

AGENDA

ORANGE COUNTY PARKS TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, December 10, 2020 7 P.M.

JOHN KOOS
CHAIR

DAVID SHAWVER
ALTERNATE CHAIR

STEVE LARSON

RON VANDERHOFF

VIRGINIA WEBBER

DIANE CARTER

SIGNE RADOVICH

The Orange County Parks Trail Subcommittee welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Trail Subcommittee encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record prior to providing your comments. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes.

Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, the Orange County Parks Trail Subcommittee will be conducting its meeting remotely. While there will not be a physical location for the meeting, the public is invited to observe the meeting by dialing +1-415-655-0001, using Access Code 177 702 3674 or online at the link below <https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec09e4ef9b2f1149d393a7fa7f1c6d69b> (Password #PARKS#)

Any member of the public wishing to speak should submit the following information no later than 5pm the day of the meeting to Rory.Paster@ocparks.com:

- 1. The email subject line must state the following:
Request to Provide Public Comment at OC Parks Trail Subcommittee Meeting on specify meeting date.*
- 2. Name of Person Requesting to Speak*
- 3. Organization Represented or City of Residence*
- 4. Phone Number or Computer User Name that will be used to log into the meeting (important)*
- 5. Specify Agenda Item Number or Topic*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting shall notify Rory.Paster@ocparks.com by 5pm on the Monday preceding the meeting. Please provide your name and contact phone number.

All supporting documentation is available for public review at <https://www.ocparks.com/parks/trails/meetings> under "Agendas and Minutes".

A G E N D A

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020 – 7:00pm

VIRTUAL MEETING: +1 (415) 655 0001, Access Code 177 702 3674

[#PARKS#](https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec09e4ef9b2f1149d393a7fa7f1c6d69b)

I. ROLL CALL

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item A)

The following items on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commission member requests to pull a specific item.

A. Approve Subcommittee minutes for September 24, 2020.

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (Item A)

A. PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Staff will provide a presentation on proposed use changes on certain trails for Subcommittee feedback.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Make recommendation to Parks Commission to support pilot project.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of or give direction to staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES
(Action Items Displayed in *Italics*)

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Koos, Alternate Chair Shawver and Subcommittee members Diane Carter, Ron Vanderhoff, Steve Larson, Signe Radovich and Virginia Webber were present.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Subcommittee on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee and are not contained in tonight's agenda.

There was no public participation on items within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee not contained in tonight's agenda

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item A)

The following item(s) will be approved by one motion unless a Subcommittee member requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020

Motion: Subcommittee Member Steve Larson
2nd: Subcommittee Member Signe Radovich
Approved unanimously

IV. DISCUSSION CALENDAR MATTERS (Items A-B)

A. OC PARKS TRAILS MANAGEMENT POLICY

This discussion item is an initiation of a process to formalize and publicly review trail management practices and procedures, and update them to address current trail use patterns, technologies, and activities.

The following members of the public provided comments regarding ebikes and OC Parks trails:

The Laguna Canyon Conservancy
The Top of the World Neighborhood Association
Amy Stonich
Dr. Kevin R. Schmidt
Terrence Przeklasa

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES (Action Items Displayed in *Italics*)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss and provide comments related to a trails management policy for OC Parks.

Deputy Director Pam Passow provided information and answered questions regarding a trails management policy for OC Parks.

- *Trails in OC Parks without conservation easements, trail stewardship, single use trails, enforcement fines, past trail policies, trail user input via surveys and ebikes were discussed by the Subcommittee.*
- *The popularity of trails versus the inadequate number of trails and trail maintenance resources was mentioned.*
- *OC Parks responsibility to operate sustainable trails in wilderness parks was stated.*
- *The Trail User Survey distributed in September 2020 was mentioned and the results of the survey were requested.*

Motion: Commissioner Koos recommended OC Parks staff explore potential trail use options and report those options back to the Subcommittee.

2nd: Subcommittee member Steve Larson

Nays: Subcommittee Member Vanderhoff

Item passed: 6-1

V. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Subcommittee members may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters and ask questions of staff, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VI. ADJOURNMENT 9.00 pm



PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



OC PARKS BACKGROUND

- Vision: We preserve and enhance OC Parks' natural and cultural resources for recreation, education and exploration.
- OC Parks is responsible for habitat and wildlife protection and providing public facilities that offer safe and enjoyable recreation experiences.
- 60,000 acres of land, including approximately 500 miles of trails:
 - 350 mi off-road, wilderness trails
 - 150 mi paved regional trails

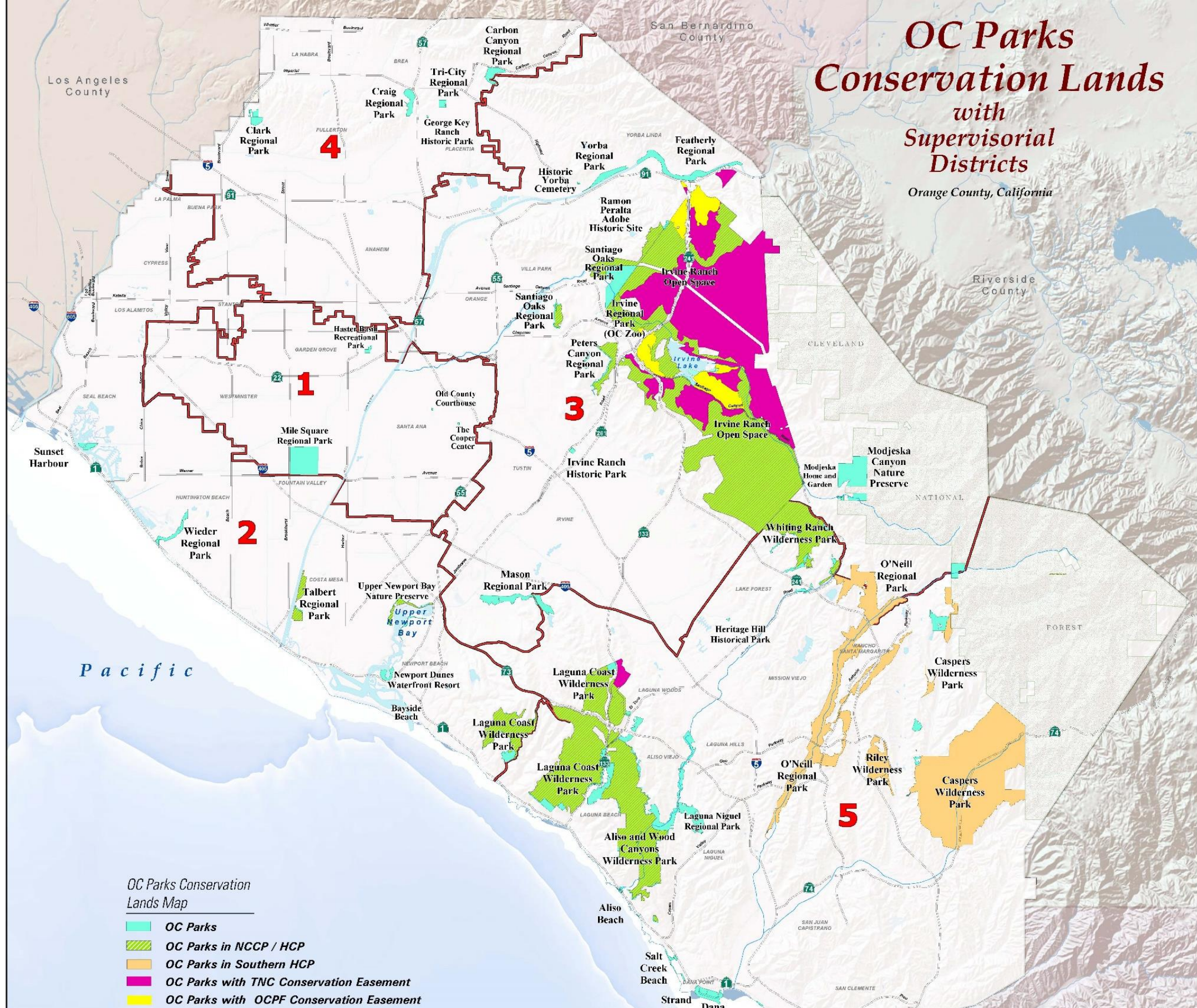
PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



OC Parks Conservation Lands with Supervisory Districts

Orange County, California



PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



LAND MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Wilderness areas managed by OC Parks are:
 - Visited by many types of users including hikers, bikers, equestrians, trail runners, birdwatchers, etc.
 - Accessed through a number of entrances/trails from surrounding communities, in addition to parking lot(s).
 - Home to protected and sensitive wildlife and plants
- Constraints in building new trails and authorization of unsanctioned trails due to land use restrictions.
- About 45 Park Rangers oversee and patrol 60,000 acres.
- Funding for trail system improvements must compete with other priorities, as established in, but not limited to:
 - 7-Year CIP program approved by Board
 - 10-Year Asset Management Program
 - Park Master Plans approved by Board

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



TRAIL USE CONCERNS

- User Conflict (poor etiquette, aggression, near misses, speed, crowding)
- Safety (caused by environment: trail quality / conditions, wildlife)
- Trail overuse
- Habitat impacts (due to off-trail activity, use of closed trails, non-permitted uses)
- Insufficient enforcement

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



TRAIL USE MODIFICATIONS

- Potential measures to alleviate certain trail use concerns might include:
 - Creating one-directional trails/loops
 - Designating/limiting trails for specific uses (e.g. pedestrian-only, biking-only, etc.)
- If implemented, proposed changes would be tested on a temporary basis. The pilot period would allow for:
 - Data gathering and monitoring
 - Assessment of results/success measures
 - Analysis of future operational impacts (e.g. staffing and financial resources)

