

**D RECREATION-RELATED MAPS AND NPS
LETTERS**

DISTRICT MAP

PARK FACILITIES

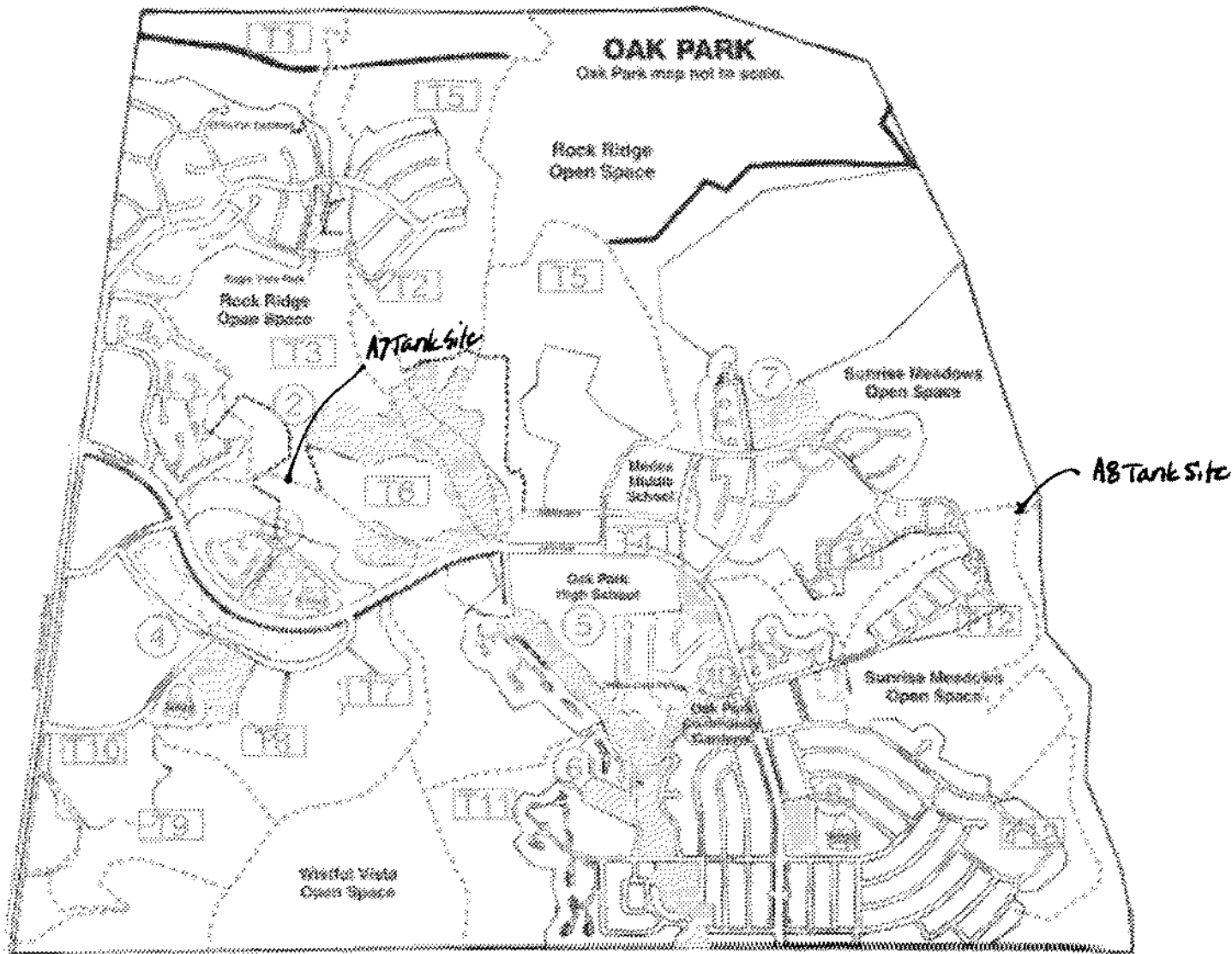
1. Eagle View Park - 1240 Hidden Springs Ave.
2. Oak Canyon Community Park - 5600 Hollytree Dr.
3. Valley View Park - 100 Los Arcos Dr.
4. Indian Springs Park - 4800 Rockfield St.
5. Medea Creek Park Trail
6. Chaparral Park - 217 N. Medea Creek Lane
7. Deerhill Park - 6700 Doubletree Rd.
8. Mae Boyar Park - 130 Kanan Rd. (818) 991-8631
9. Oak Park Community Center & Gardens
1000 Kanan Rd. (818) 865-9304
10. Oak Park Community Garden, 401 Kanan Road

