

**SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS
TRAILS MASTER PLAN – PHASE II**

MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2017111009

PREPARED FOR:

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
1000 S. FREMONT AVENUE, UNIT #40
BUILDING A-9 WEST, 3RD FLOOR
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803**

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1. Introduction

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) proposes to adopt a multi-use trails master plan for an unincorporated area within the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area.

Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code, enacted by passage of Assembly Bill 3180 (Cortese Bill), requires public agencies approving projects with significant environmental impacts to adopt a monitoring and reporting program. The objective of the program is to ensure that mitigation measures adopted to avoid or mitigate significant environmental impacts are implemented. Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code requires all state and local agencies to establish monitoring and reporting programs whenever approval of a project relies upon a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or an Environmental Impact Report. In accordance with these requirements, this Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared to ensure that mitigation measures identified in the MND for the Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan – Phase II (SSMTMP-II, project, or Trails Master Plan) for the unincorporated areas of the Santa Clarita Valley (or subsequent revisions thereto) are implemented in an effective and timely manner, and that identified impacts are avoided or mitigated to a level of insignificance. The MMRP identifies responsible parties for the mitigation program and includes a detailed discussion of monitoring and reporting procedures for each mitigation measure.

2. Project Description

The project would work to encourage and promote new multi-use trails and recommend improvements to existing trails, providing an alignment to incorporate a transition throughout the project study area to additional areas, jurisdictions, and prime destinations within and adjacent to the project study area. The plan would recommend conditions for improvement of unmet local recreation demands in the Fifth Supervisorial District. The project would develop a complete multi-use trail system connecting user groups and local populations to desired recreation destinations and experiences, with unified transition to the trails of adjacent jurisdictions, compatibility with adjacent land uses and environmental resources, and incorporate a sustainable design that is consistent with the County Trails Manual. The project includes approximately 55.5 miles of proposed multi-use trails in the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area. The trails would be multi-use and range from 3 to 12 feet wide based on site conditions, with adequate space for combined pedestrian, equestrian, and mountain biking use, in accordance with the County Trails Manual guidelines (Table 2-1, *County Trail Types*). Coordination with the City of Santa Clarita would be required for development of any trails or recreational facilities planned in the City of Santa Clarita.

**TABLE 2-1
COUNTY TRAIL TYPES**

Trail Type	Tread / Trail Width ¹	Intensity of Use ¹	Impact ¹	Surface Type ^{1,2}	Trail Grade ²	Outslope ²
Urban Pedestrian Trail ²	10–11 feet	High	High	Asphalt* Crusher fines* Decomposed granite	< 5% < 8% for < 100 feet (ft.) of trail with rail	2%
Recreational Trailway ²	8–10 feet	High	High	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 100 ft. < 12% for < 50 ft.	2% < 4%
Natural Trail 1 ¹	7–10 feet	High	Medium	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 150 ft. < 12% for < 50 ft.	2% < 4%
Natural Trail 2 ¹	5–8 feet	Medium to high	Low	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 100 ft. < 12% for < 50 ft.	2% < 4%
Natural Trail 3 ¹	2–3 feet	Low	Minimal	Natural surface	< 5% < 8% for < 200 ft. < 12 % for < 50 ft. < 15% for < 20 ft.	2% < 5%

NOTE: *Asphalt and crusher fines used in trail surfaces cannot be road based and cannot contain toxic chemicals.

SOURCES:

¹County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

²County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. Adopted October 2016. Castaic Area Multi-Use Trails Plan. Prepared by Alta Planning+Design in association with Sapphos Environmental, Inc. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/124/Castaic%20Area%20MUTP%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

The project includes 20 trail corridors to connect to existing trails and other priority destinations (Table 2-2, *Proposed Trail Corridors*). The proposed trails would provide connections to parks and open spaces, a large commercial district, seven schools, numerous natural features, Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park, the proposed Rim of the Valley trail corridor alignment (RIVA), and existing trails in the City of Santa Clarita and Newhall Ranch Specific Plan, as well as trails within other jurisdictions as identified in the Trails Master Plan.

**TABLE 2-2
PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDORS**

Trail Corridor Name	Length (Miles)	Trail Type	Existing Physical Conditions of Trail Corridor
Entrada	5.8	3.5 miles Recreational Trailway 2.2 miles Natural Surface	Existing utility road and unpaved service roads. Three segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Entrada to Santa Clara River	2.6	Urban Pedestrian Trail	No existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Lyons Ranch	4.2	0.7 mile Recreational Trailway 3.5 miles Natural Surface	Existing unpaved Lyons Ranch Road and narrow trail from Lyons Ranch Road follows a creek. One segment is affected by the recent Sage Fire. Two segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails, although one segment follows an unpaved route from Old Road to Lyons Ranch Road.
Mentryville-Newhall Ranch	0.8	Natural Surface	No existing dirt roads or de facto trails. Follows an adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor for approximately 0.2 mile.
Mentryville to Lyons	3.2	Natural Surface	Limited existing dirt roads or de facto trails. Leads from parking lot at Mentryville southeast towards proposed Lyons Ranch trail corridor and northeast along existing dirt road to Pico Canyon Road.
Palo Sola	0.9	Natural Surface	Follows an adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor.
Pico Canyon	7.0	3.6 miles Natural Surface 3.4 miles Urban Pedestrian Trail	Existing County trail, previously adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor, and existing unpaved Pico Canyon Service Road.

