

RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
SUBJECT: Follow Up from the January 14, 2021 Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee Meeting, Including Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Oak Canyon Community Park / Medea Creek Streambed and Youth Involvement in the Oak Park Committee – Verbal Report – **Supplemental Information #1**

Attached for your review please find correspondence received regarding Agenda Item 9a.



Dan Paranick
District Manager

January 13, 2021

To: Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Committee

From: Manjunath Venkat, Biologist & Resident of Oak Park
e-mail: Venkamani1202@yahoo.com

Subject: **Ecological Concerns About Oak Canyon Park**

On January 9, 2021, Oak Park resident Janna Orkney and I took a hike through the Oak Canyon Park. The purpose of the hike was to examine the recent removal/trimming of trees conducted by the Goodwill crew. In discussion with the tree crew during my hike previously, I was informed that they were a) removing or trimming trees that were completely burnt by brush fires and, b) those burnt trees close to trails, posing a hazard to recreational users of the Park.

I am a frequent user of the Park and have an intimate knowledge of the ecology and natural resource aspects of the Park. During and after the tree removal/trimming activity performed by the crew, I was concerned about what I observed with respect to the crew's activity and the impacts to the natural areas where this was performed.

These are my observations and comments:

Tree Removal/Trimming

It appears there was no specific, planned criteria for selectively cutting or trimming affected trees. Removal/cutting of trees seems to have been conducted randomly. Often, trees that were completely burnt were not cut or trimmed and instead trees that were alive and did not pose a hazard, were cut. Willows are wetland plants that grow in and around water, in naturally wet conditions. They rarely pose a fire hazard as they are often green even during dry conditions due to underlying groundwater. The willows were also located in stream course, away from the trails and posed no hazards to recreational users of the Park.

With respect to the oaks & willows that were cut, what should have happened was that only the top most portions of the dead branches should have been trimmed. Instead, trunks at lower levels (below chest height) were cut. This not only makes it difficult for the trees to regenerate (if they were alive), but also has left several cut trees that creates an unpleasant environment.

In addition, live willow trees were also cut. To an untrained eye, willow trees or shrubs appear dead but if carefully examined, the crew would have noticed that the majority of

the willows that were cut or removed sprouted fresh shoots at the base. At one point, I did point this out to a crew member when I was visiting the Park.

Stockpiling of Cut Debris

Cut stems and vegetative matter were often left in place for several weeks. I witnessed trunks placed on top of native vegetation or at base of native tree trunks. Cut trunks were also left stock-piled close to the water's edge or on lower stream banks. Recent rains have transported some of the stockpiled vegetative matter into the waterways, obstructing the flows. In some spots, cut tree trunks have constrained the flows in the creek; which may potentially lead to poor water quality. It also appears that there has been some damage to streambed and banks, due to the physical operations of cut and removal.

It is also worth mentioning that the amount of tree removal/cutting that occurred and resulting disturbance within waterways, would have likely triggered a "Streambed Alteration Agreement" permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); or may have warranted at least a consultation with the Agency, prior to activity within the waterways.

Other Stockpiles

In an area just north of the creek crossing at the bridge, I have observed a stockpile of gravel material that has been there for some time. These stockpiles should be contained by erosion control materials, such as sandbags; if it is the intention to leave them for long periods. This is rainfall season and the rains can wash the sediments down into the creek, leading to water quality problems. I have also from time-to-time observed stockpiles of various kinds throughout the Park, which are often not contained. These stockpiles also promote the proliferation of invasive plant species.

Proliferation of Invasive Plant Species

Various invasive plant species are negatively affecting the Park ecosystem and the watershed. On noteworthy "Ruderal" plants (plant species that are generally non-native, that proliferate in disturbed areas) include: Tree tobacco, Acacia and Pampas grass have taken over some areas of the park. These plants will likely also subsequently colonize the recently disturbed areas where cutting and stockpiling of trees took place next to watercourses, if these areas are not revegetated with native plants. In addition, several Fan Palms have also begun to spread in the waterways.

Target Areas for Ecological Restoration/Recreational Use Enhancement

The Oak Canyon Park is a priceless natural area that attracts many recreational users from all over the County and beyond. Especially during these times of Covid virus

quarantine, this park has become a haven for many people seeking solace and peace of mind. In addition to the recreational value the Park provides to humans, the Park also supports habitats suitable for many flora and fauna. With this in mind, I recommend 3 specific areas where restoration/enhancement can be targeted. These are also areas that already exhibit natural elements. Therefore, with minimal restoration (planting of natives) and enhancement (invasive plant species removal), these locations would offer exceptional benefits to Park users in appreciation of Nature:

- At bridge where Medea Creek flows to go into upper lagoon of Duck Pond,
- At bridge just south of Dog Park where the creek crosses the road,
- At Medea Creek crossing on trail.

In closing, I respectfully recommend that the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District consider enlisting the services of a biologist, to monitor activities such as protected tree removal or modifications or work activities within a streambed or watercourse. It is would also be wise to enlist an Arborist, to examine and evaluate native or protected trees, prior to conducting tree removals or trimming. It should also be noted that during bird nesting season (generally between February and end of August), biological monitoring is particularly recommended for activities that may impact nesting birds, in compliance with federal and state laws.



