River Parkway Preserve Park need to be reflected in new signage "along the boundaries" and "as well at access points."

With regard to signage in the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park, Rich O'Neill of the Kern River Parkway Foundation recently pointed out that some additional signage in Spanish (example: "No Molestar") would also be helpful given the significant percentage of Latino/Latina visitors to the Preserve.

10. We recommend that some additional signage in the Kern River Parkway Preserve Park in Spanish be considered "along the boundaries" and "as well at access points" to the Kern River Riparian Preserve Park.

This letter was authorized by the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter on April 2, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eddy Laine, Member, Executive Committee

cc: Kern County Board of Supervisors
Kern River Parkway Foundation

Enclosure: Notes from Special Meeting Regarding the Degradation of the Hills above
Hart Park and the Bakersfield Cactus Reserve—dated May 3, 2021

BRIEF NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2021 MEETING

This meeting was convened and chaired by Jeff Flores, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Mike Maggard—at the request of Third District Parks and Recreation Commission Kathleen Chambers.

Those present included: Jeff Flores, Kathleen Chambers, Michael Herrera, Third District Field Representative, Sharon Briel, Sierra Club, Carol Lair, Cat People, Stephen Montgomery, Sierra Club, Bill Cooper, Kern River Parkway Foundation, Harry Love, Audubon of Kern, David Schaad, Audubon of Kern, Marion Vargas, Community Activist, Margie Bell, Sierra Club and Eddy Laine, Sierra Club.

What follows are brief summary notes of some of the issues discussed. These notes are not intended to be formal minutes or comprehensive.

These issues discussed initially generally followed issues identified in a September 22 meeting and walk in the northern portion of the Kern River Parkway Riparian Preserve and a separate meeting which included Jeff Flores, Supervisor Maggard and Kern County General Services staff.

Jeff Flores reported:

- 1. Clean-up efforts (one major priority). Jeff Flores spoke of the clean-up crew from the Homeless Shelter which did major clean-up work in the area visited on September 22.**
- 2. Access points from Alfred Harrell Highway to the dirt parking lot and bike path are to be closed using heavy grade grating.**
- 3. General Services does not intent to close the dirt parking lot.**
- 4. New bollards are to be installed on the bike path to limit vehicle access.**
- 5. Four new rangers/officers are being hired (which will impact ranger presence along the Kern River Parkway).**
- 6. In Hart Park a gate will be installed at the Sheriff's Shooting Range to limit access by ORV's.**
- 7. Thanks to a suggestion by Mark Salvaggio, General Service has purchased equipment to remove graffiti on trees.**

The discussion moved on to other related issues.

There was a brief discussion about the need for signage with reference to the Ordinance which created the Riparian Preserve. The Ordinance requires “wording substantially in the manner and form as: Kern River Riparian Preserve Park. Unauthorized vehicles, the use of any firearms, open fires of any kind, overnight camping, smoking, littering, molesting and damaging flora and fauna are all strictly prohibited.” It was noted that such signage does not exist.

Eddy Laine provided recent pictures taken of the Riparian Preserve. There were comments about pictures showing the hazardous conditions on the Equestrian Trail in Hart Park. There was also discussion about possibly flagging trees that have graffiti on them for graffiti removal. Harry Love suggested using yellow tape.

There was an extended discussion with many participants and consensus about the need to develop a formal protocol for reporting graffiti and litter and other issues.

Carol Liar indicated that Sergeant Denton had told her that no rangers were on duty in Hart Park on Mondays and Tuesdays. She had specific information which she needed to report to a ranger, but could not find a ranger at Hart Park on Wednesday. Her basic concern: the lack of enforcement and the need for more ranger presence. She noted that people are dumping cats, but that she cannot report them because of this lack of ranger presence.

Discussion continued about reporting—specifically about the need for a single telephone number for reporting issues. It was suggested that signs be placed around Hart Park with that number to report problems/concerns (Harry Love’s suggestion). Marion Vargas stressed the need to have someone who would answer the phone on a 24-hour basis—as well as the need for staff training.

Discussion continued about the need for a direct number (one suggestion: 912). Another concern was whether the use of rangers at the County Administrative Building instead of in parks was a good use of ranger time and talent (Stephen Montgomery). Another suggestion: adding an app for reporting. And, after a working number is established Marion Vargas suggested doing public service announcements about it—using the “if you see something say something” pro-active approach to problems in parks.

Sharon Briel brought up the issue of ORV access to the Riparian Preserve using the City of Bakersfield’s Bike Path near the soccer fields. Eddy Laine indicated that there are no gates or fences to prevent such access near the newly installed AT and T tower.

The issue of the degradation of the hills above Hart Park was briefly discussed. Bill Cooper noted that there is no control of motorized vehicle access to the hills. He indicated that at one point Sergeant Denton had been asked about the use of drones and indicated that there was a plan to do so, but that there had been no follow-up.

With regard to parking lot issues, Steve Montgomery suggested careful planning—with dividers in parking lots and barriers to limit erratic driving.

There was discussion about another walk. Wednesday, November 17 was selected at the date—again—at 9:00 A.M. It was agreed that those present would go further than during the last walk for a look at a different segment of the Riparian Preserve.

Eddy Laine suggested that the previous suggestion of River Partners (the non-profit organization that has been so helpful with Panorama Vista Preserve) be placed on the agenda as an organization for future work to restore and protect the Riparian Preserve.

Margie Bell spoke about the importance of parks to the general sense of the health and well-being of the community.

Jeff Flores and Kathleen Chambers thanked all present for a productive meeting.

Notes by Eddy Laine (with assistance from Marion Vargas)



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Staff
Report(s)



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

New/Unfinished/
Other Business



Kern County

Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Comments



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Adjournment