**TABLE 2-2
PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDORS**

Trail Corridor Name	Length (Miles)	Trail Type	Existing Physical Conditions of Trail Corridor
Pico Channel	0.8	0.7 mile Natural Surface 0.1 mile Urban Pedestrian Trail	The proposed corridor does not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Pico Park	1.0	Natural Surface	Existing dirt road and existing trail.
Pico to Newhall Ranch	3.1	Natural Surface	One existing trail segment. Four segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Pico to Palo Sola	4.4	Natural Surface	Two segments follow existing narrow trails; two segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Rice Canyon	2.9	Natural Surface	Existing trail segments, game trails, and one segment follows a previously adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor.
Santa Clara River	3.1	Recreational Trail	Limited existing asphalt road. Leads from RV park along Santa Clara River east towards The Old Road and southeast along The Old Road.
The Old Road	3.3	1.6 miles Natural Surface 1.7 miles Urban Pedestrian Trail	Follows a previously adopted proposed SSMFTMP trail corridor and parallels The Old Road bypass.
Towsley to North Ridge	2.3	Natural Surface	Existing narrow and steep trail segment and a segment which does not follow existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Towsley to RIVA	2.9	Natural Surface	One segment follows existing trail; two segments of the proposed corridor do not have existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Towsley to South Ridge	2.1	Natural Surface	No existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Wiley South Rim	2.0	Natural Surface	Narrow existing trail. One segment which does not follow existing dirt roads or de facto trails.
Wiley to RIVA	2.3	Natural Surface	User-contributed (de facto) trail connection to Rim of the Valley Corridor.
Wiley West Rim	0.8	Natural Surface	Existing trail segment.
TOTAL	55.5		

NOTE: RIVA = Proposed Rim of the Valley trail corridor alignment; SHP = Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park; de facto/social trails: unofficial trails created by users (not officially adopted or sanctioned).

A portion of The Old Road trail corridor would cross through the City of Santa Clarita in Towsley Canyon. A portion of the Pico Channel trail corridor would extend into the City of Santa Clarita from Stevenson Ranch. Development of these two trails would require coordination with the City of Santa Clarita.

Consistent with Section 4.3.6, *Way-finding Signs*, of the County Trails Manual, the project would include regular trail signs at trailheads, trail amenity locations, street and trail intersections, and the boundaries of trail easements on private property and National Forest lands.¹ Consistent with the County Trails Manual and DPR's adopted trail way-finding sign program, way-finding signs would be designed to orient the trail user, describe etiquette for all users, and provide information for emergency responders. Warning signs would provide a warning to motorists and trail users of all approaching trail and street intersections. Also consistent with the recommendations of the County Trails Manual, reassurance marker signs would be posted at eye level (62 inches above the ground surface) at every quarter (0.25) mile of trail that visually mark the trail line and identify the name of the trail and quarter milepost number in order to orient trail users and search and rescue services in the case of an emergency. As each trail segment is constructed, the County Department of Parks

¹ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

and Recreation would be responsible for sending the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department the location of each quarter milepost along the trail for emergency response purposes.

The SSMTMP-PII identifies up to 7 potential locations for proposed facilities, including two trailheads, two bike skills areas, one equestrian park, and two trailhead and staging areas (Table 2-3, *Proposed Facilities*). The facilities may include all or some of the amenities identified for consideration in the 2013 County Trails Manual guidelines (see Table 2-3). No facilities are proposed within incorporated cities in the trails master plan.

**TABLE 2-3
PROPOSED FACILITIES**

Facility Type	Facility Impact Area Assumptions
Trailhead (0.1–1 acre)	
<p>Type Definition A defined area with parking typically at, but not limited to, the beginning of a trail, with or without additional amenities such as restrooms, picnic facilities, trash receptacles, etc. (grades or classes of trailheads may be developed in the future to further define subtypes of trailheads).</p> <p>Project Note: There would be no new restrooms or new parking at these proposed trailheads due to limited available space.</p>	<p>TH1: approximately 0.1 acre within the Phase II area near Coltrane Avenue and Weldon Motorway</p> <p>TH2: approximately 1 acre within the Phase II area near Henry Mayo Drive</p>
Equestrian Park (1–2 acres)	
<p>Type Definition A defined area with parking typically at, but not limited to, the beginning of a trail, with or without additional amenities such as equestrian arena(s), restrooms, picnic facilities, trash receptacles, etc. (grades or classes of trailheads may be developed in the future to further define subtypes of trailheads).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian arena(s) • Restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic facilities • Trash receptacles • Etc. <p>EP1: approximately 2 acres within the Phase II area near The Old Road and Saugus to the Sea Road</p>
Trailhead and Staging (0.2–2 acres)	
<p>Type Definition A defined area with parking typically at, but not limited to, the beginning of a trail, with or without additional amenities such as equestrian arena(s), restrooms, picnic facilities, trash receptacles, etc. (grades or classes of trailheads may be developed in the future to further define subtypes of trailheads). Horse trailers can be accommodated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian arena(s) • Restrooms • Picnic facilities • Trash receptacles • Horse trailers 	<p>TS1: approximately 2 acres within the Phase II area near The Old Road</p> <p>TS2: approximately 0.2 acre within the Phase II area near Pico Canyon Road and Pico Canyon Service Road</p>