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MEMO

To: Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District/Oak Park Committee for RSRPD
From: Daniel S. Cooper
Date: January 13, 2021
Re: Oak Canyon Community Park

I'm writing to express several concerns about the management of natural resources at Oak Canyon Community Park and the "duck pond", as well as at Mae Boyar Park.

Specifically:

- Continued tree-cutting and heavy trimming of native willows along the feeder stream leading to and alongside the eastern edge of the duck ponds;
- Allowing the highly invasive wattle (cf. *Acacia saligna*, "golden wreath wattle") to invade the natural landscape along Medea Creek, where it is escaping from residential area to the northeast;
- Leaving several miles of non-functional, degrading PVC irrigation pipe in plantings throughout the Medea Creek greenbelt of Oak Park (not just in areas damaged by the Woolsey Fire);
- Mae Boyar: the plastic microbeads used on the playground surface have been sloughing-off and pouring into storm drains, creating stream and ocean pollution. They should be avoided during the redesign;
- Mae Boyar: the dead-looking smaller ash tree at the playground currently has active Acorn Woodpecker cavities and is now a "granary tree", and should either be removed before these birds start nesting in the spring, or should be retained so the nest(s) won't be disturbed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. I do not oppose removing these two ash trees from the park, but be aware that whatever course is taken, they may have nesting birds depending on timing.

Tree-cutting at the duck pond

I started noticing tree-cutting in the past year (2020) primarily along the northeast side of the duck ponds. Mature, live, “green” willows were being cut, possibly in a mistaken attempt to avoid damage from flooding or fire. Willows are integral components in the riparian ecosystem of Medea Creek, are very flexible/flood-adapted, and being large, living plants with lots of stored water, are ideal for stopping embers and serving as a living firebreak. Removing large trees and portions of trees creates conditions for weed invasion. Weeds are generally conducive to fire ignition risk and spread. There may be some other reason for cutting trees I’m not thinking of, such as precluding homeless encampments, but this should be discussed.

Acacia along Medea Creek trail north of the duck pond

Golden wreath wattle is a fairly new invader to California, and thus is probably not “on the radar” of CAL-IPC and other agencies. However, being an large, evergreen, hardy shrub, and one that has already expanded to hundreds of individuals, I have major concerns about it taking over riparian and woodland ecosystems and proving a management headache in the same way that palms, giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) and others have.

Photos *in situ* are below (taken Nov. 14, 2020, DSC).



PVC irrigation pipe

Self-explanatory, this pipe was installed with the plantings along Medea Creek throughout Oak Park years ago, and is now no longer functioning, and serves as a pollutant.

Below I am including a “vision statement” local colleagues and I developed in 2019, to guide future work there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Cooper".

Daniel S. Cooper, Ph.D.

Oak Park Duck Pond Vision Statement

Compiled by Dan Cooper

(with input from Janna Orkney, Debbie Sharpton and Manju Venkat)

July 20, 2019 (last rev. 14 Aug. 2019)

The twin ponds at Oak Canyon Community Park ("duck pond") are the gateway to the park, which is heavily used by both Oak Park residents and visitors. The park features a community center, a dog park, a water play area ("splash pad"), walking paths, and trailheads leading up into the trail network of the Simi Hills. The pond also provides habitat for various species, including (red-eared) slider (an introduced turtle), carp/koi and other fish (introduced), and a semi-feral population of mallard (duck), but also for wild species such as wintering Ring-necked Duck, nesting Yellow Warbler (a California Species of Special Concern), and various dragonflies. Throughout the year, the pond serves as a stopover site for a wide variety of migratory and wintering birds. The duck pond area has been landscaped with a mix of native and non-native vegetation, and natural vegetation has been retained (including large native oaks) and has also become established on its own (reeds, willows, etc.).

The twin ponds were built by reconfiguring the stream channel of Medea Creek, possibly in the belief that the natural flows would fill the ponds. Currently, the water flow into the duck ponds is very complex, involving multiple sources of water, including urban runoff, seasonal and spring-fed flow from Medea Creek, and recycled water inputs.

Every rainy season the ponds act as a sediment basin, altering the habitat and original intent of holding water. In Nov 2018 the Woolsey Fire scorched the upper Medea Creek watershed, including the duck pond area. The following is a brief summary of these impacts to the twin ponds:

- The pond area (both ponds), silted-in with ash and soil during the winter 2018-19. This reduced the pond depth and shrank the shoreline area, and resulted in the upper pond's ongoing conversion to a freshwater wetland;
- Damage to irrigation and pumping system, resulting in supplemental water being added at two sources (upper and lower ponds);
- Destruction or severe damage to many built features, including gazebo, wooden dock, picnic tables/benches, and railings.

In addition, prior to the fire, the park had various “pre-existing” management issues, including:

- The upper pond experiences a natural succession to a freshwater wetland, which small ponds in nature do when water flows are insufficient to scour sediments out. It becomes a haven for dragonflies, birds, and native plants such as willow, cattail, iris-leaved rush, watercress, scarlet monkeyflower, and others;
- Ongoing maintenance issues with water pumps and filters (including recirculating system between the two ponds), both in the duck pond itself, and for the waterfall feature on the southwestern corner (which brought recycled water into the lower pond);
- Ongoing maintenance issues with sediment washed into ponds, summer algae, trash and high water temperature, which have degraded the water quality and habitat values;
- A lack of clarity on where to walk, i.e., what was a trail, a footpath, a utility road (this led to erosion and degradation of vegetation). For example, the pond featured a fenced walkway, yet a lower path directly around the edge of the pond was more commonly used by visitors, and
- Invasive species (including red-eared sliders, non-native fishes, crayfish, and New Zealand mudsnail) proliferate in the ponds, impacting the native species and contribute to the degradation of downstream parklands. Native species are at risk in the watershed.

