

*Corrections/Clarifications
from David Tucker*

Peter K. Kwiek
Toro Park Watch
PO Box 44
Chualar, CA 93925

June 25, 2016

Dear Director Mariscal, Parks Commissioners and Supervisors

I am writing to urge you to postpone the Toro Park Trail Working Group meeting scheduled for Monday, June 27th.

As an appointed member of the Toro Park Trail Working Group (a committee established by the County Parks Department this Spring in the wake of the discovery of widespread illegal trail building and associated environmental damage in Toro Park), it is unacceptable to have just learned on Friday (and by accident) that I was excluded by County Parks from the latest round of official Trail Working Group communications initiated by Parks staff over the past two weeks.

Essentially, what we have is County Parks staff dialoging with select members of a committee to coordinate meeting times, agendas and priorities.

Decisions based on these communications have been made without inclusion of the entire group. Parks staff has apologized (and that is appreciated) for what it says was a mistake with the email distribution list. But having just learned on Friday, June 24th (through forwarded committee and staff emails from which I was excluded) that the Trail Working Group had had discussions and agreed to meet on Monday, the 27th, amounts to being given one workday's notice for a meeting scheduled during working hours. I am not able to miss work on such short notice. And I bring an egregiously under-represented set of perspectives to the committee.

The meeting on Monday should be postponed until it is properly noticed to all appointed members of the Trail Working Group.

I would also like an explanation as to what happened that caused my exclusion from at least 16 recent Trail Working Group emails that have now been forwarded to me by another member. I work in a County Department myself. I manage distribution lists. In

my experience, to remove an individual from an existing distribution list requires a deliberate, concerted effort. I deserve an explanation as to how my name alone was omitted from the Parks Commission distribution list that staff says it used to communicate with Trail Working Group members. **It is unacceptable that, through this selective communication process, the mountain bikers who currently make up an overwhelming majority of the committee, have been allowed to decide that the Trail Working Group should meet on Monday during work hours.** Does it matter to the Parks Department that neither I nor the lone Sierra Club representative will be able to attend the meeting?

Inaccurate statement. All times & dates were suggested by Parks staff. as email shows.
This does not inspire confidence in an already dubious process of foxes guarding the henhouse.

The Trail Working Group lacks credibility and legitimacy. For that to change:

1. It must be balanced: There are five identified user groups that need to be fairly represented: Hikers, bikers, runners, equestrians and naturalists. But currently there are 8 mountain bikers in the 13 member group. Parks is now proposing to add a few members in under-represented user groups. But If all current appointees are to remain in the group, as is encouraged by Parks staff, by the math there would need to be 40 members to achieve a true balance. So, merely appointing a couple more hikers and a native plant specialist will not balance the committee and will not suffice to legitimize this Trail Working Group.

2. The process must be professionalized: Thus far, the meetings have been highly informal and free-form, with members standing around a table in the Toro Park Maintenance Yard, with no effective effort to promote balanced, inclusive participation, nor accurate, good-faith documentation of the meetings.

3. Hostility must not be tolerated: As we have seen in recent Parks Commission meetings, mountain bikers on the Trail Working Group have repeatedly expressed unanimous approval of the process, lauding the Trail Working Group for the great conviviality amongst the members. I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of the mountain bikers. It is not surprising they feel this way. Why wouldn't they? It is essentially their committee. But in fact this is not how everyone, particularly under-represented members, feel. **And it is incumbent upon the County to ensure that hostility and intimidation are not tolerated. This could be accomplished, for example, by having**

? No idea where this comes from. Peter has attended only 2 of 4 meetings to date.

John Akeman has conducted every meeting and they have all been productive & positive!

an impartial facilitator run the meetings once the committee is truly brought into balance.

4. There must be transparency and meaningful oversight of volunteer efforts:

Long-time "volunteer" trail-builders who've had a hand in much of the environmental damage in Toro Park should not be allowed to administer volunteer activity on behalf of the County, even if a majority of the mountain biker-dominated Trail Working Group approves. This plan came to light in earlier Trail Working Group communications when it

was revealed that one of the Trail Working Group members was producing copies of official County Volunteer trail building forms, with Park staff approval, and planned to make them available at Toro Park for "volunteers" to work on trails. When questioned

about this, Parks management staff stated that this was a normal acceptable practice.

This is unacceptable, particularly given Toro Park's history of environmental degradation under the illicit work of unauthorized trail builders. The volunteer process must be

transparent, professionally administered, and environmentally responsible. *Inaccurate*

Statement #2 - It's an MCPD "Project Volunteer Service Agreement" and is in no way any kind of authorization for "volunteers to work on trails". It's sole-use is to keep track of "who, when and how many hours" they logged.

