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**Gary Watts - Re: Red Rock**

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**From:** Ruth Coleman  
**To:** GWATTS@parks.ca.gov  
**Date:** 7/19/2004 9:32:59 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Red Rock

that sounds like a good strategy. I wont die on my sword on the re-opening of the wash issue, but it'll be one of those long term deals. we closed it at one time due to a flood, and never reopened it, yet we use the wash on the other side. as you can imagine, it doesnt look like we played fair or are really being consistent.

regarding the general plan: I talked to DAPHNE today and we had a very good conversation and she had the same take as you...lots of learning on her part as well. What I want is for this to be a plan that has the buy-in of the district (that's you) in conjunction w/ daphne. If you guys can get clarity on what's to be open and what's to close, communicate that to the southern service center, then take it on the road. I think your strategy of bringing it to native americans and enviros is a good one. then we'll go public. I fully expect to be resoundly criticized by this one but I've already been warning some of the commissioners about it. I know the souther service center folks are really chafing at the bit to get this done. If you and Daphne are cool, then I'm cool. I'll take the heat for steep trail closure, but I wasnt so sold on the rest of it. definitely look closely at cudahy language. lets not prejudge the outcome. just specify the need for further study and trail plans.

>>> Gary Watts 07/19/04 6:31 PM >>>

Ruth, Daphne and I had a great day at Red Rock last week. We discussed many issues related to the general plan amendment and beyond. (And I learned a lot about off highway driving!).

I apologize in advance of the length of this email but if the issue were simple we all would have solved it by now.

Anyhow I do think Daphne has come up with a pretty acceptable compromise related to a through route at Steep Trail. How it plays with the Native American and environmental communities is to be seen. I think I can get the plan team to buy in (maybe not everyone but most). I would like to have the time to meet with them and discuss this modification.

We also need to look at the language on the Cudahy bypass route. The plan language would need to be slightly changed so as to not commit to closure if we can't find an acceptable alternative route. Most of the plan language calls for study on the issue of a bypass road though so this would not be a major overturn of what the intent of the plan is. I would expect it to be a followup component of the roads and trails plan. However I believe we would need a full blown EIR at that point in the future specifically on the bypass issue and perhaps for the entire roads and trails plan. And we should expect to consider a bypass as a compromise to protect the resources while maintaining a through route through Last Chance. It is my belief that we should maintain a through route.

The issue of the green sticker access under Hiway 14 is not a general plan issue as I understand it. However it isn't a simple solution either. The access is through a culvert under the highway which makes it a Cal Trans issue. It also drains into the main wash which may make it a streambed alteration in DFG view, or even a blue line stream issue with the Army Corps (I am just guessing at this point, I will find out for sure). However if we got through that hurdle and OHV had the \$ to fix it, it would be perceived as strictly an OHV improvement since street legal vehicles can use Hiway 14 to access both sides of the park and the only apparent need for the repair would be to cater to green sticker vehicles (and it is obvious, that Red Rock is not an SVRA).. It probably would be difficult for outside folks (and I am not sure legally from a budget standpoint) for us to justify spending non OHV money for OHV purposes. (I am sorry for the mumbo jumbo but I think these could be real issues.)

My take is this is an operational issue that we can explore and try to resolve if it is an issue you are taking heat on.

3/6/9

**Gary Watts - Re: Red Rock****Page 2**

After meeting with the team we would need the green light from you to fire this general plan effort up again. (I am guessing that would be through Kathy Amman). Obviously we would incorporate the revisions we have agreed to since our last public meeting in summer of 2003. It would be my recommendation that we (the team) revise the preferred alternative, give a quick exec review if needed (to make sure we are all on the same page) and then do a couple of small focus group preemptive strikes with 1) the Native American community and 2) the environmental community to daylight, explain and get a read on what they may come at us on during the commission hearing.

After that do one public hearing and then go to the commission for finality.

All in all, I think we can come up with a plan that will make sense and stand up to challenge, at least I hope so. Obviously if we make one group happy someone else won't be. I am very encouraged by Daphne's approach to this difficult plan and her approach to the OHV/State Park interface (and Red Rock appears to be ground zero along with Borrego). I look forward to a new partnership and a trust relationship that has been non-existent since I have been in the department. I think in the long run we can ensure people have access to most of the park and actually do a better job of managing the resource at the same time.

If you are OK with this approach Ruth, I will meet with the Jeff and Karen before mid August and report back. If this is too slow we will have to scramble because of vacation schedules. Thanks for your continuing support and confidence in trying to get to a final solution.