We suggest the following principles to guide the future restoration of the park:

- We recognize that the duck pond area exists as an artificial area that can complement the surrounding natural riparian environment, a place for wildlife and “passive recreation” by visitors. Thus, when faced with a choice, managers should elect the option that would result in more natural/less built-up, and more sustainable over the long term;
- To increase wildlife viewing opportunities, a portion of the edge of both ponds should have portions where human access is allowed, but also where it is blocked (currently, people have installed broken planks as footpaths into areas off trail), to provide solitude for the wildlife using the area;
- Water flow and water features throughout the duck pond area should be simplified, rather than made more complicated, and should become less reliant on human intervention and mechanical assistance (to be discussed);

- Landscaping should rely on local natives, rather than simply Mediterranean/drought-tolerant plants;
- Built features should be simplified, and only sufficient for comfortable resting (e.g., simple shaded benches). They should take advantage of the existing layout of large trees and paths;
- Clarity on rules/regulations through new interpretive signage. Currently poorly-signed, the pond seems to allow fishing, as well as drones, and seems to both discourage and encourage duck-feeding (the community center offers duck food, yet signs warn people against the dangers of feeding ducks bread), which sends mixed messages. No natural history information is presented, but it could be.

Management of urban/constructed ponds is frequently expensive and problematic. Maintaining a constructed pond in the middle of an active stream is also a challenge for any urban park district. We urge Rancho Simi Parks and Recreation District to evaluate the past performance of the ponds, summarize its maintenance, ongoing and long-term funding challenges, as well as environmental impacts and present these to the Oak Park community. In addition, the community would like to be included in the process of looking at options available for reconstruction, so changes to improve the duck ponds for people and the environment that are fiscally responsible are considered.

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.D. 2020 (Biology)
University of California, Riverside, M.Sc. 1999 (Biogeography)
Harvard University, A.B. 1995 (Biology)

EXPERIENCE

Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. Los Angeles, CA. 2005 - present
President. An independent ecological consulting firm specializing in land use, wildlife and biodiversity issues, we provide expertise in study design & analysis, ecological assessment, and management recommendations.

- Manage projects in the \$1,000 - \$100,000 range for up to 20 clients per year in the Los Angeles area.
- Past clients include municipalities (Los Angeles, Torrance), non-profit groups (The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land), agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Coastal Conservancy), and various private firms and individuals.
- Hire and supervise up to five subcontractors per year.

National Audubon Society Los Angeles, CA. 2001 - 2005
Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon California.

- Member of senior management team for Audubon California, worked with national staff and partner organizations to shape bird conservation agenda in California.
- Organized donor cultivation activities, and assisted development staff in grant writing.
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- Helped draft Audubon California's strategic plan (2003-04).
- Visited and evaluated sites for new Audubon nature centers; wrote staff training manuals for existing centers and programs.

Biologist, Audubon Center at Debs Park 1999 - 2001

- Member of core team charged with developing an urban nature education center at a large city park in urban Los Angeles (Debs Park); drafted and implemented habitat management plan.
- Organized neighborhood focus groups for parents and teachers in northeast Los Angeles to assess public perception of nature and conservation organizations.
- Initiated baseline natural history research in surrounding region for development of educational materials and programs for new Audubon Center.

BOARDS/COMMITTEES

IUCN World Protected Areas, 2017 – present
Associate Editor, *Western Birds* 2014 – present
Southern California Academy of Sciences 2013 – 2015
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Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks - Griffith Park Postfire Recovery Team, 2007 – 2008
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MEMO

To: Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District/Oak Park Committee for RSRPD
From: Daniel S. Cooper
Date: January 16, 2021
Re: Oak Canyon Community Park tree cutting

This is a follow-up to my memo dated January 13, 2021 regarding management of Oak Canyon Community Park and Mae Boyar Park. I decided to walk the “Oak Canyon Community Park Trail” which is managed by RSRPD¹ to observe the effects of recent tree-cutting and tree-removal firsthand.

I was present on the trail between 9:30 – 10:30 AM, and observed the following:

- No fewer than 6 mature coast live oaks trunk-cut to around waist height;
- No fewer than 21 mature willows similarly cut, including one apparently of “heritage tree” size (90”+ circumference)
- One mature valley oak similarly cut
- Cut branches and trunks/logs piled haphazardly along the trail sides and dumped in the creek (Medea Creek)
- Several individual Braunton’s milkvetch, a Federally Endangered Species, within the work zone
- Wet (now dry) cement dumped alongside the creek²

¹ https://www.rsrpd.org/oak_park/trails/oak_canyon_community_park_trai.php

² Possibly not a result of the recent activity; I just noticed it and thought it was worth bringing up since it was right in an area with a recently-cleared trunk pathway that appeared to lead to one of the work areas.

