Mission Trails Regional Park: A Must Needed Treasure of Nature for San Diego

Cottonwoods, mountain peaks, and the stir of wildlife as the sun sets in Mission Trails Regional Park brings natural beauty and the sounds of nature so close to the city limits. Standing on a trail head vista looking out over the land of scattered cottonwoods, chaparral, and herb plants with mountain peaks of N. Fortuna and Kwaay Paay looming off in the distance is a tremendous sight, especially when the sprawl of suburbia sits within a stones throw from where I am standing. On the Nature Center Nature Loop one can quickly immerse themselves to the sounds and sights of nature. Walking along the San Diego river as it roars after some good rain fall; looking out over desert mountain terrain; and discovering the past by sidetracking off the main trail down to the river's edge where mortero covered rocks whisper how vital this land and river was and reminding us how vital they are still today.

With perfect days spent communing with Southern California nature comes knowledge of how delicate this landscape is. With such little rainfall in San Diego and Southern California we live on a land unable to defend itself against our nature as humans. Sometimes the days are less than perfect when dryness gives rise to wildfires or santa ana winds circulate pollution in the air we breath, and vegetation struggles to survive as natural water flows have been dammed up or rerouted into concrete channels as storm drains carrying many pollutants into the sea and on beaches. Yes, it isn’t perfect but it has beauty we must respect so future generations may enjoy what we have enjoyed. If anything, living on the West Coast has taught me more than ever the Earth is delicate and it’s natural offerings, such as water, plants, trees, and wildlife can be severely damaged or destroyed by our very own human nature. We must tread lightly and begin to live harmoniously with our surroundings because not just the health of the land depends on it, but our very own health as humans as well.

MTRP is one of the most popular parks in San Diego County. Its unparalleled scenic views, camping, fishing, Native American historical sites, equestrian area, hiking/biking trails, and the San Diego River watershed would be within yards of the conflicting natural gas power plant.

I / We urge the CEC to implement the NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE while considering conservation and energy storage.

Sincerely,

David M. Page
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