**ACTION ALERT – COMMENTS DUE BY OCTOBER 6, 2014**

GENERAL PLAN CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK, SAN DIEGO

The new general plan and draft EIR for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park has come out. Comments on the plan have to be in by October 6, 2014. This is important for the Southern Units of BCHC because this is your horse camping area. The equestrian groups in the south (8 riding groups -including BCHC) have done exemplary work in keeping equestrian concerns and issues as a major part of the General Plan. You can look at the plan on the internet at [**www.parks.ca.gov/?page\_id=27169**](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27169)**.** Or search Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.

**Comments need to be in by October 6th by one of the following methods:**

**Email to-** **enviro@parks.ca.gov** **–** Type “Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan” in subject line

**Mail to** – Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan Team

California State Parks

Southern Service Center

2797 Truxtun Road, Barracks 26

San Diego, CA 92106

We would like all BCHC members to comment on the General Plan for this State Park as it has many good equestrian points for any State Park. Please keep comments concise and include any personal experiences you have had in the Park. In working with BCHC-San Diego we have come up with some points we would like you to comment on, but feel free to review the plan and make any other comments you feel strongly about:

* We/I feel that it is a very high priority to construct a horse camp as soon as possible in the northern part of Cuyamaca to replace the Los Caballos Horse Camp.
* As a BCHC member(s) we/I want to participate in partnerships to improve trails, cooperate with other trail user groups and protect resources as Cuyamaca goes forward with their General Plan.
* We/I suggest that equestrian groups be consulted to design long loops for riding to specific destinations out of the horse camps. Some trails out of the current horse camps do not really go anywhere.
* We/I feel that horse campers need their own camps with buffer zones between regular campers. i.e **safety for all**, horses can spook at unfamiliar noises or large moving items, horse campers require large areas for trailer parking and turnarounds. We/I want to keep the horse camping facilities at Green Valley and Los Vaqueros.
* We/I feel that when considering additional trails, consideration must be given to horse, rider and bikers safety if they are going to consider having mountain bikes on trails or in camps with equestrians and that mandated guidelines must be followed.
* If trails are to be re-routed, it is imperative to have the re-route in place before the closure of the original trail.
* Another item that is not part of the general plan but merits mentioning is the current issue of allowing non-horse camping in the horse only camp areas in Cuyamaca, namely Green Valley Horse Camp and Los Vaqueros group horse camp. We/I would like to see this issue resolved through the equestrian stakeholder group that participated in the General Plan without any net loss of equestrian camping in the Park.