

RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2008

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: General Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Letter in Support of Assembly Bill 1842 Proposed by
Assemblyman Cameron Smyth Regarding Creation of the Santa
Susana State Park Joint Powers Authority

SUMMARY

The District recently received the attached correspondence from Assemblyman Cameron Smyth's representative, which requests a letter from the District in support of Assembly Bill 1842. A summary of what this bill seeks to accomplish is attached together with a copy of the draft bill. Essentially it seeks to form a JPA with agencies in the area. The stated purpose of the JPA is to form a state park, create a master plan and develop a strategy to phase in the recreational use of the Boeing and adjacent properties (that may be acquired). The Board should consider whether or not a letter in support of this Assembly Bill is appropriate.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Consider a letter in support of AB 1842.



Larry Peterson
General Manager



Larry Peterson

From: O'Neill, Kevin [Kevin.O'Neill@asm.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2008 1:50 PM
To: larry@rsrpd.us
Subject: AB 1842 (Smyth) - Santa Susana State Park

Hi Larry - I wanted to let you know that we have introduced the Santa Susana State Park JPA legislation - it is AB 1842. It is pretty much exactly the same language you saw at our meeting at the park district in early December, with a few minor tweaks. Important changes include:

* Requiring that the representative appointed to the JPA from the cities of Simi and LA and the Counties of Ventura and LA must be from the council/supervisor district that the park will actually be located in. This assures that the elected representative whose district will be most affected by the park will have a clear role in shaping the park.

* Making it absolutely clear that JPA will assume no liability for any pollution on the site.

* Develop a strategy to preserve viable historical artifacts located on the property that highlights the significance of this site to CA history. Specifically, this includes any cave paintings by indigenous people found at the site as well as facilities used to support the U.S. space program, etc.

We're looking to generate support letters for the bill. I've attached a link to the bill language as well as a background sheet - would it be possible to get a support letter from the park district?

Please call either Jarrod or me if you have questions.

Thanks Larry.

<<AB 1842 - Santa Susana JPA - Background.doc>>

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ak_1801-1850/ab_1842_bill_2

Kevin O'Neill

Chief of Staff

Assemblyman Cameron Smyth

916.319.2038 (p)

916.319.2138 (f)

2/5/2008

AB 1842 (SMYTH)
Santa Susana State Park JPA

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- Establishes the Santa Susana State Park Joint Powers Authority (SSSPJPA), which will include:
 - The Department of Parks and Recreation
 - The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
 - The City of Los Angeles
 - The County of Los Angeles
 - The city of Simi Valley
 - The County of Ventura
 - The Rancho Simi Recreation District
- The primary purpose of the SSSPJPA will be to form the Santa Susana State Park and will assume the following tasks in order to fulfill that goal:
 - Create a master plan for the incorporation of the Field Lab property as well as parcels that surround that property, both in Ventura and Los Angeles counties, into a new state park.
 - Include in the master plan the construction of hiking, biking, and horse trails, picnic areas, educational exhibits, interpretative structures, and restroom facilities.
 - Develop a strategy to preserve viable historical artifacts located on the property that highlights the significance of this site to CA history. Specifically, this includes any cave paintings by indigenous people found at the site as well as facilities used to support the U.S. space program, etc.
 - Develop a strategy to phase in different parcels of the park for public use until the entire park is open.
 - Given that the clean-up of the Field Lab will take some time, this strategy will allow parcels surrounding the Field Lab to be immediately accessible to the public.

THE BENEFITS:

- A new state park that incorporates the field lab property will preserve thousands of acres of open space while forever putting to rest the question of whether the property will be developed into a residential community.
- A state park is the only way to help ensure that the historical artifacts, most significantly the cave paintings, are preserved for future generations.
- Open space in the Ventura and Los Angeles area is at a premium – a new state park will give the region a much needed outlet for recreational opportunities.
- A state park will be a great asset to the region, creating a natural jewel for the surrounding communities and positively impacting area property values.
- The JPA will give local communities equal say in the development of this park.
- A new state park in the region will be our legacy for future generations.

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1842

Introduced by Assembly Member Smyth

January 28, 2008

An act to add Article 3.3 (commencing with Section 5035) to Chapter 1 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to parks.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1842, as introduced, Smyth. Santa Susana State Park.

Existing law authorizes 2 or more public agencies, if authorized by their legislative or other governing bodies, to enter into an agreement to jointly exercise any power common to the contracting parties. Existing law requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to operate, manage, and maintain units of the state park system.

This bill would authorize the formation of a joint powers entity, the Santa Susana State Park Joint Powers Authority (SSSPJPA), to be composed of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, the County of Los Angeles, the County of Ventura, the City of Los Angeles, and the City of Simi Valley. The authority would be authorized to establish the Santa Susana State Park in Ventura County.

The bill would establish that the SSSPJPA would not assume any responsibility or liability for costs associated with the necessary cleanup of pollution or remediation of other environmental problems that exist as of January 1, 2009, or that may thereafter arise, on any property acquired for the Santa Susana State Park using state funds.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 3.3 (commencing with Section 5035) is
2 added to Chapter 1 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code,
3 to read:

4

5

Article 3.3. Santa Susana State Park

6

7

8

9

10

5035. (a) The following entities may create the Santa Susana
State Park Joint Powers Authority (SSSPJPA) pursuant to Chapter
5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the
Government Code:

11

(1) Department of Parks and Recreation.

12

(2) Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

13

(3) Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

14

(4) County of Los Angeles.

15

(5) County of Ventura.

16

(6) City of Los Angeles.

17

(7) City of Simi Valley.

18

(b) The purpose of the SSSPJPA is to establish the Santa Susana
State Park in Ventura County.

19

20

21

22

23

(c) A member of the SSSPJPA from the city of Los Angeles or
Simi Valley or the county of Los Angeles or Ventura shall be an
elected representative of the district where the park is to be located
or that elected representative's designee.

24

5035.3. In developing the Santa Susana State Park, the
SSSPJPA shall do all of the following:

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

(a) Incorporate the geographical territory known as the Santa
Susana Field Laboratory in Ventura County, including all of the
property owned by the Boeing Corporation.

(b) Incorporate neighboring parcels.

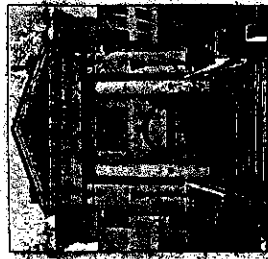
(c) Include in the master plan the construction of hiking, biking,
and horse trails, picnic areas, educational exhibits, interpretative
structures, and restroom facilities.

(d) Include in the master plan a strategy to preserve any viable
historical artifacts to document the historical significance of the
Santa Susana Field Laboratory site.

(e) Phase in different parcels of the park for use by the public
until every parcel is open as a completed park. Each parcel phased
in shall be accessible to the public and ready to operate on the date

1 by which the phase-in occurs. The first phase-in shall occur no
2 later than 10 months after the formation of the SSSPJPA. Each
3 subsequent phase-in shall occur no later than 12 months after the
4 prior phase-in, until the park is completed.

5 5035.4. The SSSPJPA shall not assume responsibility or
6 liability for costs associated with the necessary cleanup of pollution
7 or remediation of other environmental problems that exist as of
8 January 1, 2009, or that may thereafter arise, on any property
9 acquired for the Santa Susana State Park using state funds.



STAR
Simi Valley
 www.VenturaCountyStar.com

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008

Senior Editor: Marty Bonvechio, 437-0254; mbonvechio@VenturaCountyStar.com

'Santa Susana Park' authority proposed

Lawmaker envisions joining lab land with neighboring parcels

By Teresa Rochester
tr Rochester@VenturaCountyStar.com

A vision for a state park at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory does not end at the site's borders but extends to surrounding land in the hills south of Simi Valley.

"The property that Boeing owns is one piece of a much larger park," said Kevin O'Neill, chief of staff for Assemblyman Cameron Smyth, R-

Santa Clarita. "It has the potential to be upwards of 30,000 acres."

Smyth introduced legislation last week that would create a joint powers authority to establish "Santa Susana State Park."

The joint powers authority would include the state parks department, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, the counties of Ventura and Los Angeles and the cities of Simi Valley and Los Angeles.

"We thought it was important all the stakeholders had a place at the table so we can really make this a tremendous asset for the entire re-

gion," Smyth said. The authority would be responsible for incorporating the 2,850-acre former rocket engine and nuclear site and neighboring parcels into one park.

Last year, Boeing agreed to give the state \$750,000 a year for 30 years for the maintenance and operation of the open space. Boeing also agreed to pay for the cleanup of chemical and radiological contamination that occurred at the lab.

The joint powers authority would also be required to outline a strategy in the park's master plan for the construction of hiking, biking and horse

trails; picnic areas; educational exhibits; and restrooms. Historical artifacts would also be preserved.

Different parcels of land would be phased in for public use, starting with surrounding, noncontaminated areas. The first parcel would be phased in no later than 10 months after the formation of the joint powers authority, with each subsequent phase-in taking place no later than every 12 months until the park is complete, according to the bill.

The first portions of the Field Laboratory will not be cleaned and ready for public use for about a decade. The other pieces of land could

be incorporated into the park as the Field Lab is cleaned. Some of those parcels are owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the state and private owners, O'Neill said.

The legislation does not include funding.

The state parks department, like other agencies, is facing budget cuts. Smyth said there are things the joint powers authority could do before funding is attached, including starting the master plan.

"We really feel there is a vision here for the future," O'Neill said. "We don't want it to lose steam."