

From: [Michael Hawks](#)
To: [Admin, Coastal Greenbelt Authority](#); [ocparks](#); [Admin, Trails Subcommittee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Formal Objection – Proposed Land Transfer for Moulton Meadows Pump Track
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 12:16:34 AM
Attachments: [OC-Parks-Letter-ABUnited.pdf](#)

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Dear Coastal Greenbelt Authority and OC Parks Leadership,

On behalf of **Arch Beach United**, the Arch Beach Heights neighborhood coalition in Laguna Beach, I am submitting the attached **Formal Objection Letter** regarding the proposed land transfer of County-owned open space adjacent to Moulton Meadows Park for use as a bicycle “pump track.”

As detailed in our letter, this proposal raises serious concerns regarding the **loss of designated County open space, fire risk, environmental impact, and public safety implications** associated with converting protected land to a high-intensity recreational use. We believe this land should remain in its intended form — as natural open space preserved for future generations.

We respectfully request that **OC Parks and the County of Orange** defer any transfer discussions with the City of Laguna Beach until a full environmental and public review process is conducted, and alternative City-owned sites are properly evaluated.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns. We would welcome the opportunity to meet or discuss this matter further with OC Parks leadership.

Warm regards,

Michael Hawks

Arch Beach United

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To: OC Parks
Attn: Coastal Greenbelt Authority
1 Irvine Park Road
Irvine, CA 92869

Re: Formal Objection to Land Transfer – Proposed Moulton Meadows “Pump Track”

Dear Coastal Greenbelt Authority and OC Parks Leadership,

On behalf of **Arch Beach United**, a large coalition of residents from Laguna Beach’s Arch Beach Heights community, we respectfully submit this letter to **formally oppose** any proposed transfer of **County-owned open space** adjacent to Moulton Meadows Park to the City of Laguna Beach for use as a bicycle “pump track.”

While we recognize the City’s interest in providing recreational amenities for youth and families, the proposed conversion of this County parcel — currently designated as **open space** — represents a significant step backward in regional land preservation policy and a potential violation of the public trust.

Loss of Protected Open Space

The parcel in question is a natural hillside area that serves as a **buffer between urban development and the South Coast Wilderness**, part of a larger wildlife and watershed corridor connecting Aliso and Wood Canyons. This land belongs to all County residents, not a select group of hobbyists. Its transfer for recreational use would **set a dangerous precedent** — undermining decades of collaborative work between County, State, and local conservation groups to expand and protect the South Coast Wilderness open space network.

The claim that this parcel is “already damaged” or “underused” does not justify its conversion. Instead, County policy should emphasize **restoration, not repurposing**, consistent with OC Parks’ stated mission to preserve natural resources and maintain open space for future generations.

Unsuitable Location and Neighborhood Impacts

The proposed site is bordered by a **densely populated residential neighborhood** and a highly active community park already operating at capacity. Moulton Meadows hosts **AYSO soccer games, youth practices, hikers, dog walkers, and cyclists** on a daily basis, leaving limited parking and strained emergency access. Introducing a regional recreational facility would intensify congestion, noise, and safety risks in a setting ill-equipped for additional traffic.

Moreover, the site’s proximity to **County-managed wilderness areas** invites uncontrolled trail access, illegal e-biking, and environmental degradation. Fire risk in this dry, wind-prone corridor remains a serious concern, underscored by the **Rancho Fire of July 2025**, which burned five acres nearby and forced evacuations in this same region.

Public Confusion and Procedural Concerns

The City of Laguna Beach has characterized this project as being in “early exploration,” yet public messaging and advocacy materials — including a **celebratory press release from the Orange County Mountain Biking Association (OCMTBA)** — have framed it as a completed success. At the City Council presentation, the **Moulton Meadows site was the only location shown with full renderings and design concepts**, reinforcing the perception that a decision had already been made.

Meanwhile, many of the **closest residents to the proposed site were never notified**, and those who were received vague or misleading language suggesting the project was “exploratory” rather than imminent. This confusion has fractured public trust and created the appearance of a predetermined outcome.

Recommendation and Request

We respectfully request that **OC Parks deny or delay any land transfer discussions** with the City of Laguna Beach until:

1. A **comprehensive environmental and fire-risk assessment** is conducted for the Moulton Meadows area;
2. The **County reviews public access, wildlife corridor impacts, and legal precedent** for converting open space to recreational infrastructure; and
3. The City identifies **alternative sites on municipally owned property**, such as the **former St. Catherine’s School campus**, where parking, transit, and infrastructure can support this use without sacrificing protected land.

We echo the position of the **Laguna Canyon Conservancy**, which has publicly stated that eliminating County open space to benefit a narrow recreational group is not in the best interests of the greater public. We stand aligned in urging OC Parks to protect this land for its intended purpose — as preserved open space and wildlife habitat for future generations.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of our concerns. We welcome the opportunity to meet with OC Parks staff or the Board to discuss these matters further.

Respectfully,



Michael Hawks

Arch Beach United (Leadership Committee)

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