Regulations

Ventura County has guidelines regarding cutting/pruning trees in the non-coastal zone (which covers Oak Park). These are summarized as:

“In the non-coastal zone, protected trees include all oaks and sycamores 9.5 inches in circumference or larger (measured at least 4.5 feet above ground), trees of any species with a historical designation, trees of any species 90 inches in circumference or larger, and most 9.5-inch in circumference or larger native trees that are located in the Scenic Resources Protection Zone.”

In short, tree permits are required for removal of oaks and very large trees. Based on the County’s General Plan³, applicants for permits are to retain the services of an arborist to guide cutting, confirm tree species and status, to confirm that a tree is dead, etc. Guidelines are found here: <https://www.vcrma.org/tree-permits-and-the-tree-protection-ordinance>

In addition, alteration to blue-line streams (of which Medea Creek is one) are generally done with the involvement of California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife under their permitting process (Land and Streambed Alteration agreements). These requirements are found here: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>

Work done near Federally Endangered Species (including Braunton’s milkvetch, which I observed present in the work zone) is to be done in consultation with US Fish and Wildlife staff (Ventura Co. field office): <https://www.fws.gov/ventura/endangered/consultations/index.html>

Ownership/Management

I was also concerned that at the recent Oak Park Committee meeting (Zoom call), the general manager implied at one point that RSRPD had “no jurisdiction” over natural areas within Ventura County, only the developed portions of parkland. This would seem to be contradicted by information on their website (https://www.rsrpd.org/oak_park/trails/oak_canyon_community_park_trai.php):

Oak Canyon Community Park Trail

The trail round-trip is approximately 2 3/4 miles. The views from the trail is of the near hillsides and are enchantingly pleasant. One trail is a paved road along the east side of the park and then continues north to Bromely Drive. The other returns south to the park and continues along the west side of the park. Just south of Bromely Drive is a dirt track, which parallels the paved road along the east side of the wash bottom before returning to the paved section.

³ See: <https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/tree-permits/Tree-Protection.pdf>

Location

The trail is located off Kanan Rd. and a portion surrounds Oak Canyon Community Park. Trailheads can be accessed from Lindero Canyon Rd., Bromely Dr., and off Hollytree Dr., just pass the gates.

It would be good to clarify management of this (and other) trail systems in and around Oak Park. I find it hard to believe that “no one” owns and manages these natural areas.

My photos follow, below.

Figure 1. Live coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), logs dumped (note leaves attached to branches) and sprouting from stump.



Figure 2. Willow (cf. *Salix laevigata*, red willow) and coast live oak cut alive, with branches dumped into creek just behind trees.



Figure 3. Heritage-sized willow (cf. *S. laevigata*), cut while alive. Note pen and notebook for scale.



Figure 4. Cut branches dumped along trail.



Figure 5. Federally Endangered Braunton's milkvetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) in work area (near crossing to dog park).



Figure 6. Wet cement dumped in work area (not necessarily by these contractors, but by someone).



Sincerely,

Daniel Cooper

Daniel S. Cooper, Ph.D.

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Friends of the Los Angeles River - Technical Advisory Board 1989 – 2001

Sandee Covone

From: Janice Smets <jrsmets@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: RE: Medea Creek/Mae Boyar/Oak Park comments
Attachments: Extrapolated from the San Lois Obispo University Website.docx

Hi Sandee,

Please send this to everyone that has reviewed Dan Cooper's Memo.

Thank you,

Janice

From: Sandee Covone <sandeec@rsrpd.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:31 PM
To: 'John' <watts232@roadrunner.com>; Carolyn Cass-Barton <ccassb@yahoo.com>; 'Nicole' <pinkroses220@gmail.com>; Medved, Harry (Fandango) <hmedved@fandango.com>; 'Janice Smets' <jrsmets@earthlink.net>; 'Sherri Wentworth' <slw91377@yahoo.com>; Derek Ross <derek@kulchinross.com>; Ed Abele <edsabele@aol.com>; Elaine Freeman <Freemanelf@aol.com>
Cc: Dan Paranick <danp@rsrpd.us>; Wayne Nakaoka <Wayne@rsrpd.us>; Laura Ballantoni <Laura@rsrpd.us>; Lisa Weagley <LisaW@rsrpd.us>; Theresa Pennington <theresa@rsrpd.us>; Nikki Davy <Nikki@rsrpd.us>
Subject: Fw: Medea Creek/Mae Boyar/Oak Park comments

Good Afternoon,

Per the request of Dan Cooper of Cooper Ecological, attached please find a memo regarding New Business item VI.d on this evenings Oak Park Planning Committee meeting agenda.

Thank you,

Sandee Covone, Executive Assistant

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

Phone: 805-584-4400 • Email: sandeec@rsrpd.us

Extrapolated from the San Luis Obispo University Website:

UFEI - SelecTree: A Tree Selection Guide (calpoly.edu)

General Notes

Evergreen tree to 30 feet. Good wind screen.

This plant is classified as invasive by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) classifies the invasiveness of the species of this plant as High.

Native to Western Australia.

Family: *Fabaceae*

Synonyms

Acacia cyanophylla

Acacia bracteata

Additional Common Names

BLUE-LEAF WATTLE, WEEPING WATTLE, ORANGE WATTLE, GOLDEN WREATH

Tree Characteristics

Spreading or Weeping with a Low Canopy.