- In Harper Canyon alone (where park staff admits it cannot even visit due to lack of staff time and resources) Toro Park Watch has conducted seven patrols since January and has reported several times to Parks Management and Park Rangers that tools, freshly disturbed earth, and new redundant trails were discovered under construction in highly erodible terrain and in sensitive habitat.

Partial inaccurate statement #3. As discussed before -

"Upper Harper Canyon" was re-routed for various reasons under the authorization of (now former) Ranger Carlotta.

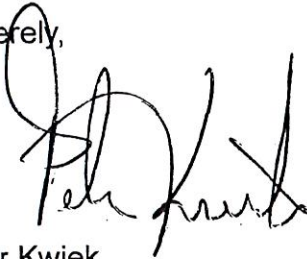
- As reported earlier this year, Toro Park Watch documented (and subsequently verified) evidence of the removal of hundreds of native chaparral shrubs including

numerous specimens of the rare endemic species Toro Manzanita, which were positively identified at a California Native Plant Society meeting in March. This authorized work was performed by Bill & Michelle Trumbull. Not by Cyclists who have regularly been blamed in media / social media.

All of this needs to be part of the discussion of a legitimate Trail Working Group and the County Parks Department needs to ensure that open discussion of what is really taking place in the park is allowed and encouraged. Otherwise, the Trail Working Group is little more than a check-box item for procedural reporting to decision-makers.

To Reiterate: Monday's meeting of the Toro Park Trails Working Group should be postponed and re-scheduled with appropriate notification and consultation of all its members. As long as only certain members are notified or included in official Group discourse, and as long as the Group remains dominated by a single user group, the Toro Park Trail Working Group has no claim to credibility or legitimacy and may ultimately only serve to foster the continued appropriation of public land by unauthorized private individuals.

Sincerely,



Peter Kwiek
Toro Park Watch

Cc: Monterey County Parks Commission (Rosales-NavaSJ@co.monterey.ca.us)
County Administrator Lew Bauman (baumanl@co.monterey.ca.us)
Supervisors Parker, Potter, Armenta, Phillips, Salinas (COB@co.monterey.ca.us)
Parks Director Mark Mariscal (MariscalM@co.monterey.ca.us)
Carl Holm, Director, Resource Management Agency (holmcp@co.monterey.ca.us)

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7



Monica Craver Here is a great article from Canada:
<http://www.vancouversun.com/.../tandt.../12006806/story.html>



Michael Den Tandt: American politicians,
come north and we will teach you about...

VANCOUVERSUN.COM | BY: MICHAEL DEN TANDT

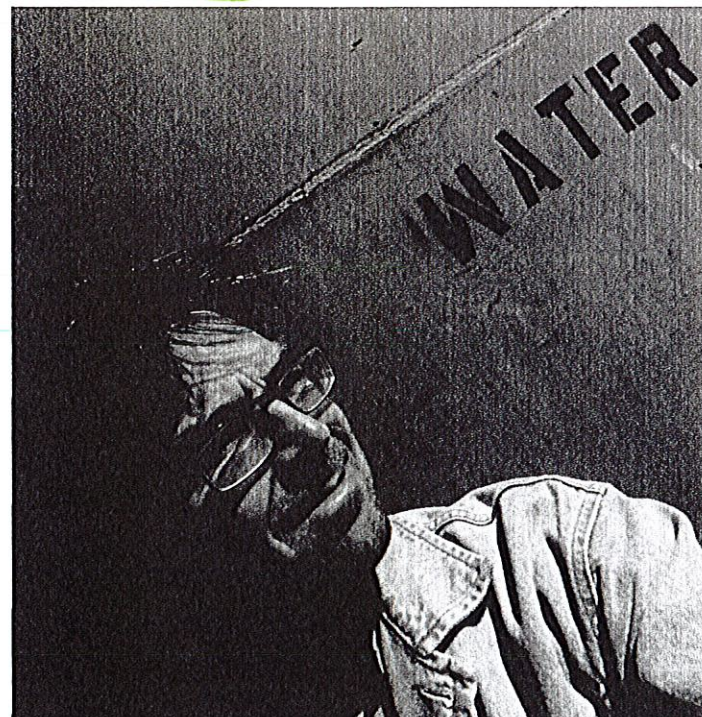
Like · June 24 at 11:18am



Richard Sladek Exactly!
Like · June 24 at 12:51pm



Peter Kwiek updated his profile picture.
June 24 at 11:14am · v



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23



K ML Owens How timely of you!
Like · June 24 at 6:52pm



Ronald Lafée H2o
Like · June 24 at 10:56pm



Karrin Sachs Algas Agua
Like · June 25 at 5:07pm



Peter Kwiek Purificado
Like · June 26 at 1:04am



Ronald Lafée Pete are you playing music this weekend
Like · June 25 at 6:42pm



Ronald Laffee Would luv to show me n nephews your music

Like · June 25 at 6:44pm



Ronald Laffee Heading to MONTEREY

Like · June 25 at 6:44pm



K ML Owens Peter Kwiek !!! Look at Ron's comment! Are you playing this weekend??

