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Dear (Name)

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation has planned a park called the Bonsall Community Park. It is in the middle of the San Luis Rey River Park. Bonsall Community Park shares a boundary with the San Luis Rey River Park’s historical trail from Oceanside to RT15, 18 miles round trip.

The Equestrian Community has had many meetings with DPR requesting a Equestrian Staging Area in Bonsall Community Park. We have met with the Fallbrook Planning Group and the Bonsall Community Sponsor Group both of which are supportive of horses in the park, equestrian staging for our rigs, along with other amenities.

The Community Outreach for the Bonsall Community Park was flawed; it did not include the main user & focus groups in the area. Community Outreach took place during Covid, final concept in November of 2020. The Bonsall Community Park is in the center of SLRRP’s historical 18-mile round trip trail. Community interest includes citizens from Oceanside to RT15 and North into Fallbrook.

DPR has a final plan for the Bonsall Community Park, accommodating every user group but equestrians as they do not include an equestrian staging area.

The project has gone out to bid for phase one. The community has been informed that funding is limited, and some of the Bonsall Community Park will not be completed: the dog park, skate park, and bike park in particular. That leaves space for Equestrian Staging and other low cost amenities that the equestrian community needs to safely and comfortably ride the San Luis Rey historical trail. Note: Most Equestrians will not want to ride for 18 miles in one day. They will require access to water and a restroom. A staging area in the middle of the trail system is important for both equestrian & equine. Current plans will need to be modified.

We need the following amenities provided for the large Equestrian Community in this area.

Equestrian Only Parking, a safer alternative to parking on the street or using the School or Church's parking lots. This parking area needs to be DG not paved.

A few hitching posts

Access to running water for the horses

Corrals 12 x 12

A few Picnic tables

Access to Restrooms

Round Pen

Equestrian Arena at least 120 feet by 250 feet

Walnut Grove Park is a good example of a park that includes active sports an

Equestrian use. Santa Margarita County Preserve is a good example of equestrian parking.

Sincerely,

(name)

Dear Supervisor ,

The County Parks and Recreation Department (DPR) is currently out to bid on creating the Bonsall Community Park. Bonsall is a very large equestrian community encompassing many large horse ranches, boarding facilities, roping arenas, a training race track, a breeding farm, equestrian HOAs, a livestock Feed store, Horse trainers, Horse Clubs, and even a Polo Field with boarding.

Some horseback riders access the trails along the San Luis Rey Riverbed, but most residents cannot take advantage of this great resource, because there is no way to get the horses to that location. We have trailers, but nowhere to park them (although now, people are trying to squeeze into the local church, school, neighborhood, and community center parking spaces).

When community input for the park use was offered, it was not widely distributed. Later, when the final plans were shown for a highly active baseball, skate/bike, soccer, tennis, basketball and dog park, residents were told by County personnel that the park was going to be too active for horse trailer staging, and that two other areas were planned for that.

Well, this was initially accepted as the park construction was imminent, but after a 3-year delay, we realized that it might be another 10 years before we ever see a staging area, and that is just unacceptable. There was also another designated area for one that was closed off recently. The trails plan is already 14 years old, and to be the only group excluded from the park amenities makes no sense considering our status. Many equestrians have attended DPR meetings, written letters, have the Bonsall Planning Group’s support, and have made phone calls to County personnel with no headway into changing any of the planned park spaces into a staging area.

With today’s building costs, this is also the most cost effective activity area that can be had. We could easily replace the dog park or skate park areas to be close by the trails and away from high sports traffic. At minimum, we need a dirt (DG) parking lot, portable toilets, and running water. We would appreciate a few more amenities similar to what is at the Santa Margarita Trails parking area such as a few picnic tables, corrals, hitching posts, and possibly an arena area if that is possible. Horseback riding is an active sport in the sense that people rarely go alone. Riders are organized in posses, clubs, training barn groups, mounted police/sheriff units, etc. and a time is set for departure, often with a training function in mind.

 Please help us to realize this important change to the Bonsall Park plans for our community and our adjacent rural neighbors. It is now more difficult to trailer to other locations due to the increased traffic congestion, and there should be no need when we have such a fantastic County trail system right here.