

Subject: ACE: Survey Results

From: "Janet Peterson" <JanetPeterson@dishmail.net>

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To: "ACE Associates" <jpfood@pacbell.net>

All Equestrians,

The foothill equestrians have spoken loud and clear! Donna Williams hand carried more than 500 individual comments to Parks for submission to the general plan process. They were filled with great ideas and suggestions.

WE equestrians have organized to present individual equestrians the opportunity to voice their opinions on local trail issues as it impacts their trail riding experience. Overall, this survey demonstrates that equestrians have a genuine appreciation and desire to ride safe, scenic, and natural trails. They furthermore are willing to participate financially to fund trail maintenance. Equestrians have been typified as disorganized, over reactive, selfish, and unable to agree on anything. I believe that characterization ends here!

In this area of the state we have a vast trail system in rough terrain, and budget constraints that undermine State Park's ability to maintain trails or provide a law enforcement presence, the equestrian community is united on key issues. That is not to say everyone voted the same, they did not. It is to say, for each question, the "yes" or the "no" got a resounding vote. None of the questions received votes that appeared to be evenly divided except the question (#6) which pertained to building technical skills trails for bikes. That was admittedly a confusing question.

We have every right to be proud of the unity that we are building and using to educate public agencies on what equestrians DO agree on and WILL collectively support. The data collected in this survey, which highlighted the issues that State Parks asked us to comment on, does not depict a group that is "unable to agree". In fact, the data indicates that we are quite the opposite. Question # 10 (*Are you be willing to pay a day use fee for trail maintenance if the fee is charged equitably to all trail users?*) got 411 "yes" and 93 "no" votes. That hardly characterizes a group of "selfish" trail users.

Here is the final tally. Share these with others that you know sent in their comments but are not a member of ACE or associated with a club that is. Unfortunately, we don't have an effective way to send this great information to every one that took the time to document their comments so we have to rely on you to spread the word.

This email will be posted at www.ACEquestrians.org and can be accessed by anyone that is interested.

Again, congratulations are in order and thank you for every bit of effort that you and your fellow equestrians put into the collection of this data.

1 Should some hiker/equestrian trails be converted to multiuse and allow bike use?

1 YES	1 NO
102	414

2 Should a system of alternating days of use for equestrians and mountain bikes on selected existing hiking/equestrian trails be implemented?

2 YES	2 NO
105	406

3 Should Parks construct additional trails that are designated for separate uses (ex: horse/hike trails, mountain bike trails, hiking only trails)

3 YES	3 NO
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447	63
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4 Would you like to see new, wider multiuse trails?

4 YES	4 NO
300	173

5 Should more trails for the physically challenged and families be developed?

5 YES	5 NO
342	144

6 Would you support the development of mountain bike technical skills trail?

6 YES	6NO
286	213

7 Should Parks develop or convert existing trails into one-way trails as a means of making multiuse trails safer?

7YES	7NO
110	375

8 Should multiuse trails utilize physical impediments to speed, such as boulders or narrow, curvilinear design, to slow down mountain bikes?

8YES	8NO
381	137

9 Would you prefer that parallel trails (bikes on one trail, hikers/equestrians on another) be built instead of multiuse trails?

9YES	9NO
388	110

10 Would you be willing to pay a day use fee for trail maintenance if the fee is charged equitably to all trail users?

10 YES	10 NO
411	93

11 So you support seasonal or precipitation closures of sensitive trails (ex: close some trails if 1" of rain falls with 48 hours)?

11 YES	11NO
395	110

12 Would you like some trails kept rough and primitive?

12 YES	12 NO
475	35

13 Are natural and scenic trails important to you?

13 YES	13 NO
512	6

14 Would you like new horse camps within the SRA included in the new General Plan?

14 YES	14 NO
461	37

15 Would you like to see a public riding arena added as a new facility in the SRA?

15 YES	15 NO
370	117

16 Would you like to see a restroom, picnic table, and potable water at all staging areas?

16 YES	16 NO
454	44

17 Should the Cool staging area be enlarged?

17 YES	17 NO
394	71

18 Would you like a connector trail around Folsom Lake?

18 YES	18 NO
499	14