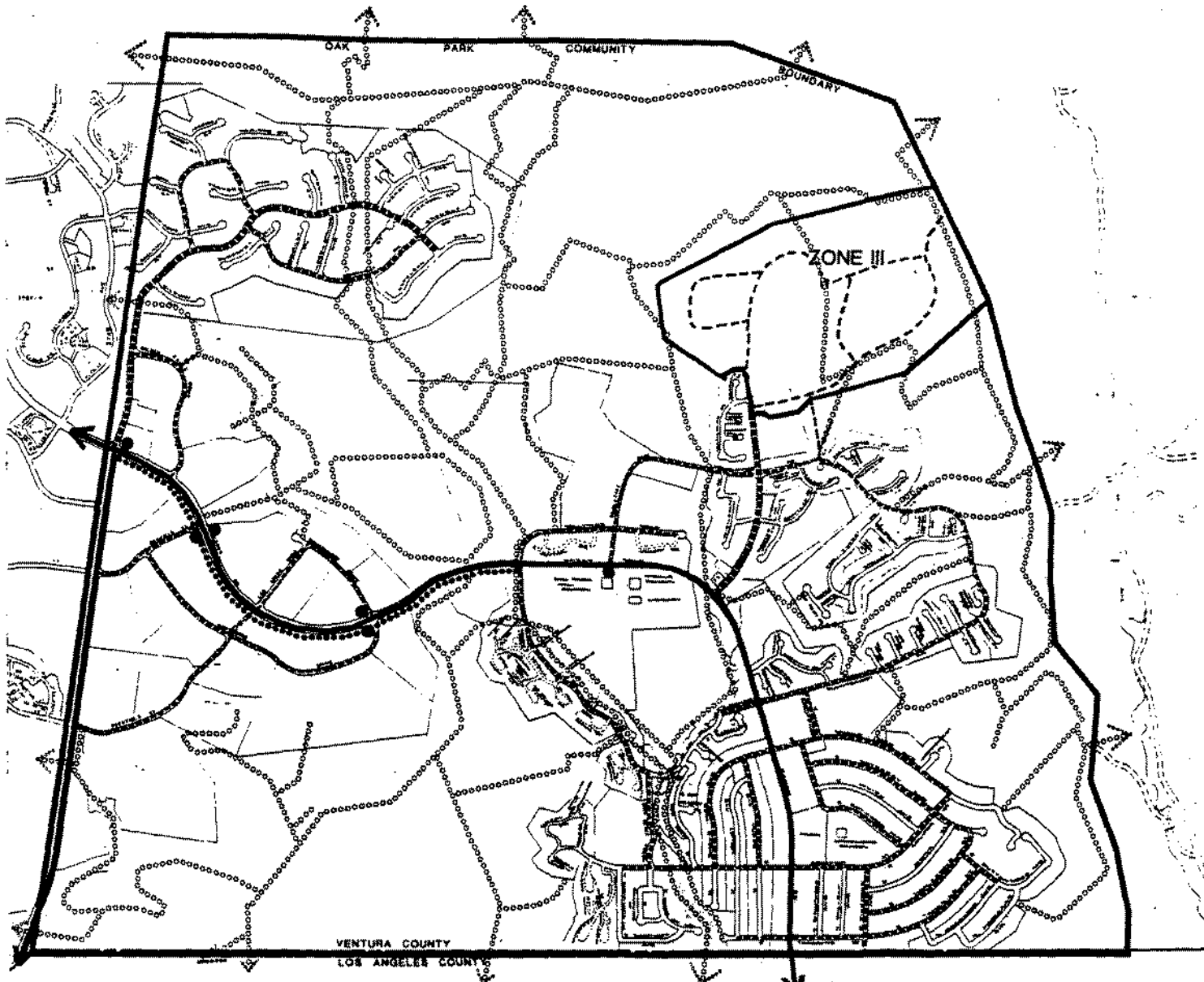
Before and After School Club Facilities

- SC1 Oak Hills Elementary School
(818) 889-2154 - 1010 Kanan Rd.
- SC2 Red Oak Elementary School
(818) 597-1322 - 4857 Rockfield St.
- SC3 Brookside Elementary School
(818) 991-8631 - 165 N. Satinwood Ave.

trail FACILITIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> T1 China Flat Trail - 1.5 miles
(King James Court to China Flat) T2 Medea Creek Trail - 1.9 miles
(along Medea Creek Park) T3 Oak Canyon Community Park Trail - 1.5 miles
(mostly within Oak Canyon Community Park) T4 Medea Creek Trail East - 1.7 miles
(Doubletree Rd. to Medea Creek Trail) T5 Rocky Ridge Trail East - 2 miles
(starts at Doubletree Rd. & Oak Canyon Community Park) T6 Rock Ridge Trail West - 1.1 miles
(Kanan Rd. at Oak Canyon Community Park to Lindero Cyn. Rd.) T7 Wistful Vista Trail - 1 mile
(starts at Kanan Rd. south of Oak Canyon Community Park) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> T8 Wistful Vista Trail to Indian Springs Park -
4 mile (starts at Indian Springs Park) T9 Wistful Vista Trail to Lindero Cyn. Rd. - .7 mile
(starts at Lindero Cyn. Rd.) T10 Canyon Cove Trail - .5 mile
(starts at Rockfield St. and Lindero Cyn. Rd.) T11 Wistful Vista East - 1 mile
(forks off from main Wistful Vista Trail) T12 Sunrise Meadow Ridge Trail - 1.4 mile
(starts at Doubletree Rd. on the north to Smoketree) T13 Sunrise Meadow Creekside Trail - 1 mile
(starts at Kanan Rd. & Deerhill Rd. to Sunnycrest) |
|---|--|





