



File Code: 1900
Date: April 18, 2017

Dear Interested Party:

The Santa Lucia Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest is conducting an environmental analysis of the North Fork La Brea Creek area roads, trails, and campgrounds. Watershed restoration and public, private, and administrative access within this area will be evaluated. This letter is being sent to potentially interested and affected members of the public to solicit comments regarding this proposal. Comments received will be used to further refine the proposed action and to identify potential issues to be addressed through the environmental analysis process.

The proposed project is in the first stage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. It is our intention to analyze the proposed action with an Environmental Assessment (EA). Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.7(a)(2), this proposed project implements the Los Padres National Forest Land Management Plan and is subject to §218 subparts A and B.

For a detailed description of the proposed action, its location, purpose and need, and the nature of the decision to be made, please refer to the accompanying summary document and maps.

How to Comment

We welcome your comments and questions. To facilitate this, the District will be hosting an open house on May 8, between 4pm and 7pm at the Santa Lucia District Office, located at 1616 North Carlotti Drive in Santa Maria, CA.

We encourage you to review the attached project summary document and maps. Specific written comments as defined by §218.2 should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner. While comments will be accepted any time during the process, to establish standing for objection eligibility, this designated opportunity is between April 21, 2017 and May 21, 2017.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.



We also encourage you to submit written comments electronically using the “Comment on Project” button available on the right hand side of the screen on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50298>. You may also send written comments to: Nathan Rezeau, District Ranger, 1616 North Carlotti Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93454; fax (805-961-5781); or phone 805-925-9538, ext. 229. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Please state “La Brea Restoration” on the envelope and your letter when providing comments by mail.

A 30 day Notice and Comment period for the EA will be provided at a future date (§218.24). Only those who respond to this request for comments will remain on the mailing list for this project.

An objection period, if required, will follow the regulation found in §218.7. For objection eligibility (§218.5), only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection. Issues to be raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment (§218.8(c)).

Additional information on the La Brea Restoration Project is also available on the webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50298>.

For questions concerning this proposal, please contact Melody Fountain at 805-925-9538, ext. 214 or mfountain@fs.fed.us. Thank-you for your interest and participation in the management of the Los Padres National Forest.

Sincerely,



NATHAN L. REZEAU
District Ranger

Enclosures (5)

Cc: Melody Fountain, Debra Proctor