**TABLE 2-3
PROPOSED FACILITIES**

Facility Type	Facility Impact Area Assumptions
Bike Skills Areas (7–8 acres)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrooms • Drinking Fountains • Rest Areas/Seating • Shade Structures • Pump Tracks (no pedaling required) • Progressive Jumps (natural soil with compacted dirt jumps) • Balance Skills Features (e.g., wooden teeter-totter) • Rock/Technical Features (e.g., rock garden with narrow width trails) • Flow Trails (start at higher elevation for downhill ride) • Trails (over variety of terrain, for all ages) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Handling Skills Areas (hard-packed soil course) • Beginner, Intermediate, and Expert Skills Courses (for all ages) • Advanced Downhill Course (steep terrain, jumps, turns, obstacles) • Slalom Course (two adjacent trails for competition) <p>BS1: approximately 7 acres within the Phase II area near The Old Road</p> <p>BS2: approximately 8 acres within the Phase II area near The Old Road and Towsley Canyon Road</p>

3. Construction Scenario

This Initial Study is based on an evaluation of the construction that would be required to build out the proposed trails in the general configurations of the conceptual plan. Proposed trail alignments are conceptual and will require additional survey, design, and engineering work to support dedication of easements and ultimately trail construction, operation, and maintenance. The final trail alignments are subject to refinement in relation to environmental, geologic, hydrologic, ownership, topology, and other factors, as specified in the County Trails Manual. The County Trails Manual outlines various issues affecting trail experience (Section 2.4.3.3) and trail feasibility (Section 2.5), including aesthetics. The County Trails Manual recommends that a visibility analysis be performed in a three-dimensional modeling program to determine if a proposed trail would be visible by the surrounding area residences using vantage points placed at important visual points of interest, known scenic vistas, or individual residences to determine the percentage of the trail that would be visible from the vantage points. Additionally, cross-sections depicting the distance and the elevation of the trails from adjacent residences are recommended to provide a representation of the visibility of proposed trails by incorporating the landscape and vegetation.

The approximately 82 miles of existing and planned trails within and adjacent to the project study area include a wide variety of terrain and elevation range. The highest location of the project study area is 3,430 feet above MSL in the southwestern portion of the Phase II area, and the lowest location is 946 feet above MSL at the northwestern portion of the Phase II area near the Santa Clara River. This results in an elevation range of 2,484 feet. Slopes in the project study area range from 0.0 degrees to 84.6 degrees at the steepest. Trails would need to be constructed consistent with the provisions of the trails plan, which sets standards for slope, width, visibility, and drainage. Additionally, 17 of the proposed trail corridors cross areas of wetland identified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) as identified in Table 3-1, *Proposed Trail Corridor NWI Crossings*.

**TABLE 3-1
PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDOR NWI CROSSINGS**

Proposed Trail Corridor Name	Number of NWI Crossings	NWI Wetland Types (Number of NWI Crossings)
Entrada	11	Riverine
Entrada to Santa Clara River	1	Riverine
	2	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Lyons Ranch	23	Riverine
Mentryville to Lyons	6	Riverine
Pico Canyon	24	Riverine
	11	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Pico Channel	8	Riverine
Pico Park	5	Riverine
Pico to Newhall Ranch	1	Riverine
Pico to Palo Sola	21	Riverine
	1	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Rice Canyon	1	Riverine
	4	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Santa Clara River	1	Riverine
	4	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
The Old Road	6	Riverine
	1	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
	1	Freshwater Pond
Towsley to North Ridge	3	Riverine
Towsley to RIVA	32	Riverine
	6	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
Towsley to South Ridge	33	Riverine
Wiley South Rim	11	Riverine
Wiley to RIVA	5	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
TOTAL	222 crossings	187 trail corridors would cross riverine 34 trail corridors would cross freshwater forested/shrub wetland 1 trail corridor would cross freshwater ponds

NOTE: In addition to adjustments made to the proposed trail corridors, the numbers in this table have been adjusted to reflect NWI crossings with a 12-foot trail corridor polygon instead of the linear alignment.

The environmental analysis for the project is based on a potential worst-case scenario for construction activities, including improvements to existing trails, construction of new trails, site grading for facilities and access roads, and delivery and hauling of construction materials and equipment. Construction activities associated with the project, as currently conceived, would entail construction of approximately 56 miles of trails. The construction scenario for the impact analysis assumes that the direct impact area for the construction of trails would be a 12-foot-wide corridor. Construction equipment would be limited to mini-dozers; graders; small tractors; a water truck; and hand tools including picks, hoes, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Construction would be conducted in accordance with the guidelines specified in the County Trails Manual.² The County Trails Manual contains specific methods for building trails in areas with steep slopes and riparian crossings. The County Trails Manual should be referenced for further information to determine the constructability of trail segments.

² County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

The easement area should include a minimum of five feet on either side of the trail tread to provide for construction and maintenance of the trail segment(s). In areas of very steep topography, it may be advantageous to acquire an easement that is much wider than the actual trail tread width to be constructed in order to provide a greater level of flexibility for trail design and construction.

Construction activities may include excavation, grading, and construction of trails and small structures at trailheads, rest areas, parking, equestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, and trail staging areas. The County would require preparation of a trail site plan, site-specific geotechnical investigation, survey for biological and cultural resources, and a Categorical Exemption or Initial Study (the appropriate CEQA document) in support of each trail segment before project approval and construction can commence.