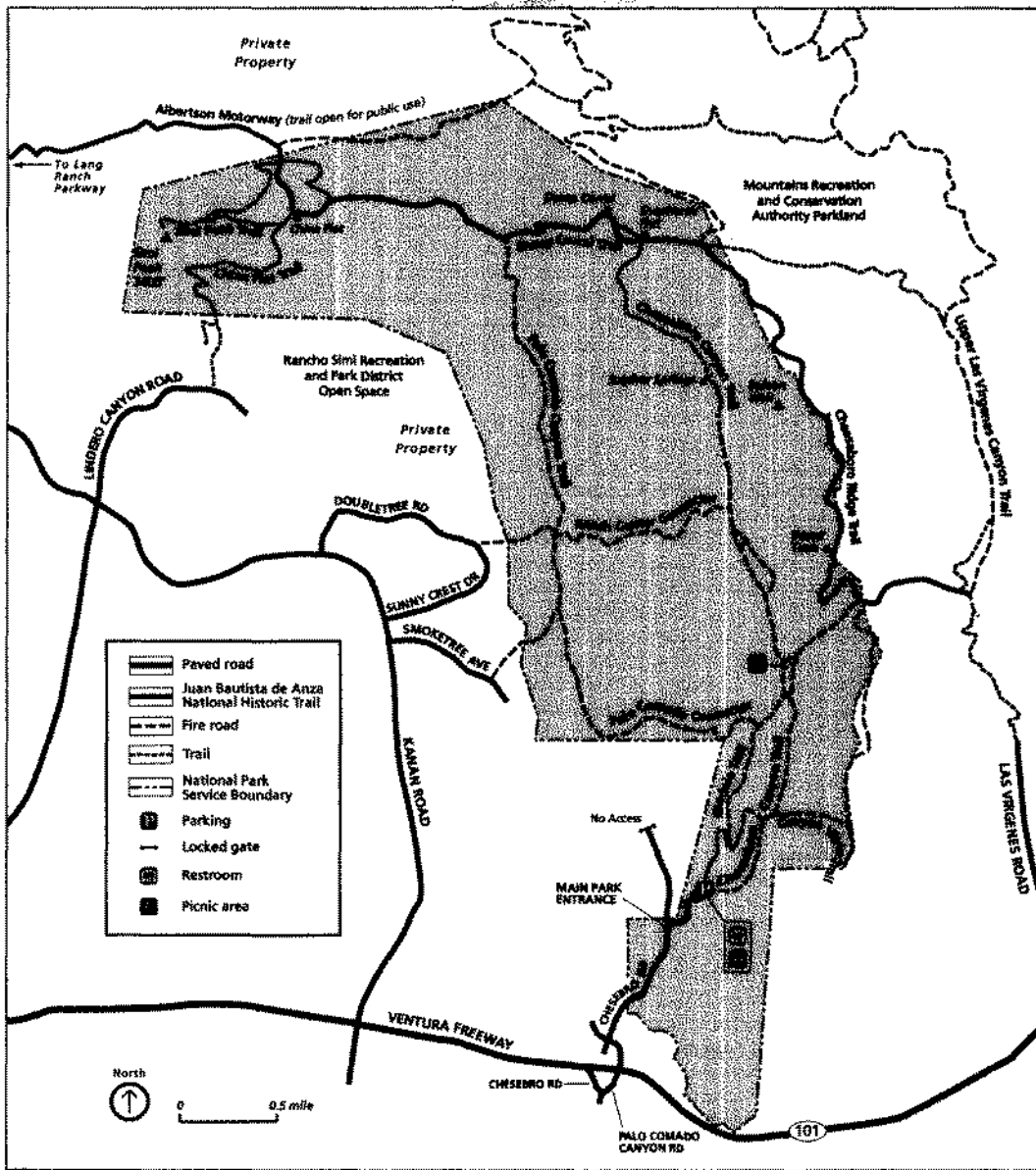
- LOCAL ARTERIAL (4 LANES, 110' OR MORE R/W REQUIRED)
- MAJOR COLLECTOR (2 LANES, 66-76' R/W REQUIRED)
- MINOR COLLECTOR (2 LANES, 53-65' R/W REQUIRED)
- BUS TURNOUT
- CLASS I BIKE PATH
- PEDESTRIAN PATH/RECREATIONAL TRAIL (CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT)



FIGURE 7
OAK PARK COMMUNITY CIRCULATION

R3

CHEESEBORO/PALO COMADO CANYONS



Trails

Modelo Spur 0.7 mile, moderate—This trail meanders from the parking lot through grasslands to a lone coast live oak on the ridge. The trail drops east and joins the Cheeseboro Canyon Trail.

Modelo Trail 1 mile, easy—Starting at the ridge line of the Modelo Spur and continuing north along the ridge, this pathway offers views of both canyons. It ends at the Palo Comado Connector Trail where you can turn right, and travel east to Cheeseboro Canyon, or left, and travel west to Palo Comado Canyon.

Palo Comado Canyon Trail 4.4 miles, moderate to strenuous—The first 1.2 miles of this trail are a gentle stroll along a creek

to the old ranch center. The dramatic elevation gain begins a mile past the ranch site where you will climb from 1,200 feet elevation to scenic China Flat at 2,140 feet elevation.

Palo Comado Connector 1.5 miles, moderate—Travel this old ranch road across the ridge and through a section of Modelo Shale to reach either Cheeseboro or Palo Comado Canyons.

Cheeseboro Canyon Trail 4.6 miles, easy—Follow an old ranch road along a streambed through a valley oak savannah and coast live oak riparian zone. A picnic area is located 1.6 miles from the parking lot. Near Sulphur Springs, at 3.3 miles, you can smell the odor of rotten eggs. As you pass under the Baleen Wall, the canyon opens up and chaparral slopes

replace the savannah. The trail continues to an old sheep corral where you can picnic near the creek bed or watch the sky for birds of prey.