Rounded Shape.

Has Evergreen foliage.

Height: 20 - 30 feet.

Width: 15 - 20 feet.

Growth Rate: 36 or More Inches per Year.

Longevity Less than 50 years.

Leaves Linear, Bluish Green or Silver or Gray Green, No Change, Evergreen.

Flowers Showy. Orange. Flowers in Spring. Has perfect flowers (male and female parts in each flower).

Brown Legume, Very Large (Over 3.00 inches), fruiting in Winter or Summer.

Bark Dark Brown, Furrowed or Rough.

Shading Capacity Rated as Moderately Dense in Leaf.

Litter Issue is Dry Fruit.

Tree Site Conditions & Constraints

Sunset Zones 8, 9 and 12 - 24.

USDA Hardiness Zones 9 - 11.

Exposure Full Sun to Partial Shade.

Moist to Dry Soil.

Clay, Loam or Sand Texture.

Slightly Acidic to Highly Alkaline Soil pH.

Salinity Tolerance is Good Inland.

Seaside Tolerance is Good in Mild Zone.

Pests & Disease Information

Susceptible to Invasive Shot Hole Borer, Root Rot.

Health, Safety & Environmental Concerns

Branch Strength Rated as Medium.

Root Damage Potential Rated as Low.

Allergy Health Hazard.

Attracts Birds.

Not Deer Palatable.

Special Uses & Values

Screen.

Hedged.

Sandee Covone

From: Mary Wiesbrock <marywiesbrock@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Dan Paranick; Sandee Covone
Subject: Media Creek damage in 55.4 acre Oak Canyon community Park
Attachments: Oak Canyon Community Park, 55.4 acres.pdf

Dan: My husband and I walk frequently along Media Creek in Oak Canyon Community Park. It appears major damage has occurred to this creek ecosystem and the trail between the pond and the entrance to the dog park. I request that Rancho Simi get an after-the-fact permit from CDFW for restoration of Media Creek and its ecosystem. This damaged willow ecosystem is significant habitat for endangered bird species like Les Bells Vireo and SW Willow Flycatcher.

I have researched the part of the creek which has been damaged and confirmed that it is part of Oak Canyon Community Park, a Community Park Facility. The first attachment is maps of the original Oak Park Area Plan of the Ventura County Plan. The 2nd map shows that the total triangular area of 12E (labeled PARK) and 3L (labeled PARK) outlines the entire Oak Canyon Community Park facility and consists of 55.4 acres. This old original map is from Save Open Space's battle to save Palo Comado Canyon (former Jordan Ranch), now a national park unit of the SMMNRA.

Additionally Ventura County Planning has helped confirm- by their attachment to me that this Community Facility Park is indeed this entire creek area between the pond and the entrance to the dog park. (2nd attachment in follow up email). This is important because I believe the Woolsey Fire Insurance and SCE fire restoration funds can be used to fix the damaged creek ecosystem and pond from the damage because this area is indeed in Rancho Simi's Oak Canyon Community Park boundaries. This Ventura County Planning map showing Oak Canyon Community Park as 55.4 acres will be sent in my next email to you.

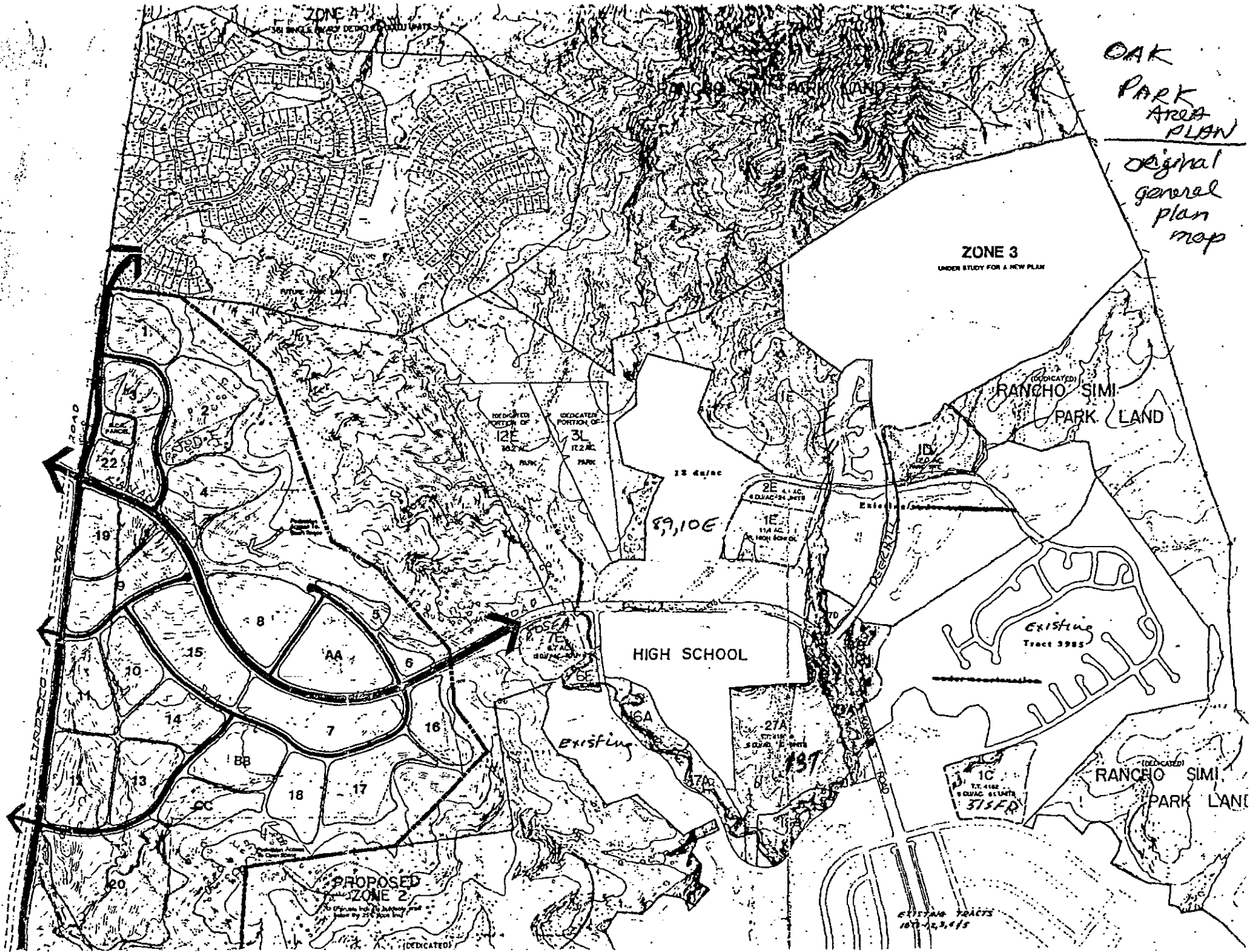
Also, if more funds are needed, you have three well qualified and experienced ecologists/biologists living in Oak Park whom I believe would be happy-free of charge- to help you apply for additional emergency grant funds for Rancho Simi to restore the damaged creek and pond from the existing state billion dollar watershed bond.

Mary Wiesbrock, Chair Save Open Space

cc RSRPD Board Members

OAK
PARK
AREA
PLAN

original
general
plan
map



ZONE 3
UNDER STUDY FOR A NEW PLAN

(DEDICATED)
RANCHO SIMI
PARK LAND

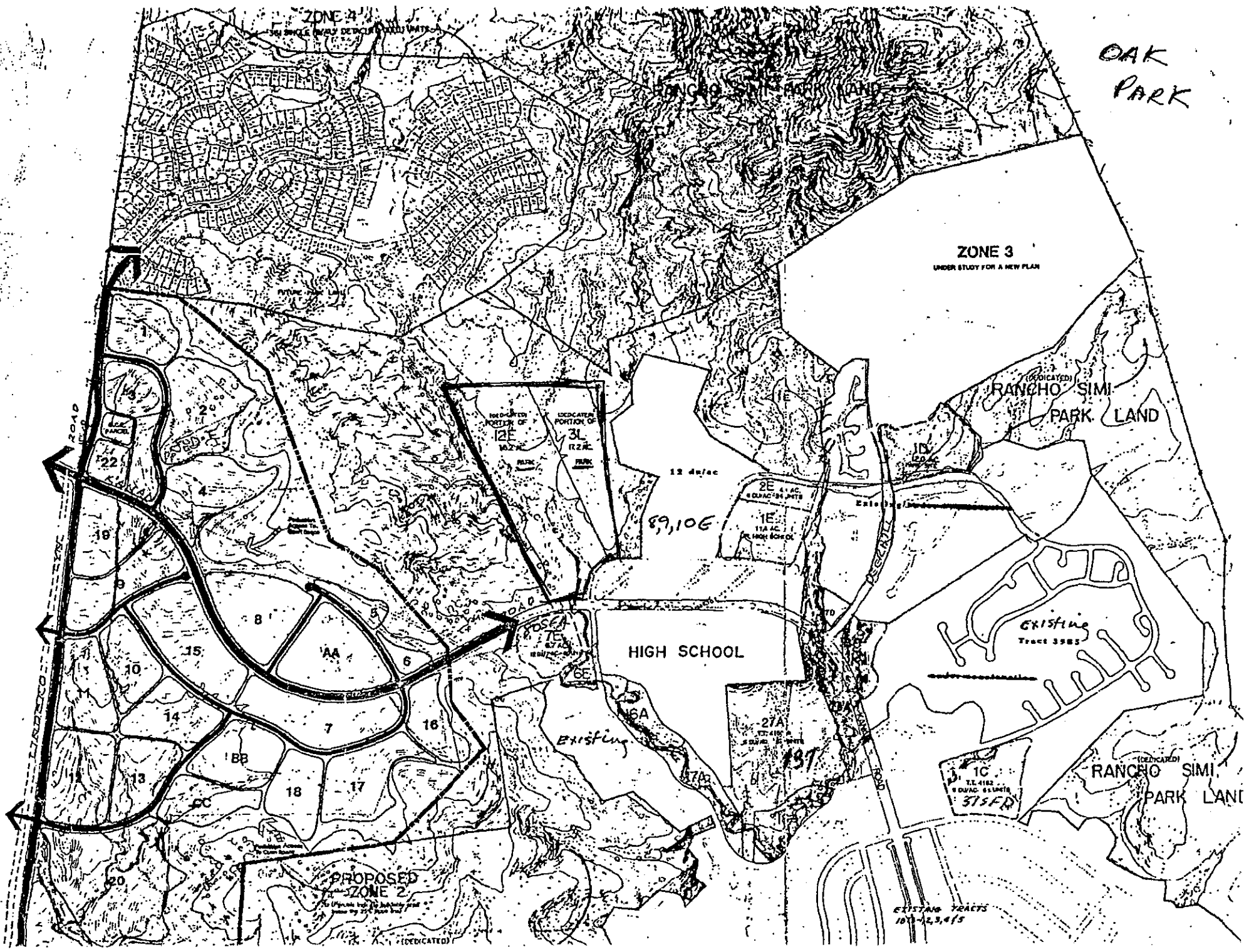
HIGH SCHOOL

(DEDICATED)
RANCHO SIMI
PARK LAND

PROPOSED
ZONE 2

EXISTING TRACTS
100-123, 115

(DEDICATED)



OAK
PARK

ZONE 3
UNDER STUDY FOR A NEW PLAN

(INDICATED)
RANCHO SIMI
PARK LAND

HIGH SCHOOL

CRISTINA
Tract 3982

(INDICATED)
RANCHO SIMI
PARK LAND

PROPOSED
ZONE 2

EXISTING TRACTS
101-123, 415

Sandee Covone

From: Mary Wiesbrock <marywiesbrock@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:07 AM
To: Dan Paranick; Sandee Covone
Subject: Media Creek damage in 55.4 acre Oak Canyon Community Park
Attachments: parcel report.pdf

Ventura County Planning map of 55.4 acre Oak Canyon Community Park



Planning Public Report

Parcel Information

APN	685001020
APN Suffix	5
Owner	RANCHO SIMI REC & PARK DIST
Situs Number	
Situs Direction	
Situs Street	
Situs Suffix	
Acreage	55.400



Coordinates

Latitude - Longitude

Latitude: 34° 11' 5.3"
 Longitude: -118° 46' 11.16"

USGS Quad

USGS Quads

Name: Thousand Oaks
 Name: THOUSAND OAKS

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Planning Public Report

Land Use

Area Plan Land Use Designations

Designation: Community Facilities

Area Plan Boundaries

Name: Oak Park

General Plan

Description: Urban

Restrictive Covenants

No

Existing Communities

No

Designated Disadvantage Communities

No

Overlay Zones

Name: Habitat Connectivity Corridors

SRP Viewing Locations

No

Zone Designation

Zoning: OS-40 ac/HCWC

Zone Ordinance

Res Ord: 4537/4539

BOS Date: 20190312

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Planning Public Report

Resources

AB 52 Native Americans - CEQA

Name: Barbareno-Ventureno Mission Indians
 Contact: Julie Tumamait- Stenslie, Chair