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PILOT PROJECT

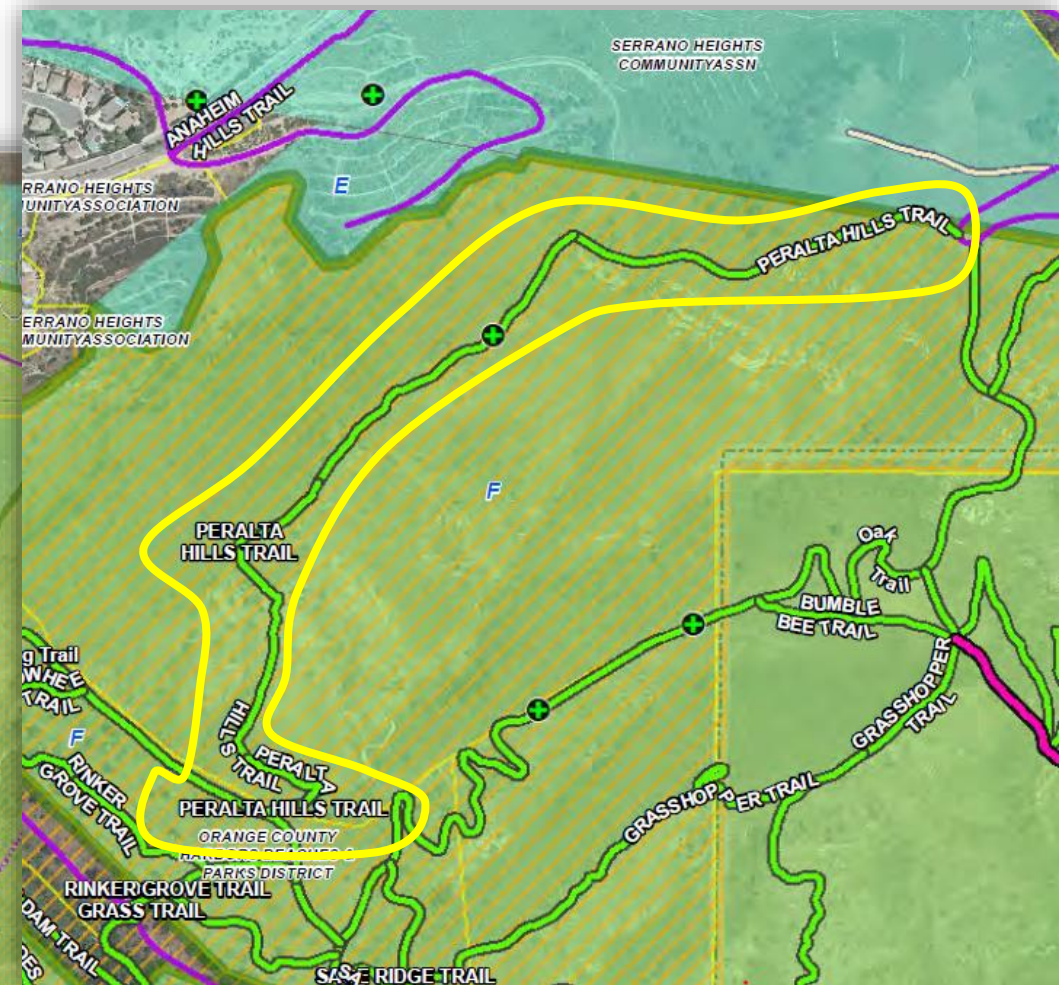
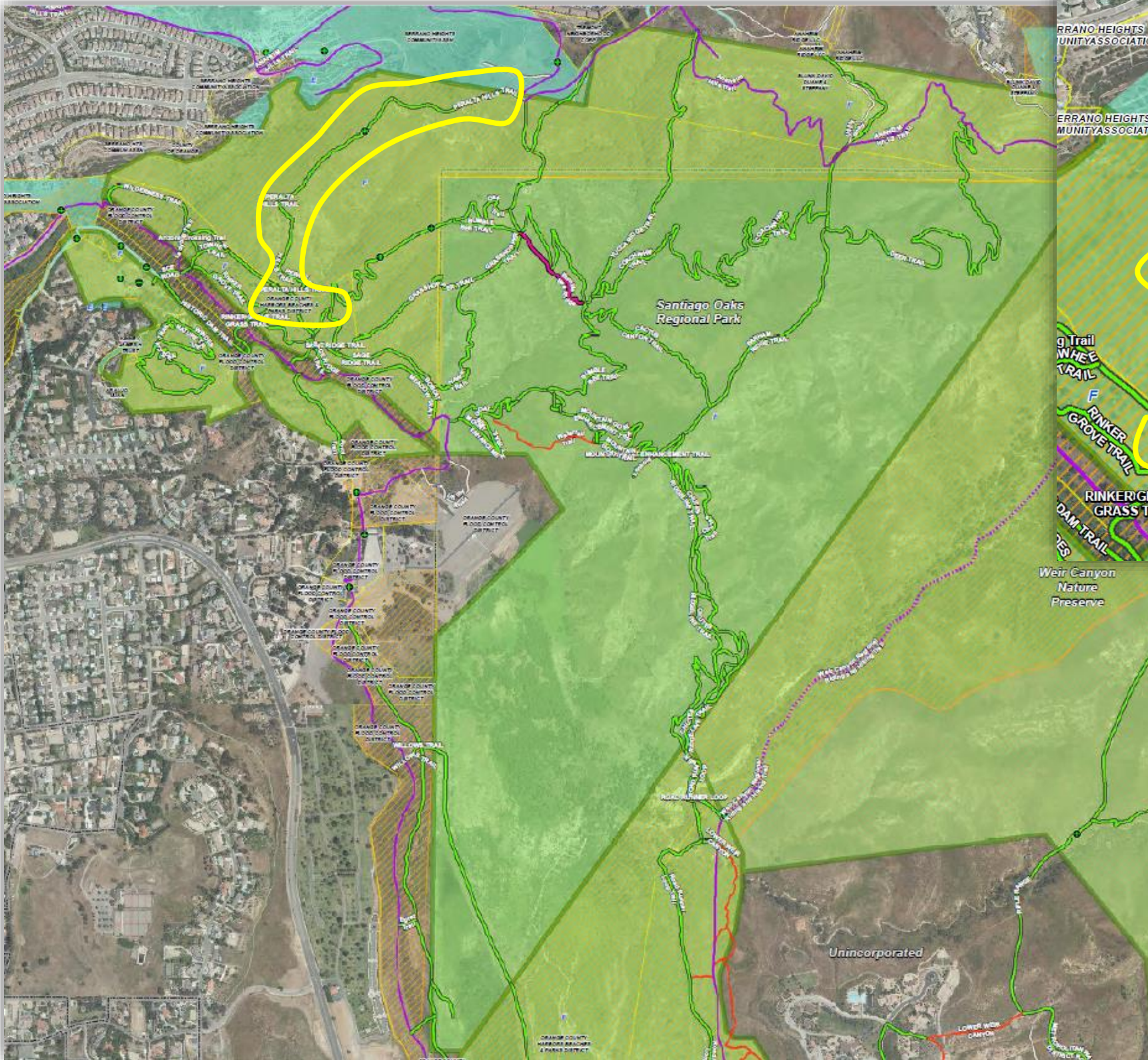
- Considerations applied in selecting trails that could potentially have use modifications:
 - Safety
 - Existing use
 - Feasibility
 - Connectivity for different users
- Implementation:
 - Identify multi-use trails that may be converted to limited or single-use
 - Identify trails which may be converted to one-directional or looping trails
 - Time needed to develop communications plan/public notification, signage, collection of baseline data, monitoring, etc.
 - Trail study and evaluation which includes patron surveys (before and after), monitoring, compliance metrics, and land surveyance.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



SANTIAGO OAKS MAP



Peralta Hills Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use:
Hiking, biking,
equestrian.
Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (SANTIAGO OAKS)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Peralta Hills Trail</u> | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional. | Hiking and equestrian use only; bidirectional. | Approx. ¾ mile; single-track. | Peralta Hills trail connects from the lower portion/main entrance of Santiago Oaks to Anaheim Hills Trail and runs parallel to Oak Trail. Bikes coming from the main park entrance travel uphill on Oak Trail to access the eastern and northeastern sections of the park towards Irvine Regional where much of the bike traffic is located. Peralta Hills is primarily used by hikers and some equestrians. Limiting Peralta Hills to hikers and equestrians only is anticipated reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding by limiting trail use to those travelling at slower speeds. |



Peralta – top, near Anaheim Hills Trail



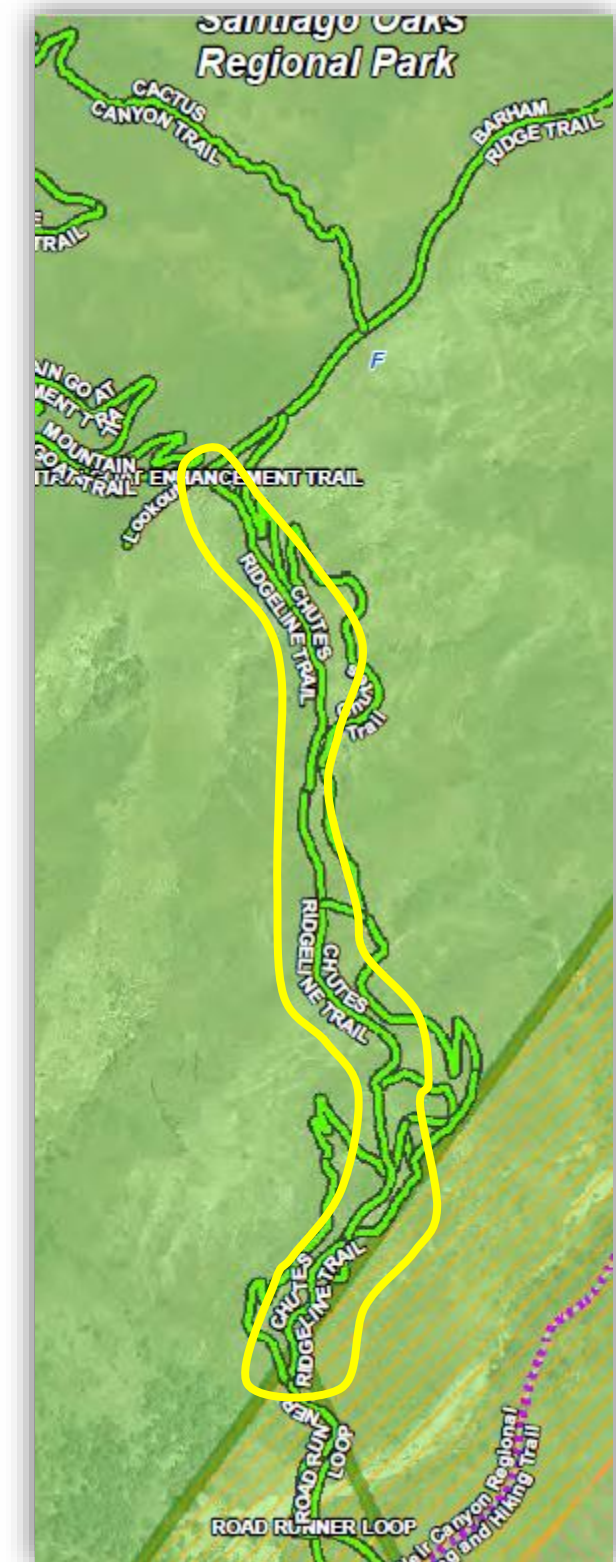
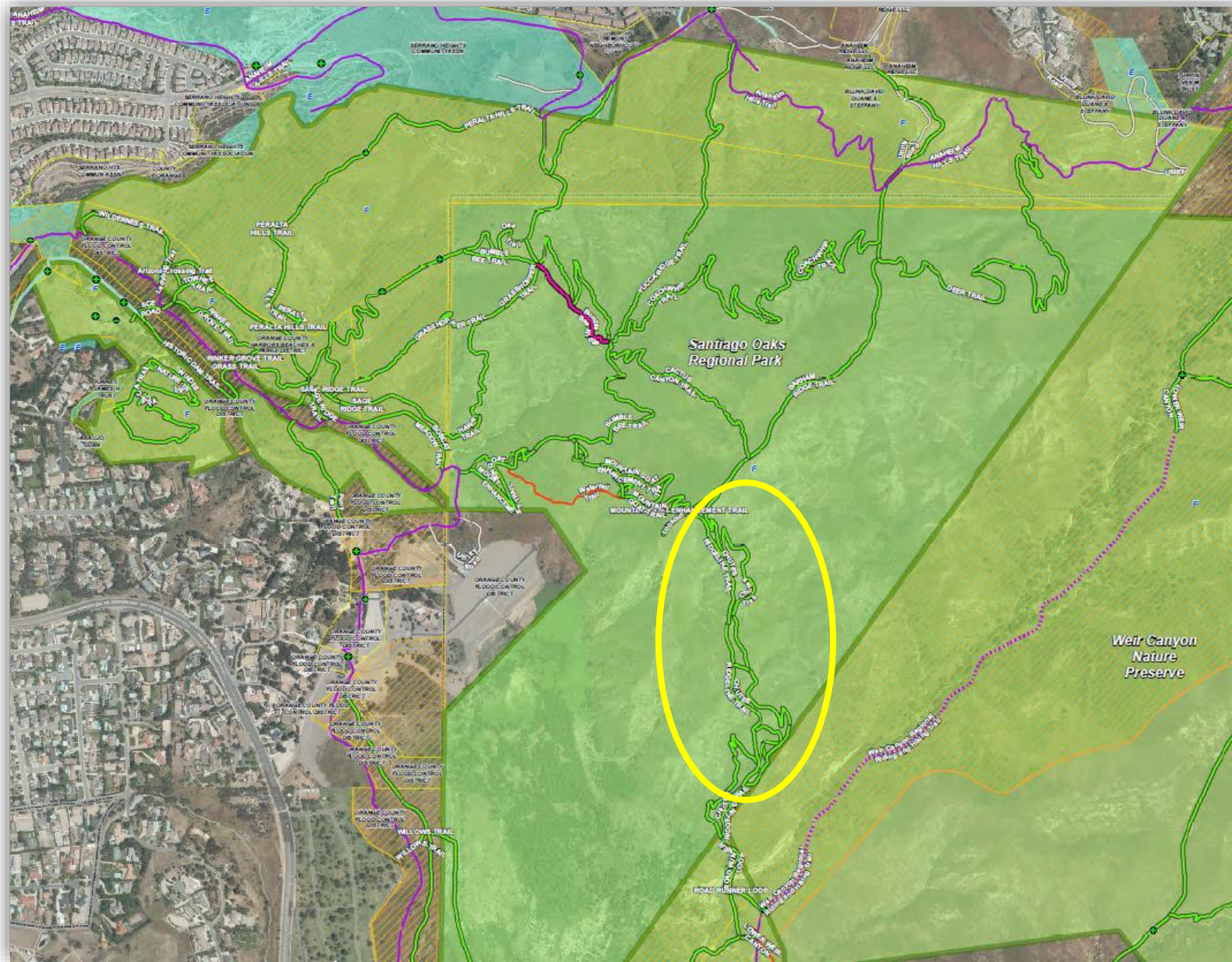
Peralta – bottom, near Wilderness Trail

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting – December 10, 2020



SANTIAGO OAKS



Chutes Ridgeline Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian.
Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020

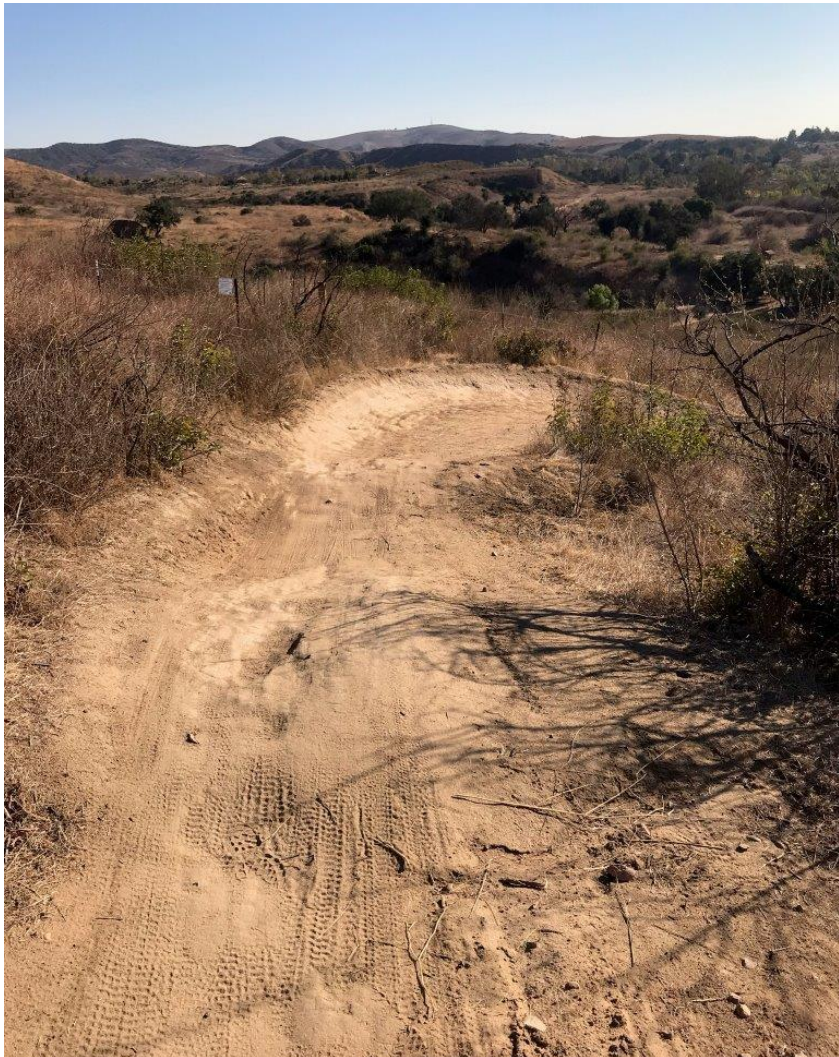


PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (SANTIAGO OAKS)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Chutes Ridgeline</u> | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional. | Bikes only; downhill only. | Approx. ¾ mile; single-track. | Chutes Ridgeline connects Santiago Oaks to Irvine Regional and is primarily used by bikes going downhill to Irvine Regional. Limiting Chutes Ridgeline to bikes downhill only is anticipated to reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. The parallel, lower trail (Chutes) connecting Santiago Oaks to Irvine Regional will still be available for multiuse, bidirectional travel. |



Chutes Ridgeline – top, at Santiago Oaks trailhead



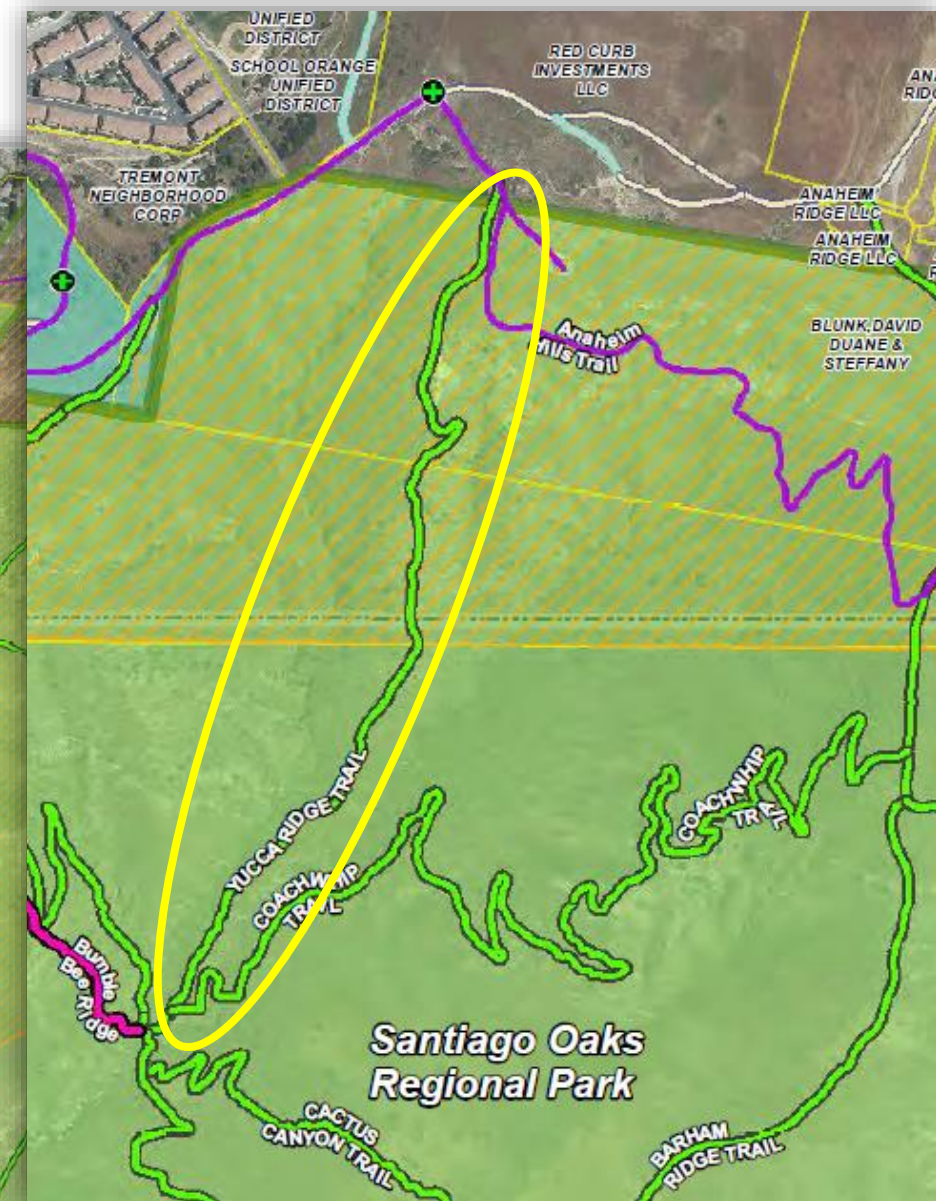
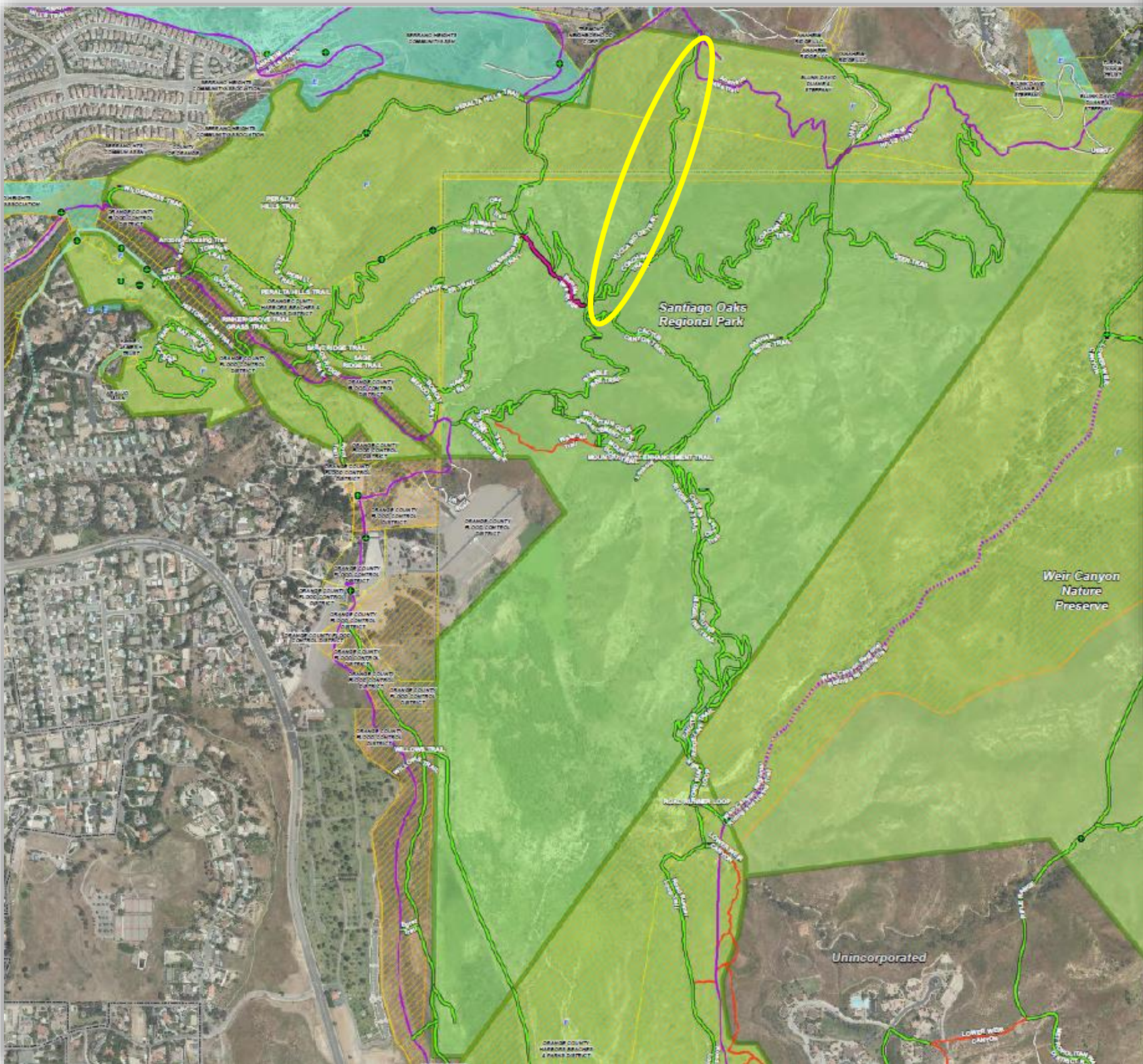
Chutes Ridgeline – bottom, near Irvine Regional

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



SANTIAGO OAKS MAP



Yucca Ridge Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian. Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (SANTIAGO OAKS)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|--------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Yucca Ridge Trail</u> | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional. | Hiking, biking, equestrian; downhill only. | Approx. ½ mile; single-track. | Yucca Ridge Trail connects Anaheim Hills to the trails in the inner canyon of the park. This trail is heavily used by all user groups. Access being limited to downhill only is anticipated to ease congestion and reduce the amount of users on the trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. Hikers, equestrians, and bikers can use the adjacent Coachwhip Trail to travel uphill. |



Yucca – top, near Anaheim Hills Trail



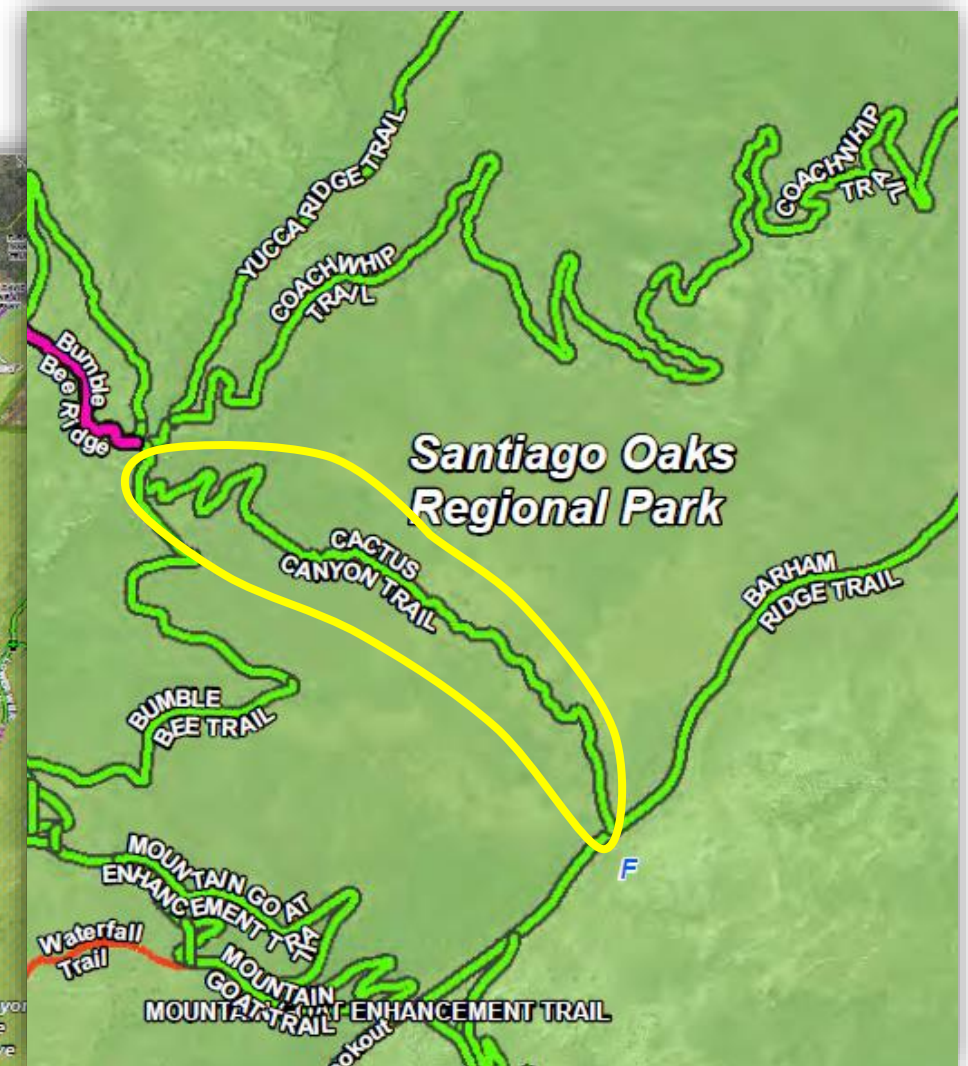
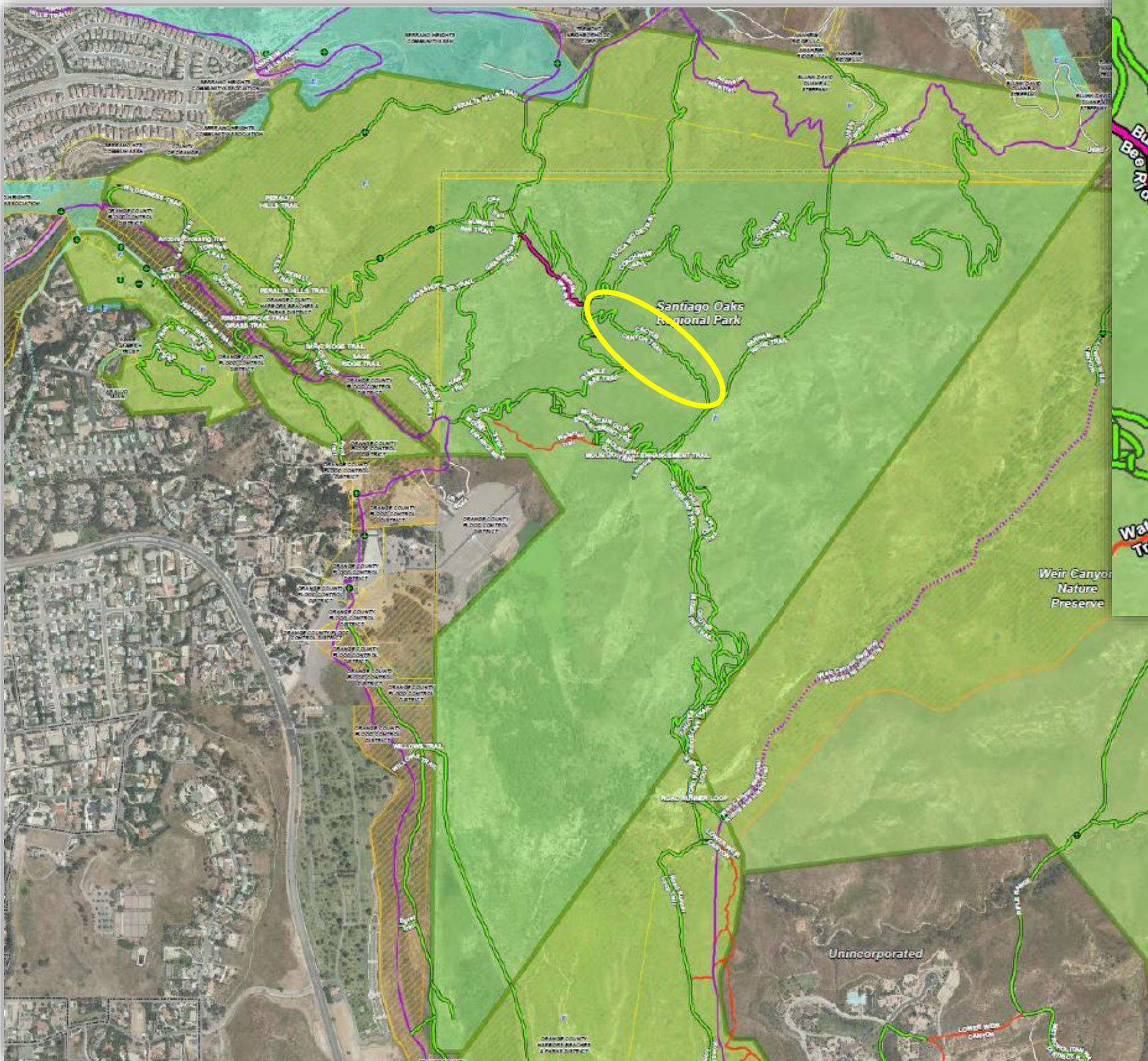
Yucca – bottom, near Cactus/Bumblebee

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



SANTIAGO OAKS MAP



Cactus Canyon Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use:
Hiking, biking,
equestrian.
Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (SANTIAGO OAKS)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|----------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <u>Cactus Canyon</u> | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional | Hiking, biking, equestrian; downhill only. | Approx. ½ mile; single-track | Cactus Canyon Trail connects Barham Ridge to the trails in the inner canyon of the park. This trail is heavily used by bikes traveling downhill on berm turns. Access being limited to downhill only will ease congestion and reduce the amount of users on the trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. Hikers, equestrians, and bikers can use the adjacent Coachwhip Trail and Bumble Bee/Mountain Goat Trails to travel uphill. |



Cactus Canyon – view of whole trail from Bumblebee



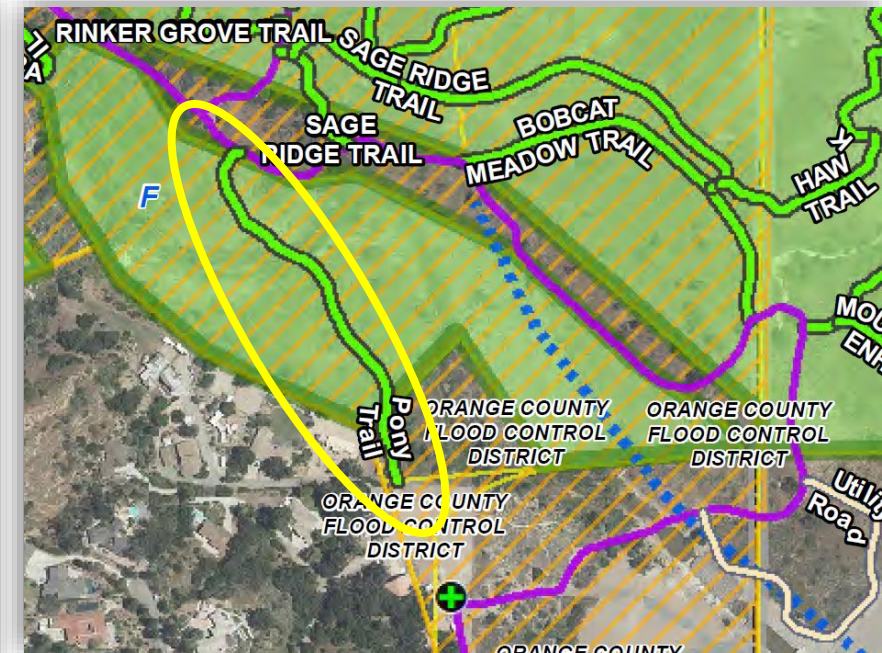
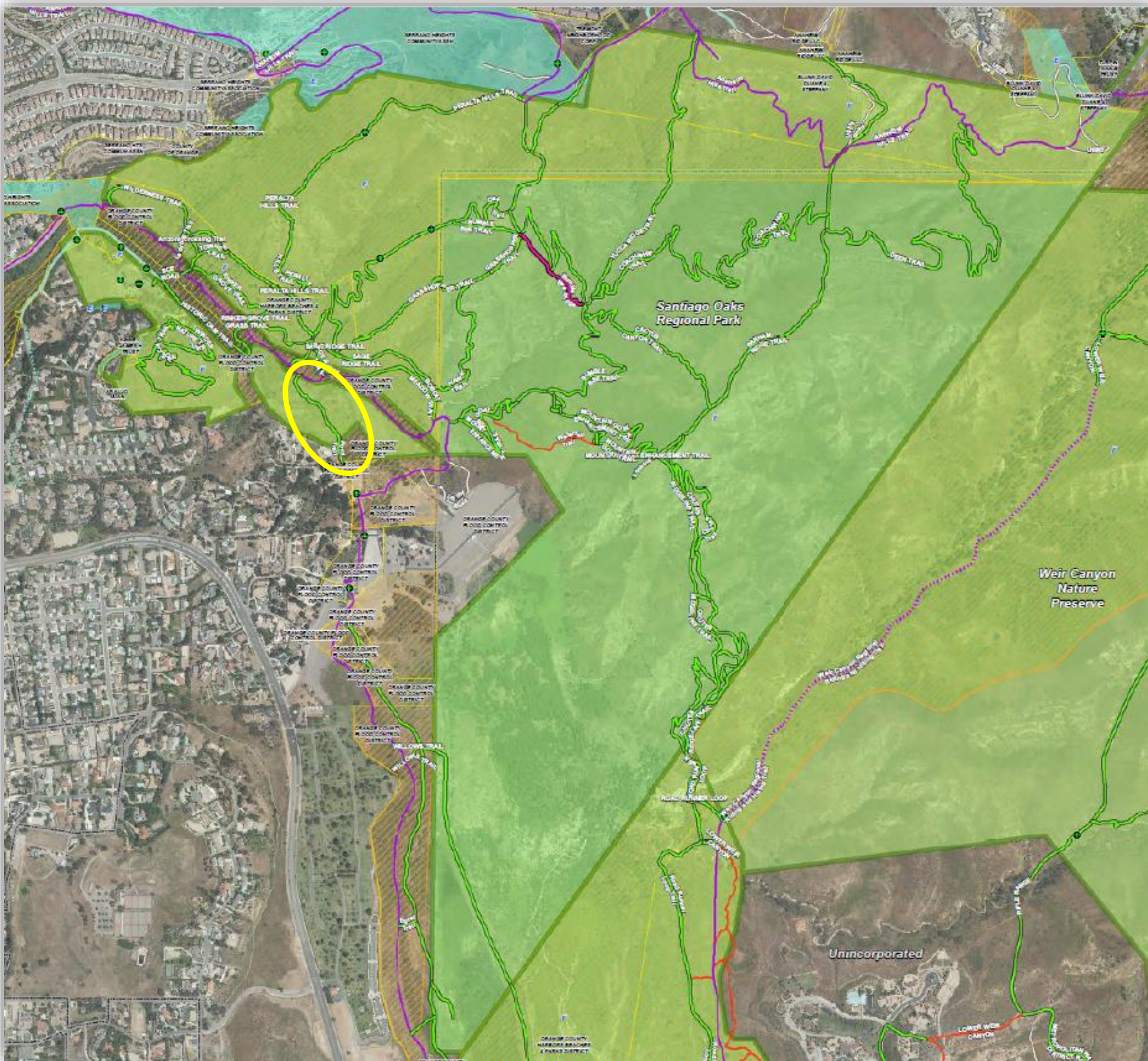
Cactus Canyon – top, near Barham Ridge

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting – December 10, 2020



SANTIAGO OAKS MAP



Pony Trail

- Fire Road
- Current Use:
Hiking, biking,
equestrian.
Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (SANTIAGO OAKS)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|-------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Pony Trail</u> | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional. | Hiking and equestrian use only; bidirectional. | Approx. ¼ mile; fire road. | Pony Trail is one of two entrances from the South end of the park. This trail is currently highly used by equestrian riders. Limiting Pony Trail to hikers and equestrians only is anticipated reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding by limiting trail use to those travelling at slower speeds. Bikes are able to enter and exit the area via Santiago Creek Trail rather than using Pony Trail. |



Pony – crossing Santiago Creek



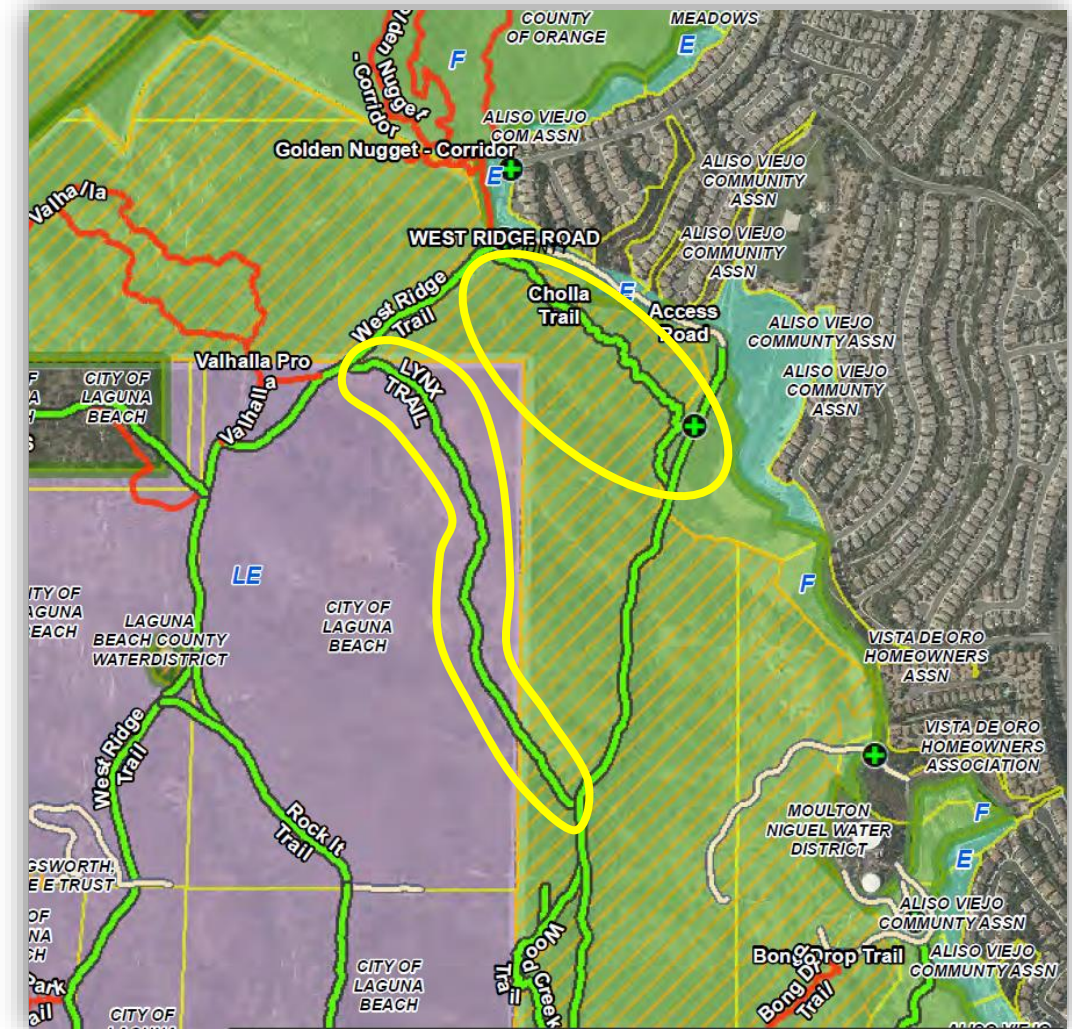
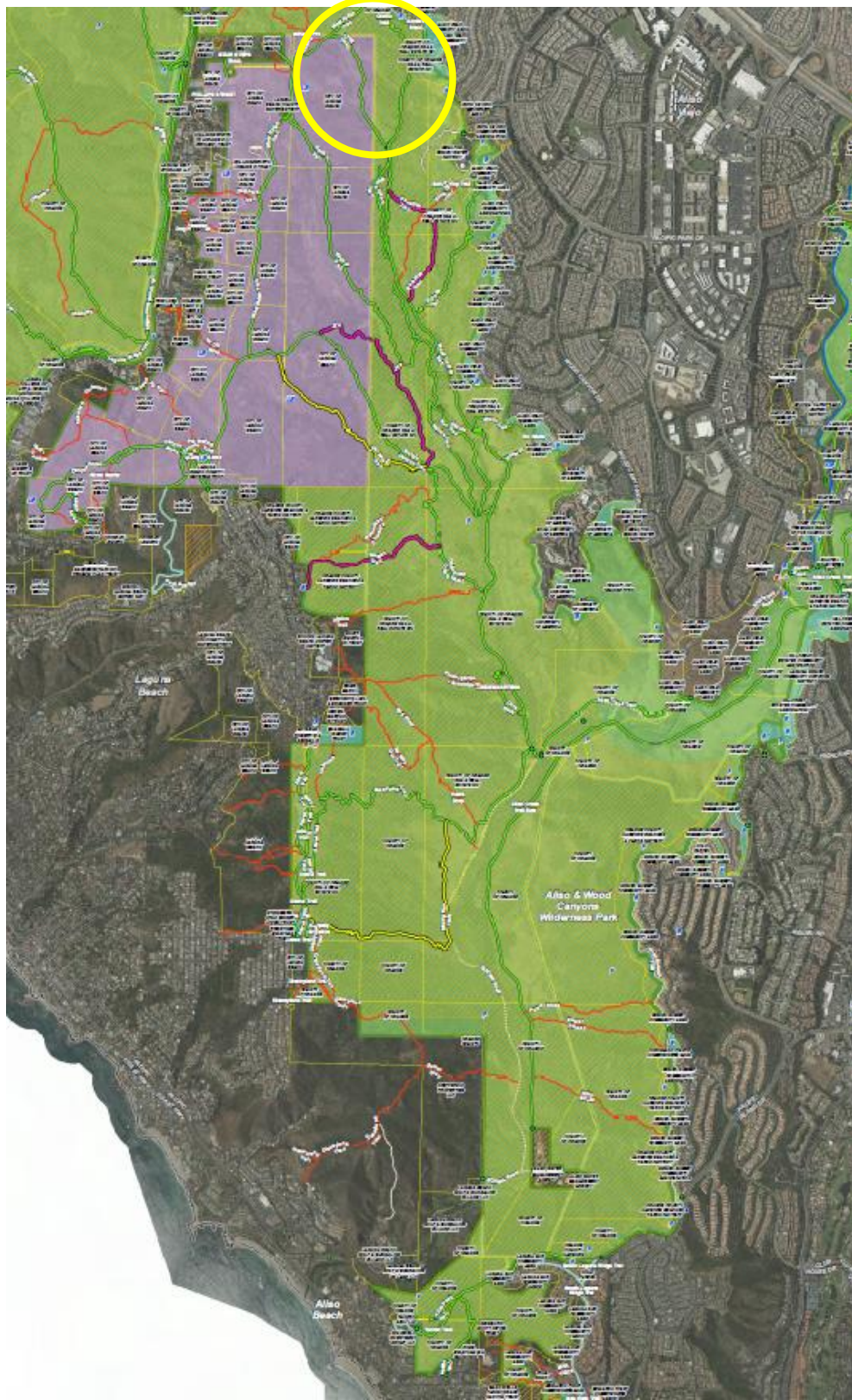
Pony – at OC Flood trailhead

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting – December 10, 2020



ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS MAP



Lynx Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.

