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November 2, 2022

County of Ventura
Planning Commission
800 S. Victoria Ave
Ventura CA 93009

Re: Case No. PL20-0125 – Boy Scout Camp CUP Renewal

Dear Chair Comden and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) renewal for Boy Scout Camp Three Falls in northern Ventura County (Case No. PL20-0125). Los Padres ForestWatch is a nonprofit organization working to protect the Los Padres National Forest directly adjacent to the CUP area. One of our main programs focuses on working with landowners to ensure that historic trails leading into the forest are maintained in perpetuity for public access and enjoyment.

The North Fork Lockwood Trail (#22W02)—one of the only entryways into the Chumash Wilderness within the Los Padres National Forest—crosses both of the Camp Three Falls parcels under the CUP currently being considered for renewal (see the map below). This trail is popular with hikers and equestrians looking to traverse the south-facing slopes of Mt. Pinos and Sawmill Mountain, the two tallest peaks in Ventura County, as well as access Lily Meadows and Sheep backcountry camps. We want to ensure that the new CUP preserves historic public access to this trail in the Los Padres National Forest.

We have been unable to ascertain from the U.S. Forest Service whether a formal easement granted to the agency (and open to the public) exists for N. Fork Lockwood Trail where it crosses the two Camp Three Falls parcels. We ask that the County require the Boy Scouts of America to record an official easement for the 0.20 miles of the trail that crosses the property. This easement should be granted to the U.S. Forest Service and allow for public use as applicable for the trail.

Granting such an easement will ensure that the public will perpetually be able to traverse N. Fork Lockwood Trail and access the Chumash Wilderness.

County of Ventura
Planning Commission Hearing
Case No. PL20-0125
Exhibit 6 - Public Comment

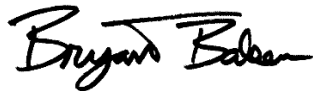
This can be accomplished during the current CUP renewal process by adding the following permit conditions:

- The permittee shall preserve and facilitate public access along N. Fork Lockwood Trail where it crosses through the CUP boundary and is needed for connectivity between existing trails.
- The permittee shall work with the U.S. Forest Service to record a permanent public easement along this trail where it crosses the CUP boundary. The permittee shall record such easement with the County, and provide a copy to the Planning Division and the U.S. Forest Service, within one year of permit issuance

We know that the Boy Scouts of America share this commitment to ongoing public access and responsible stewardship of recreational trails across the CUP area, and we hope that they would be fully supportive of the inclusion of this permit condition to formalize the public's longstanding use of N. Fork Lockwood Trail if an official easement does not already exist.

Thank you for taking these important steps to ensure that current and future generations can continue recreating on and around Mt. Pinos in northern Ventura County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryant Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bryant" and last name "Baker" clearly distinguishable.

Bryant Baker
Director of Conservation & Research
Los Padres ForestWatch

Camp Three Falls and N. Fork Lockwood Trail



Trails

Roads

Los Padres National Forest

BSA Camp Three Falls Parcels

N. Fork Lockwood Trail
Easement Needed

0 150 300 ft



N. Fork Lockwood Trail (22W02)

APN 003-0-230-560

APN 003-0-230-110