Site preparation and construction of the project would be in accordance with all federal, state, and County building codes. Daily construction activities would be subject to County noise regulations, which state that construction equipment may not operate between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday, or at any time on Sunday or holidays. Noise levels exceeding 75 dBA (A-weighted decibels) for single-family residences, 80 dBA for multi-family residences, and 85 dBA for semi-residential/commercial land uses are prohibited by the County Noise Control Ordinance, Title 12 of the County Code. The contractor shall conduct construction activities in such a manner that the maximum noise levels at the affected buildings would not exceed established noise levels.

The construction contractor would be required to incorporate best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the guidelines provided in the *California Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbooks: Construction*, for elimination of non-stormwater discharge from the project site; retaining eroded sediments and other pollutants on the site; retaining stockpiles of earth and other construction-related materials on-site; proper storage of fuels, oils, solvents, and other toxic materials to prevent spills from being washed into the drainage system; retaining concrete wastes on-site until they can be disposed as solid waste; proper covered storage of trash and construction related solid wastes to prevent contamination of rainwater and dispersal by wind; stabilization of roadways to inhibit sediments from being deposited into the public way; and stabilization of any slopes with disturbed soils or denuded of vegetation to inhibit erosion by wind and water. Should the construction period continue into the rainy season, supplemental erosion measures would need to be implemented.

Wherever possible, grading activities would be undertaken outside the normal rainy season (i.e., October 15 to April 15 for most of Southern California), thus minimizing the potential for increased surface runoff and the associated potential for soil erosion. A recommended construction period would begin in late April or early May and completed in late January, assuming the majority of the construction would be completed in this recommended nine-month period. BMPs to control surface runoff and soil erosion would be required for construction activities. In accordance with the guidelines in Section 4.5.2, *Construction Scenario*, of the County Trails Manual, in locations with steep sideslopes; loose soils and rocks; areas that are prone to destabilization; large retaining structures; or areas that require extensive annual maintenance work, grading, and earthwork shall be performed under the supervision of an engineering geologist or soils engineer to ensure that appropriate recommendations are made to remediate site-specific erosion and soil stability conditions.³ Retaining walls would be included in the trail design to hold back the backslope where cut trails are required. Where cutting specified in the trail design requires greater disturbance of the upslope vegetation, the plans and guidelines or maintenance plan must provide for supplemental slope and erosion control measures until adequate slope vegetation exists (Figure 4.5.2.3-1 of the County Trails Manual).

³ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

BMPs for erosion control would be implemented during trail construction and improvements in order to maintain the unique topography of designated significant ridgelines where trails of the project study area traverse ridgelines that have been designated in the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. The proposed Santa Clara River trail corridor, Entrada to Santa Clara River trail corridor, and Trailhead TH2 would be located near two scenic water bodies: Castaic Creek and the Santa Clara River. The project proposes 11 trail corridors that would intersect with or follow nine of the County's significant ridgelines within the Phase II area:

1. Lyons Ranch
2. Mentryville to Lyons
3. Pico Canyon
4. Pico to Newhall Ranch
5. Pico to Palo Sola
6. Rice Canyon
7. Towsley to North Ridge
8. Towsley to South Ridge
9. Wiley West Rim
10. Wiley South Rim
11. Wiley to RIVA

Where construction of trails or related supporting facilities requires cuts into the slope (which can be seen from a far distance), the visual character of the slope would be restored by planting locally native vegetation after construction as a visual screen. Similarly, restrooms and other supporting structures would be constructed of materials that blend into the landscape, with native vegetative screening. In accordance with the guidelines in Section 4.3.18, *Lighting*, of the County Trails Manual, where lighting features are provided for safety and wayfinding reasons, lighting would be installed in a manner to be non-intrusive to adjacent uses, avoid detracting from a natural outdoors experience for trail users, and directed downward to avoid light pollution or spillover in general.⁴

Construction equipment would be turned off when not in use. The construction contractor would ensure that all construction and grading equipment is properly maintained. All vehicles and compressors would utilize exhaust mufflers and engine enclosure covers (as designed by the manufacturer) at all times. During construction, contractors would utilize traffic warning signs, flag persons, and other measures to maintain access for all properties and to facilitate traffic flow during construction of trails.

4. Responsible Party

DPR or its designee will be responsible for implementing and reporting mitigation measures in this program. DPR will have responsibility for ensuring that mitigation measures are accomplished in an environmentally responsible manner. County Parks will be responsible for ensuring that the status of mitigation measures is reported in accordance with this program. DPR will be responsible for ensuring that the cost of mitigation is included in its budget, as appropriate.

DPR will be responsible for program oversight and implementing construction-related mitigation measures. Mitigation measures will be included in applicable requests for proposals (RFP), specifications and procedures issued for construction of the trails and trail related facilities within the scope of this project. Other mitigation measures funded by the Contractor will be subject to oversight by DPR. In addition, DPR will be responsible for ensuring that mitigation measures are properly carried out by designated and qualified

⁴ County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at: <https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

personnel, which may include specialty contractors. DPR will be responsible for ensuring that applicable mitigation measures are carried forward in operational and maintenance procedures for the new trails and trail related facilities.

5. Mitigation Requirements, Schedule, and Reporting Frequency

Based on the findings of the MND, mitigation measures are not required for agriculture/forestry resources, air quality, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. Specific mitigation measures are required for aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources. Potentially significant impacts in these environmental resource areas will be avoided or minimized with implementation of 13 specific mitigation measures summarized in Table 5-1, *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Santa Susana Mountains Trails Plan – Phase II*.

Table 5-1 describes the method for executing the mitigation measure, organization responsible for implementing and funding the measure, estimated completion date for each measure, frequency of reporting, and significance after mitigation. Due to possible funding conditions and other external factors, facility construction and operation could be delayed. These delays may also affect the start and completion of mitigation measures.

The monitoring and accomplishment of each mitigation measure will be documented on a Mitigation Monitoring Report Form (see Appendix A). This form will be filled out by the appropriate individual in the event of an inadvertent discovery of archaeological materials, paleontological materials, or human remains as described in Table 5-1. Supplemental recordkeeping, report preparation and documentation will be required for some mitigation measures. The Mitigation Monitoring Report Form will be filled out by the appropriate individual verifying that steps to prevent or minimize environmental degradation have been completed as described in Table 5-1. Monitoring reports will be submitted to DPR (Attn: Environmental Section Head), retained in DPR' project files, and be available for inspection upon request. Completion of these forms will demonstrate and document compliance with Public Resources Code 21081.6.

**TABLE 5-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS TRAILS PLAN – PHASE II**

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Implementation Party	Monitoring Period	Enforcement Agency	Monitoring Agency	Documentation of Compliance	
					Source	Signature/Date
<p>include location and numbers of special status plants observed. Surveys shall be conducted within one year of the initiation of construction for each trail segment project. Additionally, surveys shall also define areas with high densities of invasive species. Where special status plant species are identified, the trail alignment will avoid direct and indirect effects, or a salvage (seed or plants as appropriate) and habitat restoration will be undertaken such that there is not net loss of occupied habitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayfinding signage shall include reminders to trail users to pack out their garbage in order to decrease levels of trash/litter and vandalism in natural areas. • Formal consultation with the USFWS will be required if a wildlife species afforded protection pursuant to the federal ESA is determined to be present as a result of focused protocol surveys. Formal consultation with the CDFW will be required if a species afforded protection pursuant to CESA is determined to be present as a result of focused protocol surveys. The priority shall be development of an Avoidance Plan to cover the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project elements. If the project cannot avoid “take,” a Section 10(a)(1) Incidental Take Permit will be required. • Altering the timing of construction to avoid seasons when sensitive species may be present (i.e., nesting bird season, blooming periods). • Worker Education and Awareness Program to inform all construction workers of their responsibilities in regards to avoiding and minimizing impacts on sensitive biological resources, and the consequences of failure to avoid and minimize impacts. • Designation of suitable habitat as off-limits during construction on all construction drawings and diagrams. • Use of fencing and/or flagging to delineate environmentally sensitive areas as off-limits during trail construction. • Prior to the use of equipment in areas defined as sensitive, all equipment shall be cleaned (off site) to reduce the potential for introduction of invasive species. • Use of on-site monitors for periods when trail construction will be undertaken within 250 feet of environmentally sensitive areas. • When temporary impacts to critical habitat may occur, the development and implementation of a habitat restoration plan shall be required to ensure that there is no net loss in habitat function and values. A minimum of 2:1 ratio for unavoidable impacts to all special status species/habitats shall be utilized. 						
<p>Mitigation Measure BIO-2: To mitigate potential impacts on riparian, state-sensitive plant communities, state protected wetlands, and federally protected wetlands and waters of the United States, the County shall require that plant community mapping be conducted by a qualified biologist with experience classifying plant communities in Southern California and/or a formal jurisdictional delineation be conducted by a certified wetland delineator to identify any state or federally protected wetlands, riparian areas, and state-sensitive plant communities on-site. Where state designated sensitive plant communities, riparian habitat, state or federally protected wetlands, or waters of the United States are determined to be present, mitigation measures shall be implemented such that there is no net loss of habitat functions or values. Opportunities for achieving this performance standard, consistent with the provisions of Section 1600 of the State Fish and Game Code and Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration that trail segment projects have been and will be designed, constructed, and maintained to avoid disturbance of any state-sensitive plant communities or riparian habitat, or any state or federally protected wetlands or waters of the United States wherever practicable and feasible. • Conduct pre-construction habitat surveys to delineate sensitive plant communities and riparian habitats to facilitate avoidance. Where avoidance is not feasible, provide for habitat restoration such 	County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation	Preconstruction, Construction	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	(Title of Monitoring Report)	_____ (Signature/Date of Monitoring Agency)