Canyon View Trail 0.7 mile, moderately strenuous—This trail splits to the east of the Cheeseboro Canyon Trail and climbs to a knoll above the Lost Hills landfill. Looking back towards the west, you can see most of Cheeseboro Canyon.

Ranch Center Connector 1.1 miles, moderate to strenuous—This trail crosses a chaparral hillside and connects Cheeseboro and Palo Comado Canyons.

Simi Peak Trail 0.8 mile, moderate—This trail winds from China Flat to Simi Peak, the highest point in the area. Enjoy a spectacular view of Oak Park, Agoura Hills and Simi Valley.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

In reply refer to:
L76 (SAMO)

March 12, 2007

Donna M. Hebert
Padre Associates, Inc.
1861 Knoll Drive
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Ms. Hebert:

The National Park Service thanks the Triunfo Sanitation District for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Conifer Tank Replacement project for consideration in the Initial Study. We understand the project proposes to replace the one million-gallon water storage tank with a two to 2.4-million gallon tank at a different location. The forthcoming Initial Study will review two alternative locations, each considering an above-ground and below-ground storage tank and associated conveyance pipelines and other infrastructure. Alternative Site A7 is located in the open space above the Oak Park Community Center. Alternative Site A8 is located approximately 800 feet east of Doubletree Road on the south side of the access road into Palo Comado Canyon, part of the large parkland area covering the Simi Hills and a part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a unit in the National Park System.

We provide comments on the effects of private and public land development in the Santa Monica Mountains at the invitation of state and local units of government with authority to prevent or minimize adverse uses. We respect agencies' mandate to plan for and provide public services to their constituencies, consistent with federal, state, and local laws. In providing comments, we assume a neutral position and do not support or oppose land development. To this end, we offer the following comments on the proposed tank replacement.

Alternative Site A8 has the potential to cause significant negative impacts to Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area park resources in the Simi Hills, especially visitor experience. Alternative Site A7 is physically and visually removed from the national recreation area, and thus would not impact park resources or the visitor experience. Site A8, however, is immediately adjacent to federal parkland in Palo Comado Canyon, Cheeseboro Canyon, and the greater public parkland of the Simi Hills.

Simi Hills parkland covers over 16,000 acres of protected open space—an area that rivals the combined acreage of Point Mugu State Park and the National Park Service's Circle X Ranch.

The size of the protected land makes the Simi Hills parkland one of five "core habitat" areas in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Core habitat areas provide the largest unfragmented open space in the national recreation area, representing the best opportunities for wildlife persistence in the heavily developed Los Angeles region. National Park Service-sponsored studies of wildlife in the Simi Hills confirm the importance of this large parkland area to mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, badgers, and other wildlife.

There are over 50 miles of public trails through the parkland. The Simi Hills offer some of the best parkland views and provide visitors a place to realize physical and emotional benefits. Visitation to the trails of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area tops 550,000, with Cheeseboro Canyon/Simi Hills one of the most popular sites. Visitors range from tourists from other countries to repeat visitors from local communities. The Simi Hills are truly an area of national significance that is uniquely available to and greatly enjoyed by the residents of Oak Park.

The park entrance at Doubletree Road is a popular secondary entrance to Simi Hills parkland. The Simi Hills Comprehensive Design Plan, completed by the National Park Service in 2002, proposes cooperation with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District to construct a small, off-road parking lot and trailhead at the Doubletree entrance. One of the most popular trail loops includes entrance at Doubletree, with a crossover into Cheeseboro Canyon using the Ranch Center Trail. Ranch Center Trail, an old ranching road connecting canyons, offers expansive vistas that keep development comfortably distant from park visitors' views. However, the placement of the water tank at Site A8 would introduce a large construct of human development within close range of any view along the trail west of the ridgeline. Additionally, visitors would have to walk past the tank on their way into the park. Currently, the large open space-type parkland experience begins immediately upon walking up the trail after parking on Doubletree Road.

It should be noted that an abandoned water tank associated with Calleguas Municipal Water District is located on the eastern ridge of Cheeseboro Canyon. With the addition of a new tank at the Doubletree location, no sooner would the old tank be out of sight when the new tank would come into view. We suggest the Triunfo Sanitation District consider removing the old water tank as mitigation for installing the new water tank, if the A8 site is selected.