Like · June 25 at 8:43pm



K ML Owens Peter Kwiek Robin Cohen Julie Kwiek We're in Dallas at a family reunion, hanging out tonight with a cousin who lives in west LA. She would love you guys. I think you would really like her. Wish you guys could meet

Like · June 25 at 8:46pm



K ML Owens 文字入ロ

See Translation

Like · June 25 at 10:09pm



Peter Kwiek Dang.....been out of Facebook loop. Uh.....this weekend I'm tethered to trail committee activity, including writing a letter to report newly discovered illegal trail work and also leading a trail planning hike here. And I'm making pizza Sunday for friends coming over.....not much music.....maybe we'll play a few songs.

Like · June 26 at 1:03am



Amy Mcgrane You or the water?

Like · June 26 at 1:08am



Bini Husain Coming to Chicago at all before October? Or Arizona after October? Would love to see you both again!

Like · June 26 at 6:46am



Peter Kwiek Would love to see you, too. We Have a big trip planned to Italy in Aug-Sept, so no free time for awhile after but....possibly Az in winter...we'll keep in touch. And if you're ever in the Monterey Bay Area.....

Like · June 26 at 7:45am



K ML Owens the only substance on Earth naturally occurring in 3 phases

Like · June 26 at 6:53pm



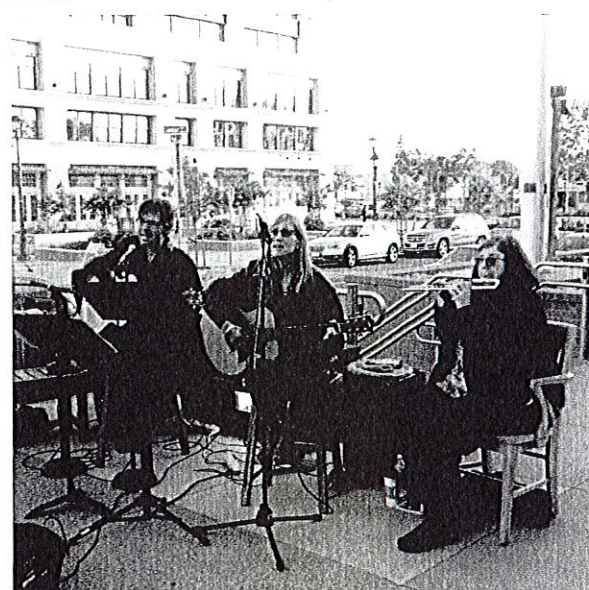
Peter Kwiek Yeah! We're right in that PT envelope. And we depend upon it in all phases.

Like · 1 · June 27 at 4:52pm



Peter Kwiek updated his cover photo.

June 24 at 11:06am ·



Like

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36



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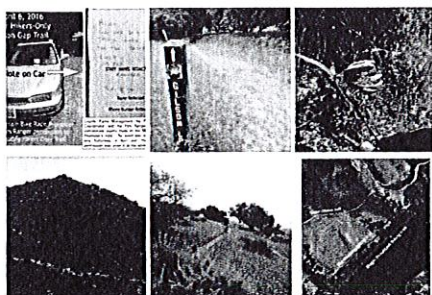
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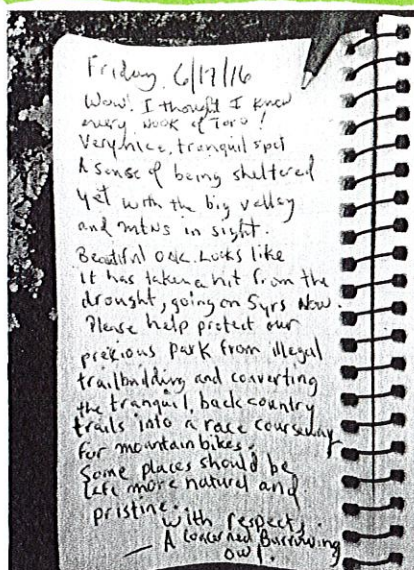
Write something on this Page...



Toro Park Watch shared Peter Kwiek's post.

June 19 at 1:31pm

A new Toro Park geocache entry! Thank you for helping us speak for the critters being crushed by oblivious thrill-seekers.



Peter Kwiek

June 17 at 6:28pm

New geocache entry. Location: A secret (until you find it).

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Write a comment...



Toro Park Watch

June 16 at 11:03pm



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