**TABLE 5-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS TRAILS PLAN – PHASE II**

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Implementation Party	Monitoring Period	Enforcement Agency	Monitoring Agency	Documentation of Compliance	
					Source	Signature/Date
<p>archaeological and/or significant historical resources, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.</p> <p>a. If the survey and record searches determine no unique archaeological resources or significant historical resources, then the work shall proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.</p> <p>b. If the survey determines potential unique archaeological resources or significant historical resources, then one of two courses of action shall be employed:</p> <p>i. Where avoidance is feasible, the trail alignments shall be realigned to avoid the potentially significant cultural resource, and the work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1. The new alignment shall be surveyed by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior. An archaeological monitor under direction of a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior shall be present during ground-disturbing activities within 60 feet of previously recorded cultural resources.</p> <p>Where avoidance is not feasible, a Phase II evaluation of the cultural resources shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior to determine the significance of the cultural resource. If the Phase II investigation identifies a unique/eligible cultural resource within the area proposed for ground-disturbing work, the County shall determine whether to avoid the resource through redesign or to proceed with a Phase III data recovery program consistent with the provisions of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. The work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1.</p>						
<p>Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-3: Paleontological Resources – Paleontological Monitoring. Impacts to cultural resources related directly or indirectly to the destruction of a unique paleontological resource from the proposed project shall be reduced to below the level of significance by monitoring, salvage, and curation at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum. Unanticipated paleontological resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities in previously undisturbed native soils located five or more feet below the ground surface that would have the potential to contact geologic units with a high to moderate potential to yield unique paleontological resources. Ground-disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, drilling, excavation, trenching, and grading. If paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) shall require and be responsible for salvage and recovery of those resources by a qualified paleontologist consistent with standards for such recovery established by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.⁶</p>	<p>County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works</p> <p>County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	Preconstruction, Construction	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	(Title of Monitoring Report)	<p>_____</p> <p>(Signature/Date of Monitoring Agency)</p>

⁶ A Qualified Professional Paleontologist (Principal Investigator, Project Paleontologist) is a practicing scientist who is recognized in the paleontological community as a professional and can demonstrate familiarity and proficiency with paleontology in a stratigraphic context. A paleontological Principal Investigator shall have the equivalent of the following qualifications:

1. A graduate degree in paleontology or geology, and/or a publication record in peer reviewed journals; and demonstrated competence in field techniques, preparation, identification, curation, and reporting in the state or geologic province in which the project occurs. An advanced degree is less important than demonstrated competence and regional experience.
2. At least two full years professional experience as assistant to a Project Paleontologist with administration and project management experience; supported by a list of projects and referral contacts.
3. Proficiency in recognizing fossils in the field and determining their significance.
4. Expertise in local geology, stratigraphy, and biostratigraphy.
5. Experience collecting vertebrate fossils in the field.

**TABLE 5-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS TRAILS PLAN – PHASE II**

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Implementation Party	Monitoring Period	Enforcement Agency	Monitoring Agency	Documentation of Compliance	
					Source	Signature/Date
<p>Paleontological Resources Sensitivity Training given by a qualified paleontologist or archaeologist cross-trained in paleontology shall be required for all project personnel involved in ground disturbing activities prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities in geologic units with a moderate to high potential to yield unique paleontological resources. This shall include a brief field training that provides an overview of fossils that might potentially be found, and the appropriate procedures to follow if fossils are identified. This requirement extends to any new staff involved in earth disturbing that joins the project.</p> <p>Construction monitoring by a qualified monitor (archaeologist cross-trained in paleontology or paleontologist) shall be implemented during all ground-disturbing activities that affect previously undisturbed geologic units 12 or more inches below the ground surface and have the potential to encounter geologic units with a moderate to high potential to yield unique paleontological resources. In the event that a paleontological resource is encountered during construction, all ground-disturbing activity within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until a qualified paleontologist can evaluate the significance of the discovery. Additional monitoring recommendations may be required. If the resource is found to be significant, the paleontologist shall determine the most appropriate treatment and method for stabilizing and collecting the specimen. Curation of the any significant paleontological finds shall be housed at a qualified repository, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM).</p> <p>Within 90 days of the completion of any salvage operation or monitoring activities, a mitigation report shall be submitted to DPR with an appended, itemized inventory with representative snapshots of specimens. The report and inventory, when submitted to DPR, shall signify the completion of the program to mitigate impacts to paleontological resources. A copy of the report/inventory shall be filed with the County of Los Angeles Planning and Development Agency and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.</p>						
<p>Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-4: Regulatory Requirements – Human Remains. In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are encountered during excavation activities, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby areas reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains within 100 feet shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains.</p>	<p>County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works</p> <p>County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	Preconstruction, Construction	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	(Title of Monitoring Report)	<p>_____</p> <p>(Signature/Date of Monitoring Agency)</p>
Tribal Cultural Resources						
<p>Mitigation Measure TRIBAL-1: Tribal Resources – Avoidance and Monitoring. Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) shall review the construction plans to ensure that any known tribal cultural resources that are required to be avoided have been marked as “off-limits” areas for construction and construction staging. DPR shall require monitoring of all ground disturbing activities by a Native American monitor within 60 feet of a known tribal cultural resource. In addition, consultation shall be undertaken with the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by the Native American Heritage Commission to determine if a Native American monitor shall be present during all or a portion of the ground-disturbing activities within additional areas that are sensitive for Tribal Resources.</p> <p>In the event that previously unknown Tribal cultural resources are encountered during construction, the resources shall either be left <i>in situ</i> and avoided through realignment of the trail, or the resources shall be salvaged, recorded, and repositied at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum or other repository consistent with the provisions of a Phase III data recovery program and the provisions of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. Data recovery is not required by law or regulation. It is, though, the most commonly agreed-upon measure to mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources eligible or listed under Section 106 Criterion D, as it preserves important information that will otherwise be lost.</p>	<p>County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works</p> <p>County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	Preconstruction, Construction	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	(Title of Monitoring Report)	<p>_____</p> <p>(Signature/Date of Monitoring Agency)</p>

**TABLE 5-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS TRAILS PLAN – PHASE II**

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Implementation Party	Monitoring Period	Enforcement Agency	Monitoring Agency	Documentation of Compliance	
					Source	Signature/Date
<p>Mitigation Measure TRIBAL-2: Pre-Construction Surveys. At the time that any new segment of trail is proposed for development that would require ground-disturbing activities in soils that have been predominantly <i>in situ</i> during the past 50 years, records and archival information shall be reviewed to determine if there are any recorded Tribal cultural resources as defined by AB52 in the project footprint. At a minimum, the records and archival review shall include a search of the South Central Coastal Information Center if more than two years have passed since the previous records search, a request for Sacred Lands File from the Native American Heritage Commission, and a request for information regarding Tribal cultural resources from the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by Native American Heritage Commission. The appropriate course of action shall be undertaken in light of the results of the records search:</p> <p>(A) Where the project study area has been subject to a Phase I Walkover Survey within two years of the proposed activity and no Tribal cultural resources are known within the project footprint, work shall proceed per the provision of Mitigation Measure TRIBAL-1.</p> <p>(B) Where all or a portion of the project footprint has not been surveyed for cultural resources within two years of a proposed ground-disturbing activity, a qualified archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualification standards for archaeology and shall conduct a Phase I Walkover Survey to ascertain the presence or absence of Tribal Resources, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.</p> <p>a. If the survey and record searches determine no potential Tribal cultural resources, then the work shall proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure TRIBAL-1.</p> <p>b. If the survey determines potential Tribal cultural resources, then one of two courses of action shall be employed:</p> <p>i. Where avoidance is feasible, the trail alignments shall be realigned to avoid the potentially significant tribal cultural resource, and the work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure TRIBAL-1. The new alignment shall be surveyed by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior. DPR shall require monitoring of all ground disturbing activities by a Native American monitor within 60 feet of a known tribal cultural resource. In addition, consultation shall be undertaken with the Native American local Tribal contacts designated by the Native American Heritage Commission to determine if a Native American monitor shall be present during all or a portion of the ground-disturbing activities within additional areas that are sensitive for Tribal Resources.</p> <p>Where avoidance is not feasible, a Phase II evaluation of the cultural resources shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist who meets the professional qualification standards of the Secretary of the Interior to determine the significance of the cultural resource. If the Phase II investigation identifies a unique/eligible Tribal resource within the area proposed for ground-disturbing work, the County shall determine whether to avoid the resource through redesign or to proceed with a Phase III data recovery program consistent with the provisions of a Cultural Resource Management Plan. The work shall then proceed consistent with the provisions of Mitigation Measure TRIBAL-1.</p>	<p>County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works</p> <p>County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	Preconstruction	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	(Title of Monitoring Report)	(Signature/Date of Monitoring Agency)

**TABLE 5-1
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS TRAILS PLAN – PHASE II**

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Implementation Party	Monitoring Period	Enforcement Agency	Monitoring Agency	Documentation of Compliance	
					Source	Signature/Date
<p>Mitigation Measure TRIBAL-3: Regulatory Requirements – Human Remains. In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are encountered during excavation activities, the County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby areas reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains within 100 feet shall occur until the County Coroner has determined the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains.</p> <p>If the County Coroner determines that the remains are or are believed to be Native American, s/he shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, the NAHC shall immediately notify the person(s) it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD) of the deceased Native American. The descendants shall complete their inspection and make a recommendation within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the disposition of the human remains. The MLD's recommendation shall be followed if feasible, and may include scientific removal and non-destructive analysis of the human remains and any items associated with Native American burials. If DPR rejects the MLD's recommendations, the agency shall rebury the remains with appropriate dignity on the property within a time frame agreed upon between the County and the MLD's in a location that will not be subject to further subsurface disturbance (14 California Code of Regulations §15064.5(e)).</p>	<p>County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works</p> <p>County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>Preconstruction, Construction</p>	<p>County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works</p>	<p>County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works</p>	<p>(Title of Monitoring Report)</p>	<p>(Signature/Date of Monitoring Agency)</p>

