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Comments on Ferber and O'Neill Oaks Properties

Hi all,

We're submitting a letter to the OCTA about the Ferber and O'Neill Oaks Preserves. We're focusing on five sections in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and we **STRONGLY** encourage **each of you** to write your own comments, but **we want your comments to be included in our club letter; we are an equestrian community.**

Send your personal comments to:

Orange County Transportation Authority
Attn: M2 NCCP/HCP
550 South Main Street
P.O. Box 14184
Orange, CA 92863-1584

RMP Sections:

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Please review the comments below and **FOR EACH OF THE 16 comments in BOLD** below, let us know if you are:

- **In favor of this (AGREE)**
- **Opposed to this (OPPOSE)**
- **Suggest something else (tell us what you would like us to say)**

3.1.3 Ferber Ranch Public Access Plan.....Page 3-7

- **FROM THE RMP:** *That the foot trail and dirt road just north of Rose Canyon Road is ONLY maintained for Preserve Management.*
 - **COMMENT #1:** **That the foot trail and dirt road maintained for Preserve Management be opened for designated hike/ride events so that neighbors on Rose Canyon Road have easier access to the main “staging” area for such events.**
- **FROM THE RMP:** *That the current configuration of approved trails does not connect to other regional trails.*

- **COMMENT #2:**
 - **As an entity of the County of Orange, OCTA must comply with General Plan guidelines and accept responsibility for regional trail connections. The OCTA is the county government entity in the region and is therefore required to adhere to General Plan stipulations.**
 - **We encourage the OCTA and subsequent Preserve Management teams to focus on trail connectivity consistent with the General Plan and specific to the goal outlined in Section VII-22: “Create trail linkages between open space and recreation facilities, between community, municipal, state, and federal trail systems, and between the trail systems of surrounding counties.”**

- **AREAS OF GENERAL SUPPORT:**
 - **COMMENT #3: ETI would like to be identified as a key stakeholder to help organize and facilitate additional public access days/events.**
 - **COMMENT #4: ETI agrees to have volunteers trained as docents and work closely with the Preserve manager.**
 - **COMMENT #5: ETI agrees to be responsible and accountable for actions that occur during events.**
 - **COMMENT #6: If organized as an official ETI event, ETI will accept liability for its member attendees.**
 - **COMMENT #7: ETI commits to being one of the trusted community partners.**

3.1.4 Public Education and Enforcement of Public Access PlanPage 3-13

- **COMMENT #8: ETI commits to participating in a volunteer program and commits to working with Preserve Managers to address a variety of education and management issues. ETI has a long history of cooperation, public education and trail maintenance in O’Neill Regional Park.**
- **COMMENT #9: ETI is willing to help support the removal of illegal trails, trail modifications or other intrusions as appropriate.**
- **COMMENT #10: ETI commits to two-way communication with Preserve Management and will continue to offer a voice for area residents as it has for almost 25-years.**
- **COMMENT #11: ETI has formalized Mounted Assistance Units in the past and is willing to consider another such unit if requested and useful.**

4.2 Adaptive Management.....Page 4-16

- **FROM THE RMP: *There is no public component for participation in the adaptive management plan.***
 - **COMMENT #12: That the foot trail and dirt road maintained for Preserve Management be opened for designated hike/ride events so that neighbors on Rose Canyon Road have easier access to the main “staging” area for such events.**

- **FROM THE RMP:** *There is no opportunity for public input on future proposed recommendations.*
 - **COMMENT #13:** **Create a process for public input, feedback and comment throughout the entire process. The accumulation of understanding and subsequent adaptation of a management strategy should NOT simply depend on feeding information obtained from monitoring results back into the decision-making process.**
- **FROM THE RMP:** *Methodology to determine wildlife impact based on monitoring and gauging wildlife activity from movement cameras while the levels of public access are being reviewed and potentially changed.*
 - **COMMENT #14:** **Clearly, the presence of wildlife captured on wildlife movement cameras would necessarily be reduced during periods of public access. Revise the methodology.**

5.1 Financial Requirements.....Page 5-1

- **FROM THE RMP:** *There is no funding reference in the RMP for trail development, planning or implementation.*
 - **COMMENT #15:** **As the County entity in the region, OCTA and the Preserve should rely on OC Parks and other fund sources for trail development and maintenance as outlined in the General Plan.**

5.2 Funding Sources.....Page 5-2

- **FROM THE RMP:** *There is no funding reference in the RMP for trail development, planning or implementation.*
 - **COMMENT #16:** **As the County entity in the region, OCTA and the Preserve should rely on OC Parks and other fund sources for trail development and maintenance as outlined in the General Plan.**
 - **OC General Plan:**
<http://ocplanning.net/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=24960>

VII-1 OVERVIEW The Recreation Element, one of the nine elements of the General Plan, contains official policies pertaining to the acquisition, development, operation, maintenance, and financing of the County's varied recreation facilities, which include regional recreation facilities, local parks, and riding and hiking trails. The Recreation Element text includes five main sections: ● Purpose of the Element ● Constraints and Opportunities ● Local Parks Component ● Regional Riding and Hiking Trails Component ● Regional Recreation Facilities Component

VII-16 Source of Funds: ● Local Park Trust Fund ● Special District Augmentation Funds ● Local Park Maintenance Agency Funds ● Grants ● Special Taxes (subject to two-thirds approval of local voters) ● Contributions