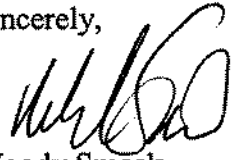
Site A8 is located in an area of disturbed non-native grassland, although attention should be given in the Initial Study to the site's adjacency to riparian habitat associated with Palo Comado Creek on federal parkland. We appreciate that motion detectors would trigger security lighting only upon intrusion into the facility. There are significant archaeological sites in the vicinity of the tank. The Initial Study should evaluate the potential for impacts to archaeological resources.

We reviewed the preliminary tables summarizing the development parameters for the two sites, both above and below ground. An underground tank at Site A8 would reduce the viewshed impacts. We note that significantly less grading and truckloads associated with hauling materials would be needed for the A8 site. However, Site A8's sensitive parkland

setting, acquired for all Americans to enjoy—including Oak Park residents—should be weighed carefully when debating the benefits and impacts of the two alternative sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions, please call Ray Sauvajot at (805)370-2339.

Sincerely,


for Woody Smeck
Superintendent

cc: Larry Peterson, General Manager, Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District
Mark Towne, Conejo Open Space and Conservation Authority Coordinator
Joe Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

In reply refer to:
1.76 (SAMO)

April 5, 2007

Donna M. Hebert
Padre Associates, Inc.
1861 Knoll Drive
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Ms. Hebert:

Per my staff's phone conversation with yourself and Mark Capron, Triunfo Sanitation District's project manager for the Conifer Tank replacement, the following letter is provided to clarify the National Park Service's interest in removing the unused water tank on the eastern ridge of Cheeseboro Canyon (Cheeseboro Tank). The National Park Service acquired Cheeseboro Canyon in 1981. The water tank was in place at that time on a four-acre inholding owned by Calleguas Municipal Water District. We understand the tank was constructed in anticipation of the Ahmanson Ranch development. Ahmanson Ranch was acquired in 2003 by the State of California for public parkland, now officially named Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve. Hence, the tank was no longer needed for water service to the formerly proposed development.

Over 85,000 visitors per year enjoy the 50-mile trail network on public parkland throughout the Simi Hills. The National Park Service considers the Cheeseboro Tank a visual negative to the visitors' experience. The tank's pump station in Palo Comado Canyon is also a visual obstacle in an otherwise natural landscape. The National Park Service seeks to maintain, and if necessary restore, natural landscapes in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. If the tank and pump station are no longer needed, we recommend they be removed from this scenic landscape. To that end, in January, 2005, my staff researched whether Cheeseboro Tank was still needed by Calleguas, or whether it could be used by another water district or the National Park Service. We spoke with a representative at Calleguas Municipal Water District, who confirmed the tank was no longer needed, but the water district did not plan to remove the tank. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District staff said the tank would not serve their needs. The National Park Service does not need the tank for fire fighting purposes. Regarding the Conifer Tank Replacement project, we understand Alternative A8 contemplates constructing water storage tank on the south side of the Doubletree Connector Trail into Palo Comado Canyon. We ask Triunfo Sanitation District to consider the following measures that, taken together, would considerably reduce visual impacts.

1. Construct the Conifer Tank replacement underground.
2. Remove the Cheeseboro Tank pump station located in Palo Comado Canyon.
3. Remove the Cheeseboro Tank.

R9

Please note that tank and pump station removal would be subject to environmental review under NEPA. While there exists a categorical exclusion for projects intended to accomplish the "removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archaeological resources," (NPS Director's Order No. 12—Environmental Impact Analysis), we cannot make such a determination until a project description has been provided in writing.

Thank you for consulting with the National Park Service about removing the Cheeseboro Tank and pump station facilities. We also plan to comment on the forthcoming Initial Study for the Conifer Tank Replacement project. If you have questions, please call Melanie Beck at (805)370-2346.

Sincerely,



Woody Smeck
Superintendent

cc: Mark Capron, Project Manager, Triunfo Sanitation District
Larry Peterson, General Manager, Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District
Mark Towne, Conejo Open Space and Conservation Authority Coordinator
Joe Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy