



FRANKLIN TRAIL UPDATE

November 30, 2012

With season's greetings and sincere gratitude for your help to reopen Carpinteria's Franklin Trail, we thought you would appreciate an update on this collaborative project. Preliminary planning and required bureaucratic steps are taking longer than anticipated. However, we are making good progress toward breaking ground and beginning construction.

With the active support of Friends of Franklin Trail, the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County is managing grants and donations while coordinating construction and multiple permits. A county permit application for the trail is already under review. We will apply for a city permit as soon as we finalize the trail alignment through Carpinteria High School (after resolving some tricky road easement issues with the assistance of First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal). We also need to secure access easements from Southern California Edison as well as a permit from the state in order to build a footbridge over a drainage on the trail route.

With these permits in hand, construction should begin in spring 2013 and take about three months. We hope to have the first portion of the Franklin Trail open by summer. This will be the lowest section of the trail running from the parking area on Meadowview Lane along the bike path to Carpinteria High School and then through the Persoon and Horton ranches onto Rancho Monte Alegre.

The second phase of the trail will take it through Rancho Monte Alegre to the Los Padres National Forest boundary. The third phase begins where the trail joins the obscured tread of the historic Franklin Trail as it ascends to the crest and down the north side of the Santa Ynez Mountains to connect with the network of backcountry trails and the Santa Ynez River recreation area. This third phase is within the jurisdiction of the Los Padres National Forest. We plan to work with the Forest Service to build and reopen the third phase of trail to the crest.

Thanks to your support, a Caltrans EEMP Grant secured by the Land Trust and a commitment of \$75,000 by the County Board of Supervisors, we have raised all the money needed for permits, design, engineering and construction. Professional services have been generously donated by Van Atta Associates Landscape Architecture and Planning, MNS Engineers, AMEC Environmental and Infrastructure Inc. and Land Trust attorneys Jim Phillippi & Brad Lundgren. Many people have contributed to this project in many ways. Once our work is finished, any remaining funds will be used to establish an endowment for future trail maintenance and repair.

As we faced unexpected complications with this latest conservation project, we were reminded of the many hoops and hurdles we overcame to save, acquire and preserve the Carpinteria Bluffs. As always, our little community came together and persevered until we realized the big dream of saving the Bluffs.

Again, thank you for your generosity and patience as we establish another community treasure for present and future generations. Working together, we have protected the Carpinteria Bluffs, the Carpinteria Salt Marsh and thousands of acres of Carpinteria foothills. Now we're making another dream come true—reopening the historic Franklin Trail.

Take care and happy holidays from Friends of Franklin Trail and the Land Trust,

Jane Murray, Co-chair
Friends of Franklin Trail

Bud Girard, Co-chair
Friends of Franklin Trail

Michael Feeney, Executive Director
Land Trust for Santa Barbara County