Cholla Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use: Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (ALISO AND WOOD)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Lynx Trail</u> | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional. | Bikes only, downhill only. | Approx. ½ mile; single-track. | Cholla and Lynx are parallel trails that connect Wood Canyon and West Ridge. Cholla is heavily used by both hikers and bikers while Lynx is more heavily used by bikes, with the preferred route of travel for bikes going downhill. Limiting Lynx to downhill bikes only is anticipated to reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. As an alternate to Lynx, hikers will still be able to travel down Cholla or Rock-It trail further south. |



PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (ALISO AND WOOD)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|---------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <u>Cholla Trail</u> | Hiking, biking, equestrian; Bidirectional. | Bikes: uphill only. Other users remain bidirectional. | Approx. ½ mile; single-track. | Cholla and Lynx are parallel trails that connect Wood Canyon and West Ridge. Cholla is heavily used by both hikers and bikers while Lynx is more heavily used by bikes. Limiting Cholla bike travel to uphill only is anticipated to reduce crowding concerns and also maintain, along with the Lynx/Wood Canyon/West Ridge trails, a looped route for bikes in this area of the park. |

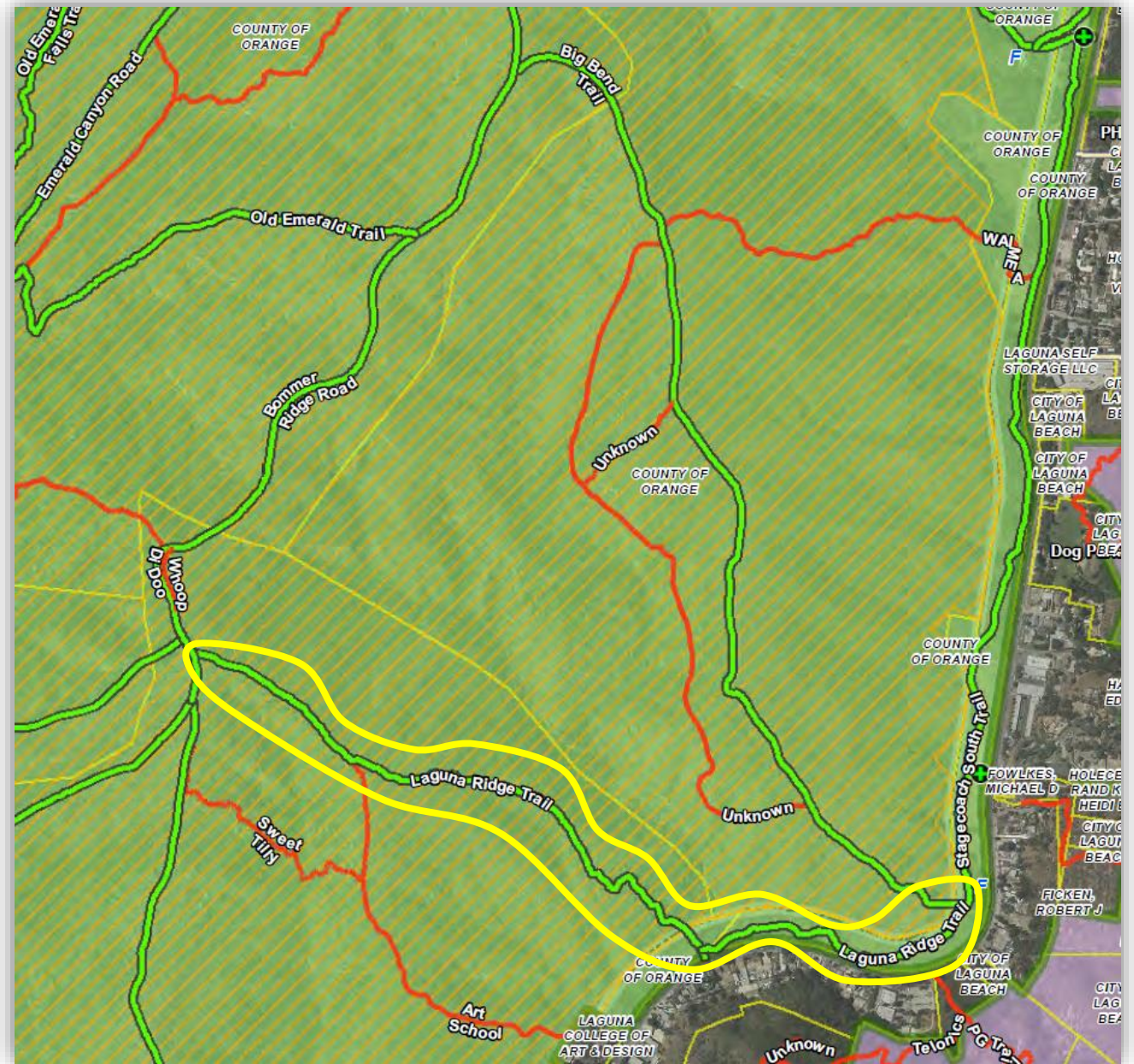
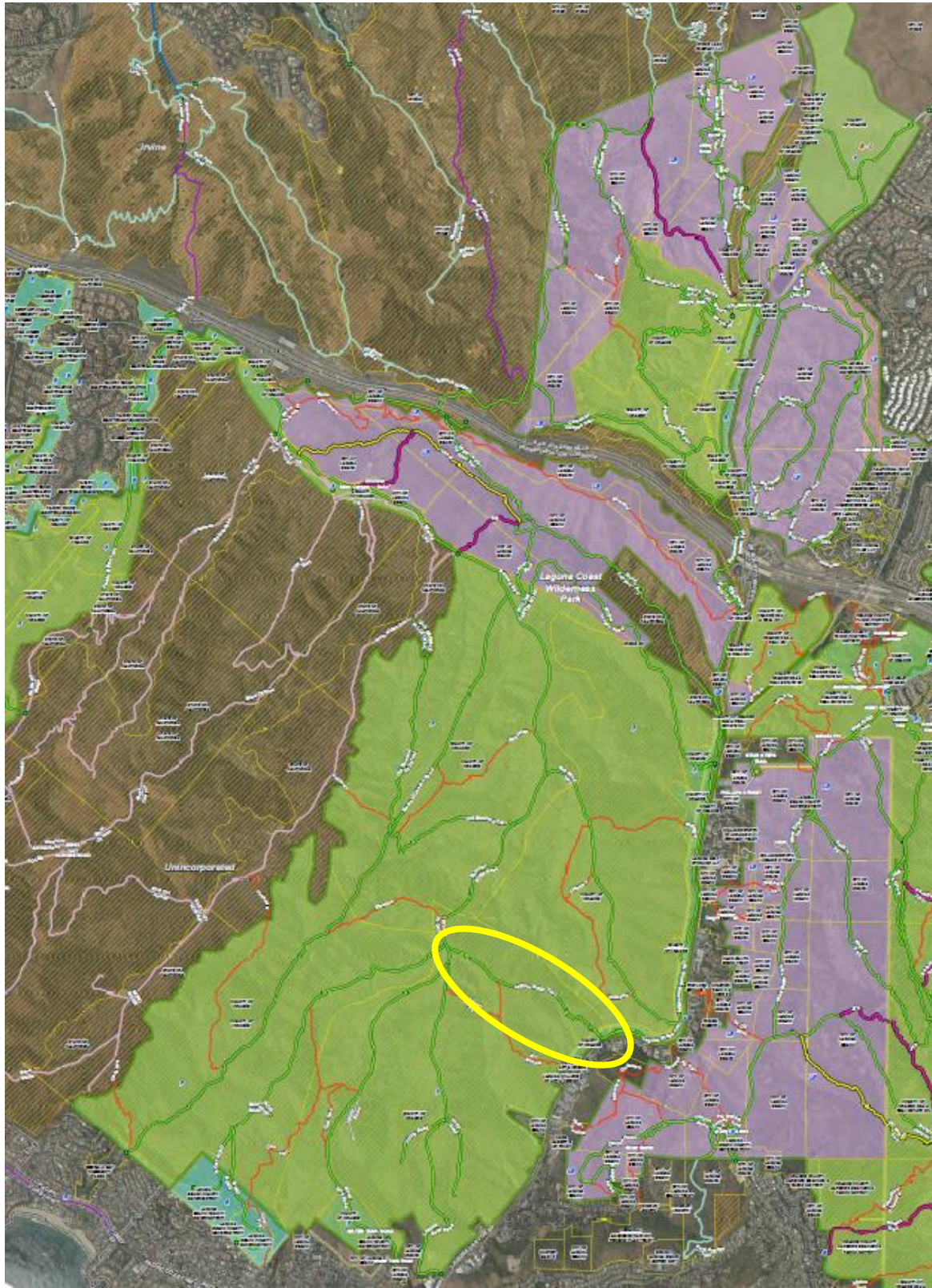


PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



LAGUNA COAST MAP



Laguna Ridge Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use:
Hiking and biking, Bidirectional.

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (LAGUNA COAST)

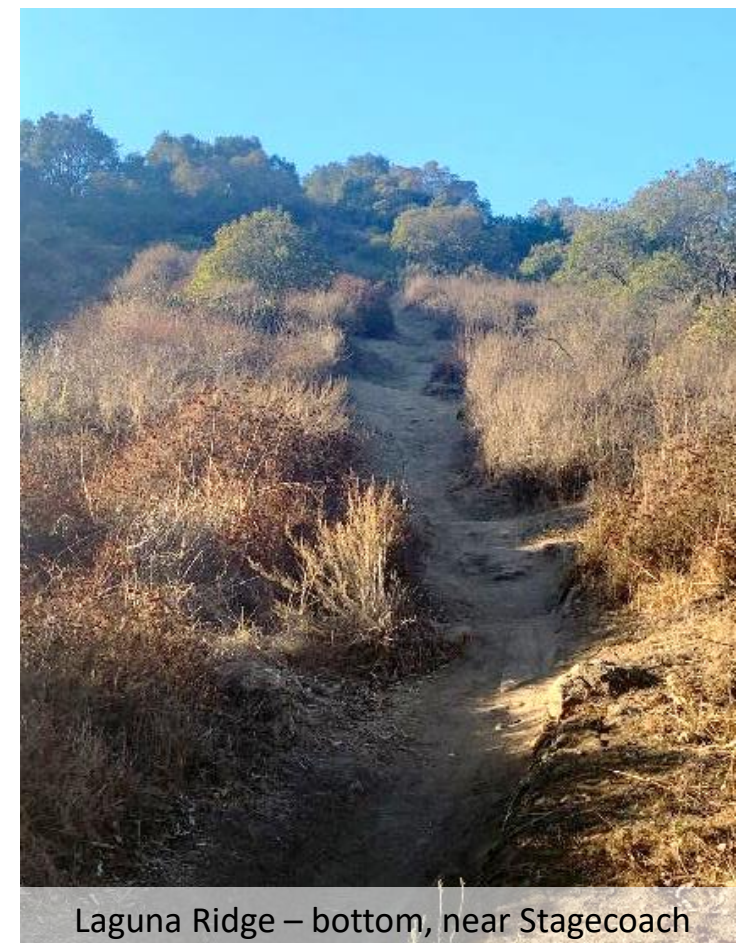
| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Laguna Ridge Trail</u> | Hiking and biking; Bidirectional. | Bikes only, downhill only. | Approx. 1 ¼ miles; single-track. | Laguna Ridge Trail provides access from Laguna Canyon Road to the interior of the park, connecting to Bommer Ridge. The portion of the trail nearing the Road is extremely steep. This trail is currently heavily used by bikes going downhill, and limiting it to downhill bikes only is anticipated to reduce potential impacts/safety concerns and crowding while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. A nearby trail, Big Bend Trail, runs parallel to Laguna Ridge and can be used by hikers to access the interior of the park north of Laguna Ridge Trail. |



Laguna Ridge – top, near Bommer Ridge



Laguna Ridge – near middle



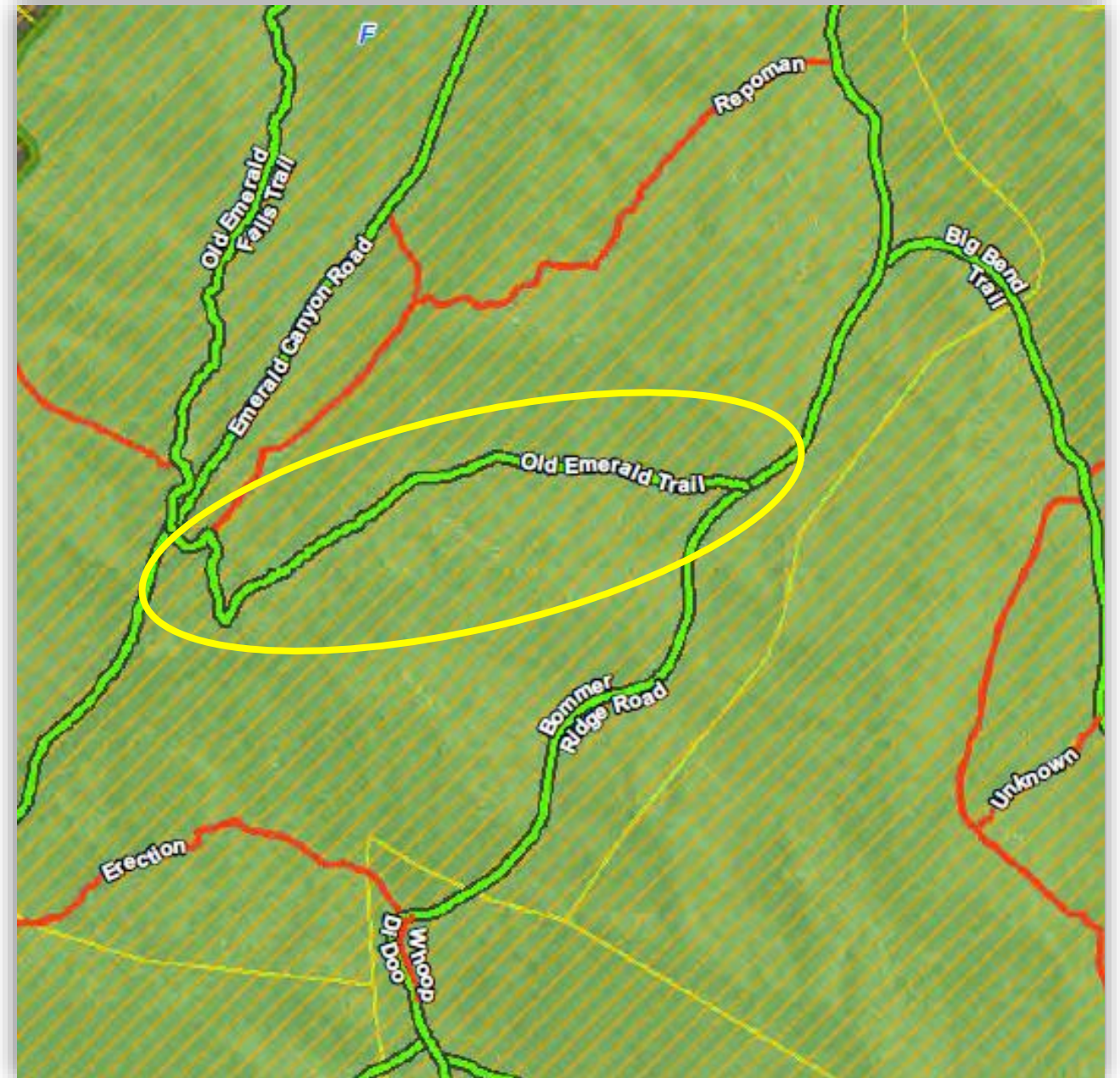
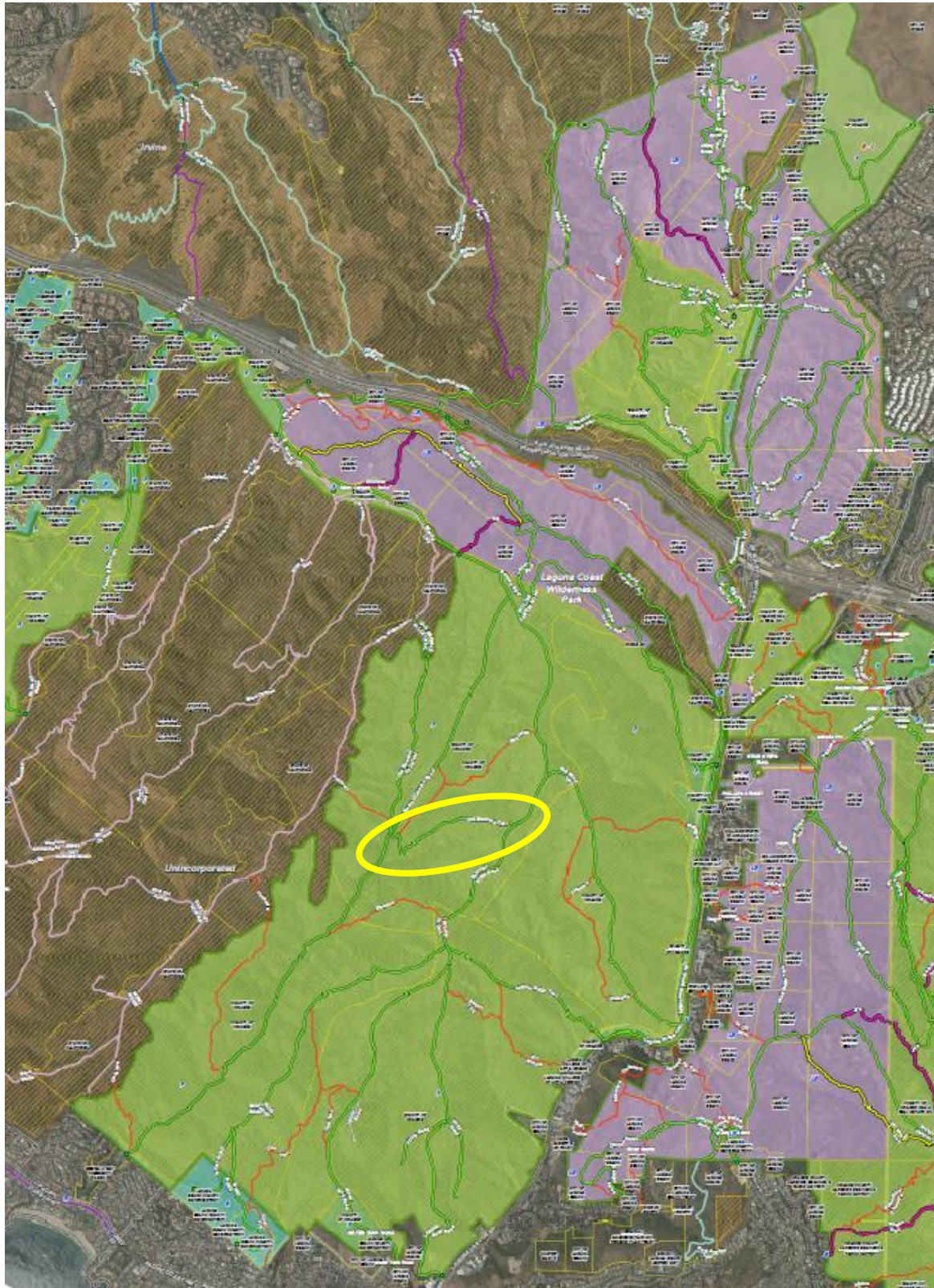
Laguna Ridge – bottom, near Stagecoach

PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting – December 10, 2020



LAGUNA COAST MAP



Old Emerald Trail

- Single Track
- Current Use:
Hiking and biking, Bidirectional.

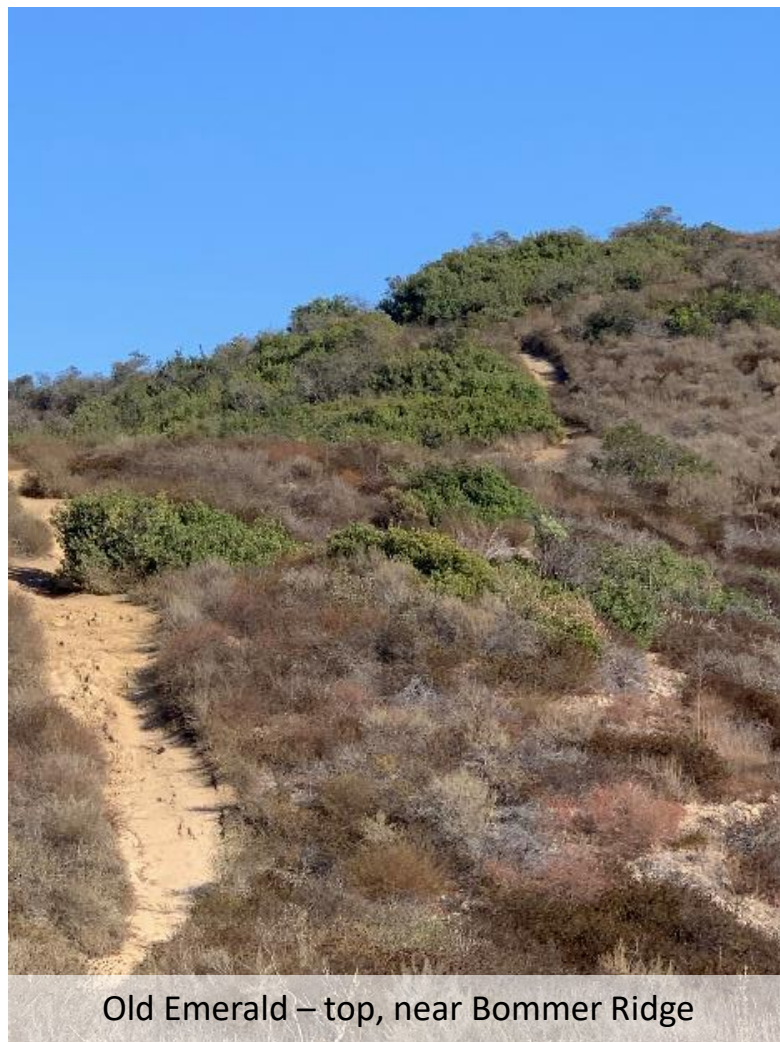
PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020



PROPOSED TRAIL USE CHANGES (LAGUNA COAST)

| Trail Name | Current Use | Proposed Change | Trail Description (length, width) | Justification |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Old Emerald Trail</u> | Hiking and biking; Bidirectional. | Bikes: downhill only. Hikers remain bidirectional. | Approx. ¾ mile; single-track. | Old Emerald Trail connects Bommer Ridge Trail to Emerald Canyon Trail. It is currently heavily used by both hikers and bikers, with bikers primarily travelling downhill. As there is no comparable alternate route for hikers, multiple use is recommended for this trail. Limiting bike travel to downhill only is anticipated to reduce crowding concerns while maintaining the user experience enjoyed by many bikers on this trail. There will be no change to the 10mph park speed limit. |



PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT – TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting – December 10, 2020



RECOMMENDED ACTION

- Make recommendation to Parks Commission to support pilot project.

