

November 20, 2015

Stacy Blackwood, Director
OC Parks
13042 Old Myford Road
Irvine, CA 92602



RE: Proposed Craig Park Bike Facility

Dear Ms. Blackwood:

The Safe Trails Coalition (STC) is grateful that the OC Parks staff was able to accommodate a tour of the proposed Craig Park Bike Facility. Viewing the plans from the actual site was extremely helpful to understanding the concept, impacts, and accommodations. The intent of this letter is to provide initial support for the concept of the bike facility at Craig Regional Park.

It is our understanding that the proposed facility will provide a much needed skills course for beginners, intermediate, and advanced mountain bikers. To our knowledge, no other facility like this exists in Orange County. With our focus on finding a balance between recreational trail use and resource protection, we are increasingly aware that education is key to ensuring this balance is found. To this end, we support providing a safe, reliable and easy to access location for training and skills development that spans the ability spectrum. Encompassing all age groups and skill levels will help encourage proficiency, technique, and ridership among this user group.

Based on the tour with OC Parks staff and a subsequent meeting with the Safe Trails Coalition Core Team, we believe there is merit to the project in concept. We wanted to offer our initial support. Concurrently, we will await the environmental review and analysis of impacts, so we can more fully understand the resources, the impacts, and the potential mitigation needed. Most specifically, concerns have been raised about nesting bird species in the adjacent trees. When the environmental impact report is released, we will provide substantive input at that time and will re-evaluate our position again.

If it is helpful to provide support in other ways for this project, please do not hesitate to call on us. Should you have any questions, please call me directly at 714-779-7561.

Sincerely,

Melanie Schlotterbeck
Facilitator, Safe Trails Coalition

CC: Kevin McKeown, OC Parks
Tuan Richardson, OC Parks
John Gannaway, OC Parks
Steve Larson, SHARE and IMBA
Eddie Kim, REI, Tustin