

Email to Parks and Recreation Commission from Charlie Krenz dated June 14, 2016

A couple weeks ago I presented an overview of proposed public access improvements to the Peninsula Watershed at a meeting of your San Mateo Parks Commission. In the Q&A you asked about our organization, how large we are and if I could speculate on related bigger questions: how we could be so sure that the public would enjoy and benefit from access reform, how many might take advantage of the area. I'm not sure I handled the question well and would like to clarify things.

The truth is I don't know and I'd look to professionals on planning staffs to make an informed estimate based on what we do know: usage patterns for the Sawyer Camp Trail, usage patterns for comparable resources held by other entities (eg SM Parks, Marin Water, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Santa Clara Valley Water District etc) perhaps some polling of the general public would be helpful.

My hunch has it that additional usage to any of the newly opened roads as described in [John Avalos' resolution](#) will vary greatly based on geography. A loop trail around the San Andreas Reservoir, one that makes use the Sawyer Camp trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail, plus a new opening of the connector due west of Millbrae will probably be much more popular than a route to the coast because it's a shorter and a loop trail, one that is close to many San Mateo County Cities. Taking a route all the way to the coast would be a much more demanding distance and will probably be less used. These routes may tend to favor long distance runners, cyclists.

To estimate upfront and operational costs, environmental impacts, getting this usage estimate right will be an important and potentially contentious first step. I'm not sure how it will play out. I don't think anyone knows right now.

As for our organization, I failed to mention a few things. Yes, there are but a handful of truly active people, but this is true of the Sierra Club as well. Yes the opposition may have a large memberships, but does such a club really speak for all the members? Have they been polled? Many people I know, people that have impeccable credentials as conservationists, environmental activists are supporters of access reform. We're not building subdivisions or freeways, we're trying to open up existing service roads so residents can better connect with nature and do it close to home.

Another indicator of interest is our Facebook activity. [Our page](#) has generated 2,300 likes. Perhaps more interestingly, our [videography](#) almost all of which is dedicated to explaining the prospects for access reform has generated almost 100,000 views. (Resolution co-sponsor [SF Supervisor Wiener's release](#) leads the pack with 64,700 views).

I'd be happy to answer other questions or discuss the matter in greater depth. Thanks you for your interest.

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Attachment: View East from what will be come Bay Area Ridge Trail, above San Andreas Reservoir

