

LBHA Report - Victory for New Trails at Hidden Falls

The Placer County Parks Commission voted 5-0 in favor of using \$305,000 in park dedication fees to expand the trail system for Hidden Falls Regional Park. The monthly meeting was held in Auburn on Tuesday evening, April 13. About 120 concerned citizens packed the room, with many dozen late-arrivals standing outside in the lobby. The Parks Commission sent this recommendation forward to the Placer County Board of Supervisors who will make the actual vote. These park fees were prepaid by developers who built and sold new homes in Placer County (principally large housing tracts in Rocklin, Lincoln, and western Roseville).

The Placer County Parks Commission meeting began with an excellent Powerpoint presentation by Andy Fisher, Senior Planner for Placer County Parks. He used a combination of long-range objectives, budget tables, and photographs of trails within Hidden Falls. He provided a 3-phase schedule for Hidden Falls: recently completed trails, newly planned trails (14 miles of new trail and 10 miles of rehabilitated ranch roads converted to trails), and long-term development of 961-acre Spears Ranch with 3 new equestrian-width long-span truss bridges across Coon Creek and 20 new horse-parking stalls.



LBHA members were notified of this meeting and several dozen of our members showed-up for the public testimony. The ***Auburn Journal*** newspaper carried a front-page story on Tuesday, April 13th, so several dozen citizens attended to support new trails in Hidden Falls Regional Park.

Our LBHA board of directors sent a formal letter of support several weeks ago to the Placer County Parks Commission, and our timely letter signed by President Denise Howell was in the packets for Parks Commissioners prior to the public hearing.

About two dozen citizens provided public testimony (limited by a 3-minute timer). Public comment included Action Coalition *for* Equestrians Executive Director, Jaede Miloslavich, LBHA (Robert Sydnor, trails committee); Western States Trail Foundation

(Jerry Scribner, Tevis president); Gold Country Trails Council; Backcountry Horsemen of California, and various independent equestrians. A number of athletic senior citizens from the Sun City Hiking group in Lincoln also provided favorable testimony for more trails. This group does a lot of trail work at Hidden Falls. The entire hearing room applauded the LBHA presentation for more trails at Hidden Falls, and this applause was repeated for Jaede Milosavich of ACE.



But we horsemen should *not take anything for granted* on this favorable 5-0 vote of the Parks Commission. LBHA members are strongly encouraged to write individual letters of support for Hidden Falls to the Placer County Board of Supervisor prior to the *actual* vote a few weeks from now. Our LBHA Board of Directors will again write a letter, but individual letters from horsemen are *also needed* to show widespread grassroots support for Hidden Falls trails.

For most LBHA members, here are your Placer County Supervisors: Letters may be sent by e-mail, fax or regular mail. As soon as we have a date for the hearing with the Board of Supervisors, we will let everyone know.

Supervisor [F. C. "Rocky" Rockholm](#), District 1, residing in Roseville

Supervisor [Robert Weygandt](#), District 2, Current Vice Chair, residing in Lincoln

Supervisor [Jim Holmes](#), District 3, residing in Auburn

Supervisor [Kirk Uhler](#), District 4, Current Board Chair, residing in Granite Bay

Supervisor [Jennifer Montgomery](#), District 5, residing in Serene Lakes

Placer County Board of Supervisors, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603

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LBHA 3/11/2010