6 References

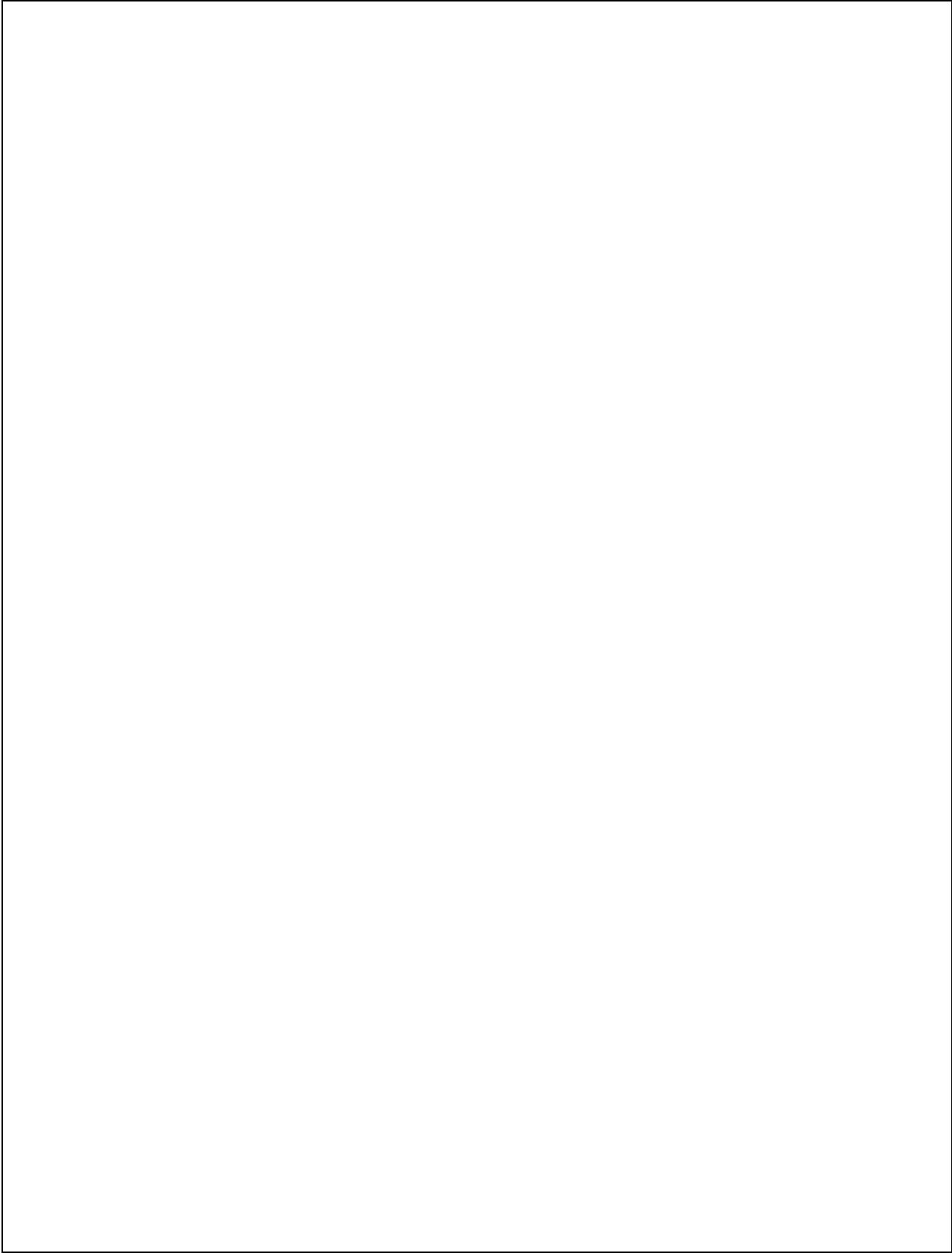
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. [May 2011] June 2013. County of Los Angeles Trails Manual. Available at:
<https://trails.lacounty.gov/Files/Documents/69/LA%20County%20Trails%20Manual%20%28Revised%2006-20-13%29.compressed.pdf>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. January 12, 2015. *Regional Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines for South Pacific Division Final*. Available at:
<http://www.spd.usace.army.mil/Portals/13/docs/regulatory/mitigation/MitMon.pdf>

Appendix A Mitigation Monitoring Report Form

SECTION A: General Project Information		
1. Project Name:	2. Trail Segment ID and Name from Santa Susana Mountains Trails Master Plan:	3. Name of Proposed Trail to be Constructed:
4. Permittee, bank or in-lieu fee sponsor name and work phone number:	5. Permittee, bank or in-lieu fee sponsor mailing address:	6. Permittee, bank or in-lieu fee sponsor email address:
7. Agent name and work phone number:	8. Agent mailing address:	9. Agent email address:
SECTION B: Notice of Commencement/Completion of Compensatory Mitigation Project		
1. Commencement Date:	2. Completion Date:	3. Name and phone number of contractor (if any):
SECTION C: Mitigation Monitoring Status		
1. Final monitoring completed and verification requested? Y / N	2. Date of monitoring reported:	3. Monitoring report No. _____ of _____
4. Management and maintenance activities completed (i.e., fencing installation [included dates]):		
5. Adaptive management activities completed (include dates):		

1. Number: 2. Date: 3. Compass Direction Taken: Degrees: Cardinal/intercardinal: 4. Coordinates (decimal degrees): Latitude: Longitude: 5. Photographer name: 6. Description:	Attach photograph here:
1. Number: 2. Date: 3. Compass Direction Taken: Degrees: Cardinal/intercardinal: 4. Coordinates (decimal degrees): Latitude: Longitude: 5. Photographer name: 6. Description:	Attach photograph here:
SECTION E: Map of photograph locations	Map Number:



Instructions

General instructions:

This form should be returned annually (or per the schedule included in the County-approved final mitigation plan) to the County Parks project manager via electronic or physical mail (see County Parks website for contact information:).

Detailed instructions:

Sections A-C: Please insert the most current information available.

Section D: Color photographs should be inserted with all corresponding information completed (items 1-6). Photograph locations should be identified on a map (see Section E).

Section E: Insert photograph map(s), one per page. Portrait or landscape orientations are acceptable. Locations of photographs should be labeled by photograph number. Compass direction of each photograph should be shown using an arrow.