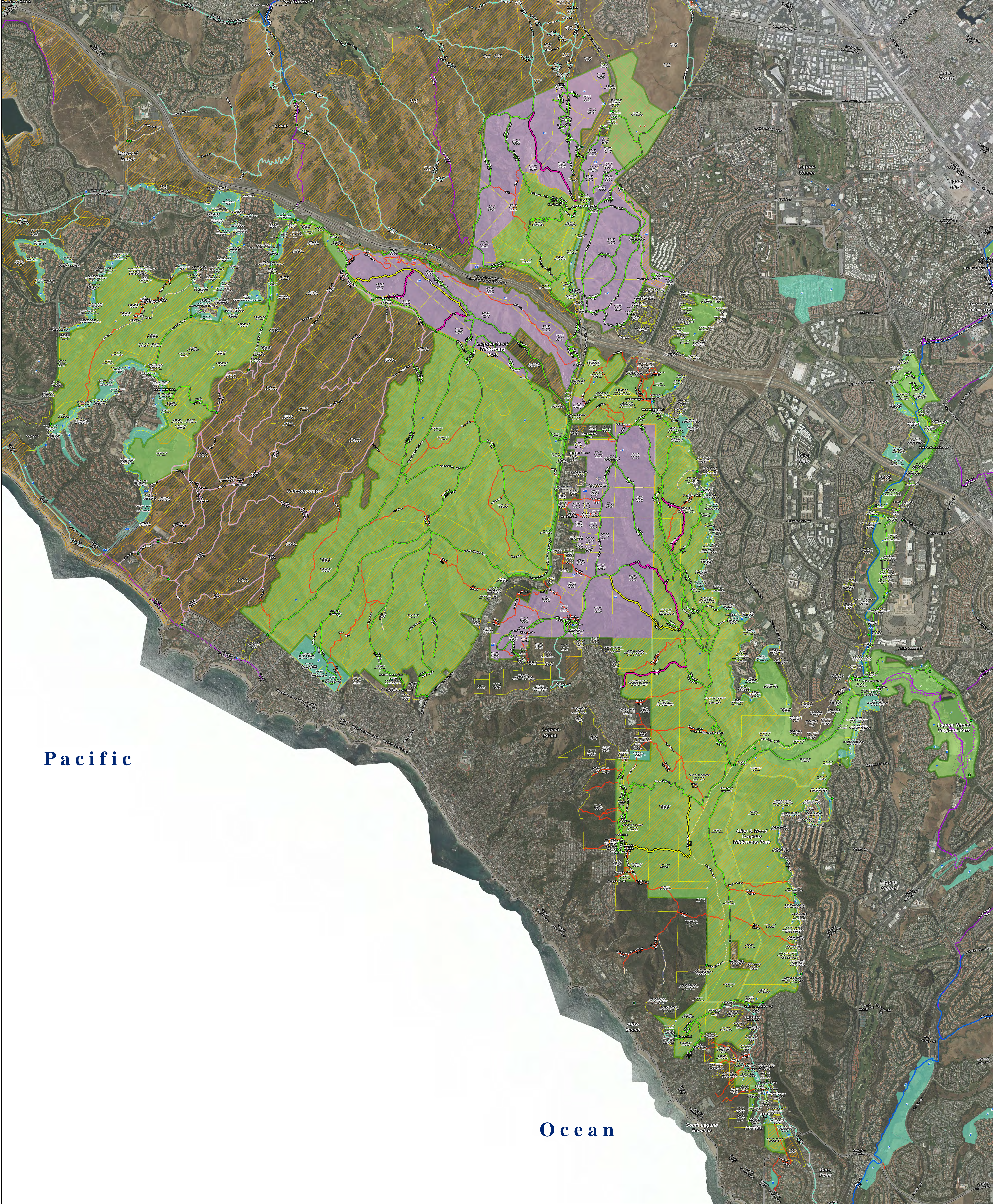
Thank you.



PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT — TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Trails Subcommittee Meeting — December 10, 2020





DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY:
OCCR
OC Parks GIS

DATA SOURCE:
- Geomatics Land Information Systems Division

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DATE: October 16, 2020



Aliso & Woods Canyon Wilderness Park & Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

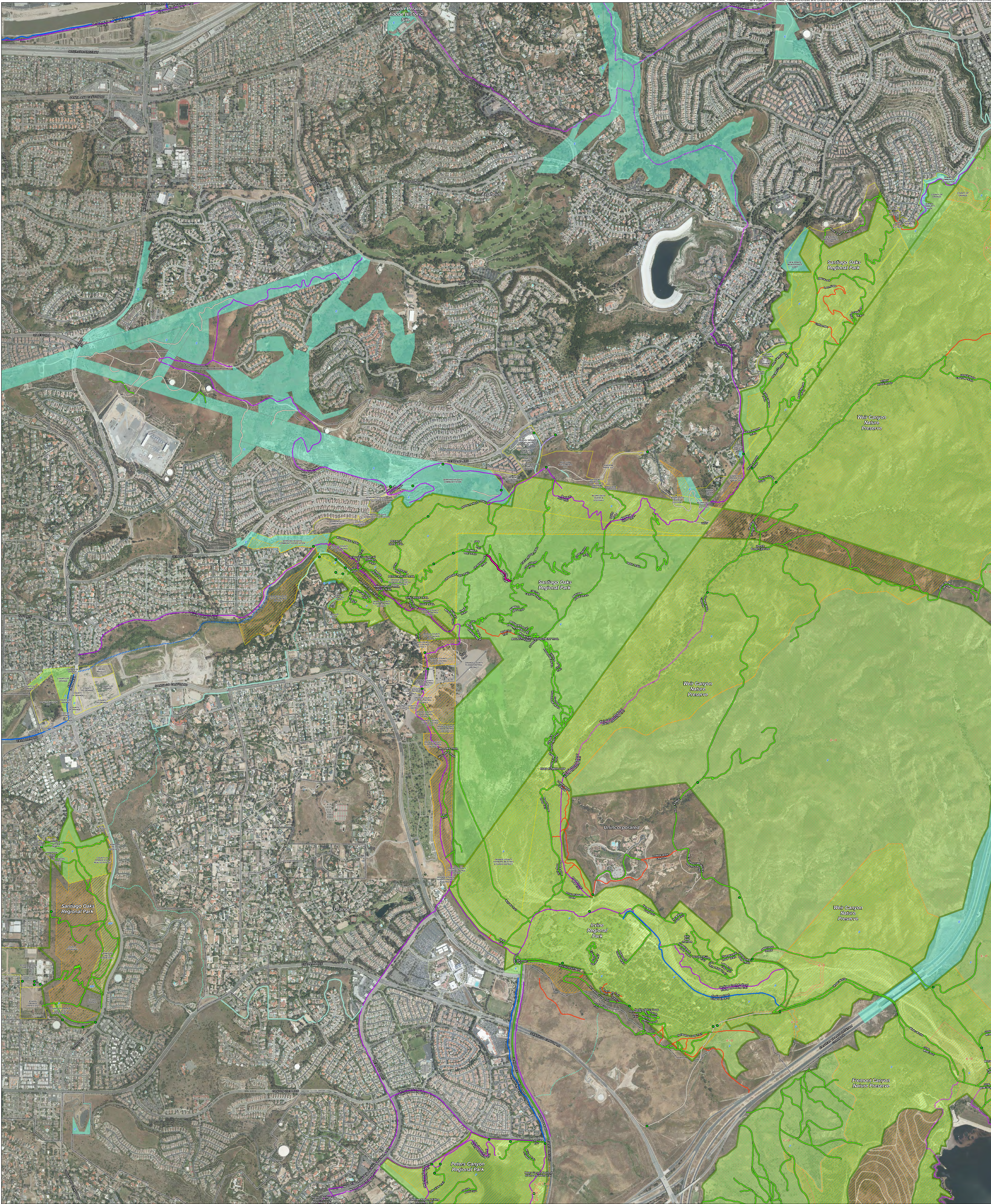
Trails Map



- Park Parcels
- Easement (E)
 - Fee (F)
 - I/O Easement (IOE)
 - I/O Fee (IOF)
 - Lease (LE)

- Gate
- Encumbrances
- NCCP Reserve
- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Cities

- OC Parks Trail
- Regional Riding and Hiking Trail
- Regional Class I Bikeway
- Local Trail
- State Trail
- Federal Trail
- Private Trail
- Unauthorized Trail
- Trail Change: Unauthorized to Authorized
- Trail Change: Unauthorized to Closed or Restored
- * Dashed line is proposed*

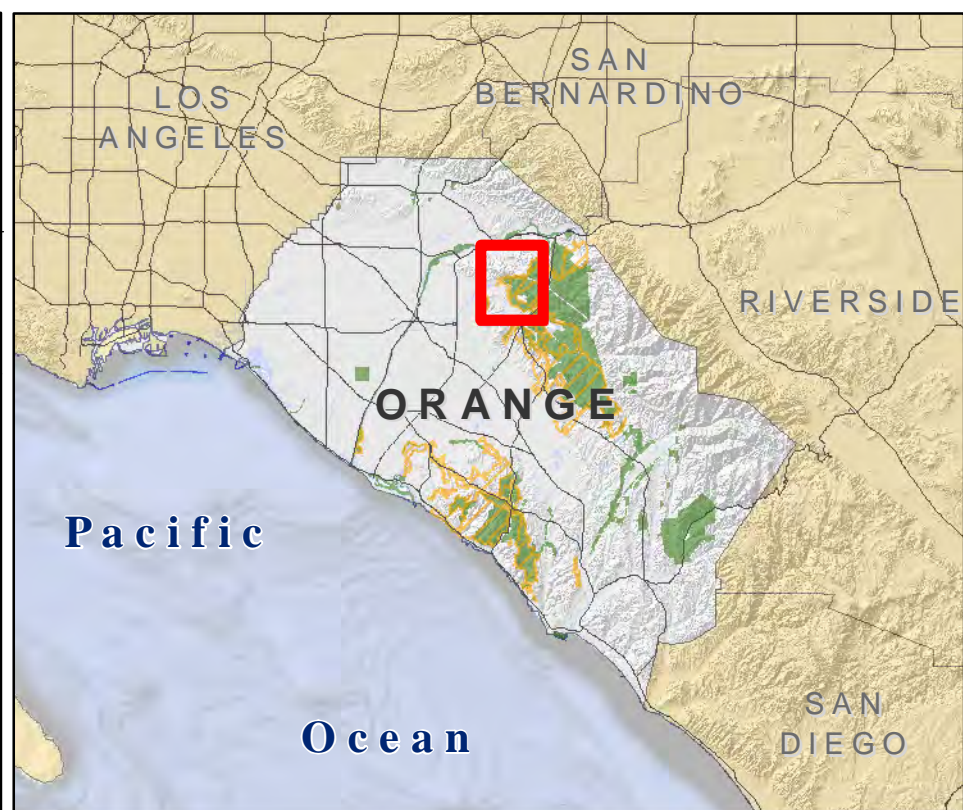


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DATE: November 05, 2020



0 1,500 3,000 Feet

Santiago Oaks Regional Park Trails Map



Park Parcels
Easement (E)
Fee (F)
I/O Easement (IOE)
I/O Fee (IOF)
Lease (LE)

Gate
Encumbrances
NCCP Reserve
Park Boundary
Parcels
Cities

OC Parks Trail
Regional Riding and Hiking Trail
Regional Class I Bikeway
Local Trail
State Trail
Federal Trail
Private Trail
Unauthorized Trail
Trail Change: Unauthorized to Authorized
Trail Change: Unauthorized to Closed or Restored
Dashed line is proposed