 Address: 365 North Poli Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023
 Phone:
 Email:
 Website: <http://mvestuto.wix.com/lulapin>

Aggregate Resources MRZ-2

No

Archaeological Sensitivity

Type: VERY SENSITIVE - HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Coastal Trail Proximity

No

Crop Types

No

Cultural Heritage Locations

No

DOGGR Wells

No

Eligible Scenic Highways

Type: Eligible County Scenic Highway
 Road: Kanan Rd

Greenbelts

No

Groundwater Basins

Name: Las Virgennes Cyn

Hiking Trails

Name: Oak Canyon Community Park Trail

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Planning Public Report

Historic Resources

No

Important Farmland Inventory

Type:	Urban and Built-Up Land
Type:	Other Land
Type:	Grazing
Type:	Urban and Built-Up Land

Agricultural Preserves

No

Land Conservation Act Contracts

No

Mining Permits

No

Noise Studies

No

Oil Fields

No

Oil Permits

No

Paleontology

Description:	UNDETERMINED
Description:	MODERATE

Parks

Name:	Oak Canyon Community Park
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Prominent Ridgelines

No

Proposed Greenbelts

No

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Planning Public Report

USDA Soil

Soil Key:	AuD
Soil Key:	ScE2
Soil Key:	SwC
Soil Key:	CaE2
Soil Key:	AuC2
Soil Key:	CfF2
Soil Key:	AuD
Soil Key:	CbF2

WaterWells

Status:	Destroyed
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Biological Resources

Archaeological Reports

No

Biological Reports

No

California Natural Diversity Database

CNAME:	Braunton's milk-vetch
CALLIST:	None
FEDLIST:	Endangered
CNAME:	chaparral nolina
CALLIST:	None
FEDLIST:	None

Critical Habitat

CNAME:	Braunton's milk-vetch
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CWPA Boundaries

No

Wildlife Corridors

Name:	Santa Monica - Sierra Madre
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Planning Public Report

Vegetation

Vegetation Alliance:	Native and Non-Native Herbaceous Superalliance Mapping Unit
Vegetation Alliance:	Artemisia californica-Salvia leucophylla
Vegetation Alliance:	Quercus agrifolia
Vegetation Alliance:	Predominantly Shrubs/Herbaceous on Artificial Cuts/Embankments
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Salvia mellifera
Vegetation Alliance:	Quercus agrifolia
Vegetation Alliance:	Salvia mellifera
Vegetation Alliance:	Quercus agrifolia
Vegetation Alliance:	Predominantly Shrubs/Herbaceous on Artificial Cuts/Embankments
Vegetation Alliance:	Salvia mellifera
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Ceanothus crassifolius
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Salvia mellifera
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Salvia mellifera
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Ceanothus crassifolius
Vegetation Alliance:	Quercus agrifolia
Vegetation Alliance:	Urban/Disturbed or Built-Up
Vegetation Alliance:	Lotus scoparius
Vegetation Alliance:	Urban - Shrub
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Ceanothus crassifolius
Vegetation Alliance:	Malacothamnus fasciculatus
Vegetation Alliance:	Urban/Disturbed or Built-Up
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Ceanothus crassifolius
Vegetation Alliance:	Native and Non-Native Herbaceous Superalliance Mapping Unit
Vegetation Alliance:	Adenostoma fasciculatum-Ceanothus crassifolius
Vegetation Alliance:	Lotus scoparius

Waterbodies Buffered

Data Source:	National Hydrographic Dataset
Data Source:	National Wetlands Inventory
Data Source:	Watershed Protection District

Wetlands

Yes

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Planning Public Report

Hazards

All Faults

No

Dam Inundation

No

Earthquake Fault Hazard Zones

No

Electric Power Transmission Lines

No

Fire History

Year:	1949
Year:	1982
Year:	1970

100 Year Floodplain

Flood Zone:	A
Flood Zone:	A

500 Year Floodplain

No

Groundshaking

PTYPE:	0.55
PTYPE:	0.45

Landslides Earthquake Induced

Yes

Actual and Potential Mapped Landslides

No

Liquefaction

No

Military Training Routes

No

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Planning Public Report

Noise Contours

Type: State Route/Major Road
Noise: CNEL 60 dB(A)

Recent Fire Incidents

Incident: Woolsey Fire

Slope

Map Service Unavailable

Tsunami Inundation Hazard

No

Public Facilities/Services

Bike Trails

No

Blue Line Channels

No

Communication Facilities

No

Elementary School District

District Name: OAK PARK UNIFIED

High School District

District Name: OAK PARK UNIFIED

Planning Facilities

No

Red Line Streams

Yes

Transit Stops

No

Transit Stops Half Mile Radius

No

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Planning Public Report

Political/Planning Boundaries

118 Traffic Impact Area

No

2010 Census Tracts

Tract: 007405

Tract: 007406

2003 Regional Road Network

No

ADU Parking in Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Name: State Responsibility Area

Airports Spheres Of Influence

No

Area of Interest

Name: Oak Park

City Urban Restriction Boundary

No

Coastal Zone Appeal Jurisdiction

No

Coastal Zone Boundary

No

Enforcement Districts

Inspector: Mark Pacheco

Municipal Advisory Council

Name: Oak Park

Nitrates Groundwater Basins

No

Ojai Clean Air Ordinance

No

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Planning Public Report

Ojai Traffic Impact Area

No

Oxnard Forebay

No

Piru High Frequency Filming Areas

No

Sheriff Station Contact

Station:	Thousand Oaks Station
Brown Mail:	L#5800

Sphere of Influence

No

Supervisory Districts

Ordinal:	2nd
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Tierra Rejada - Santa Rosa GWB

No

Township - Range - Section

Township:	01N
Range:	18W
Section:	09

VCFPD Restriction

No

Well Permit Moratorium

No

County - SOAR

No

Ventura - SOAR - HVPA

No

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Planning Public Report

Water & Sanitation

Sanitation Districts

District: Triunfo Sanitation District

Water District

District: Calleguas Municipal Water District

Water Purveyors

Company: OAK PARK WATER SERVICE - Triunfo Sanitation District

Transportation

Lands Development Permits

Record Number: CUP 4483-MOD 2

Record Number: CUP 4483-MOD 2

CONEJO OAK TREE ADVOCATES

conejooaktreadvocates@gmail.com

January 27, 2021

Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District
4201 Guardian St.
Simi Valley, CA 93063
Oak Park Community Center
1000 North Kanan Rd.
Oak Park, CA 91377

Re: OAK CANYON COMMUNITY PARK

Dear Board of Directors, Planning Committee and Staff,

Recently Conejo Oak Tree Advocates (COTA) members walked along the trails at Oak Canyon Community Park. It was difficult to survey and comprehend what type of landscape work was undertaken recently. Protected oak trees were sawed off at shoulder or waist height despite the fact branches with live growth were strewn about everywhere. Some of these oak trees were heritage specimens that were clearly going about their ecological habit of regenerating after the Woolsey fire. As you know, native trees are adapted to fire and possibly take several years to regenerate. Most of the destroyed trees were quite a distance from the trails and posed no threat of limbs falling. In addition, the streambed that is likely habitat for birds, butterflies and small mammals is piled with debris from the numerous willows and native shrubs that underwent chainsaw destruction.

If you have not visited this devastation, I encourage you to document what happened and work with the community to remove the ugly stumps left behind, get the debris hauled off for green waste and work on a restoration plan that will restore some of the open space in this beautiful park to its former natural condition.

COTA very much appreciates your concern and your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

~ Gail Bianchino, Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin, Marilyn Carpenter, Joan Edwards, Tina Frugoli, Janet Miller Wall and Silvana Zucca