Gary Watts - Fwd: Post Redrock meeting comments from Mike Sampson

Page 1

**From:** Daphne Greene  
**To:** Watts, Gary  
**Date:** 9/30/2004 8:37:59 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Post Redrock meeting comments from Mike Sampson

Hi,  
Just wanted to keep you in the loop. Needless to say, I would appreciate it if you would keep this to yourself. (At least the forwarding of the e-mail). Doesn't sound as though he is quite okay. (I particularly liked how he suggested we "walk" into Nightmare Gulch. Of course you know I am more than happy to walk, but just found it interesting...)

Interesting to note that he is teaching a class to the Cadet. Perhaps OHV 101 could follow?

Hang in there.  
-d

>>> Phil HINES 9/30/2004 10:41:10 AM >>>  
Hi Daphne,

Here is something Mike Sampson sent about the hill top access route through the prehistoric quarry. I'm not sure why he doesn't understand it is an existing route and it would be monitored to prevent future problems.

3/6/9

From: Mike Sampson  
To: HINES, Phil  
Date: Fri, Sep 24, 2004 3:36 PM  
Subject: Re: Red Rock

Thanks for the information, Phil. I would welcome the opportunity to take you and Daphne (and maybe Larrynn) out to Nightmare Gulch. Anyone that walks into the canyon is usually awed by the geology and scenic beauty of the canyon. If you get a chance to flip through the 1982 GP, you will see the recommended Department policy had been to close Nightmare Gulch to vehicles completely, and route all vehicles through other canyons.

I spoke with Mark Faull today to discuss our upcoming class to the Cadets. One obvious reason to close the vehicle access to the Last Chance Canyon Quarry (CA-KER-6236), the site we visited yesterday, is to protect the site from continuing vehicle damage. Closing vehicular access to the Quarry site also protects the site from rockhounds who seek out "jasper" (i.e., the dark orange chert) and other cherts for their collection. Mark reminded me that the large quarry we visited has in past been listed in rockhounds' guide books (and may in fact still be listed). Mark reminded me, also, that we had observed damage to rocks on that quarry from modern-day geology hammers in our previous visits. Mark told me that adjacent BLM land has high points for viewing the landscape similar to the high point on the quarry site. so, closing the trail on the quarry site still leaves ample high places for viewing.

Mike S.  
9/24/04

>>> Phil HINES 9/24/2004 2:27:32 PM >>>  
Hi Mike,

Kit Custis is the engineering geologist in our office you want to talk to about accessing aeriels for Red Rock. He can also come up with soils maps that could be useful as far as predicting erosion. He is expecting an e-mail or call. You'll have to look him up in groupwise.

3/6/9

State of California

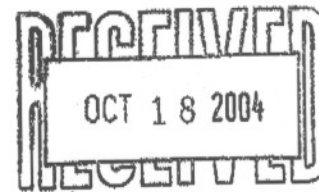
**Memorandum**

**Date** : October 1, 2004

**To** : Red Rock Canyon SP G. P. Amendment Team

**From** : **Michael Sampson**  
**Department of Parks and Recreation**  
**Southern Service Center**

**Subject** : Proposed OHV Trail on Hill near Steep Trail



On September 23, 2004, staff from California State Parks and two officials from BLM Ridgecrest Field Office met at Red Rock Canyon SP to discuss the correlation of trails along our mutual boundary. We then visited an informal off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail located on a prominent hill that runs upslope (and north) from Steep Trail. I misunderstood which trail or trails would be the subject on the 9/23/04 meeting, and did not realize the attendees wanted a "final" environmental determination on this specific informal vehicle route. So, I was not really prepared during our field meeting to make any "final" determinations on archaeological concerns relative to the informal trail. Presently, I would recommend against opening this informal and unauthorized trail to OHV users for the reasons outlined below.

I reviewed maps dating to both 1995 and 2002 that depict vehicular routes within the Last Chance Canyon Addition requested by OHV groups. Neither map shows the informal vehicular trail that we visited on 9/23/04. In a recent phone conversation, Mark Faulk confirmed to me that OHV community members have never asked for this particular route, nor was this route discussed during the February 2004 field meeting with Director Ruth Coleman. A recommendation to place this informal trail in the current G.P. Amendment would create a new designated route that has never been previously presented. Therefore, such a proposal to open a new route should be deferred until we begin work on a Roads and Trails Management Plan for Last Chance Canyon Addition (and, then be subject to more complete environmental review and public comment).

Secondly, the existing informal vehicular route traverses two significant prehistoric archaeological sites. Archaeological site CA-KER-377 is located along Old Dutch Cleanser Mine Road and extends eastward into the spot where Steep Trail intersects with Old Dutch Cleanser Mine Road. The Last Chance Canyon Quarry Site (designated CA-KER-6236) covers the entire south, west, and southeast sides of the large hill all the way to the top and over onto BLM land. It would be contrary to State Parks resource management policies and guidelines established in the draft G. P. Amendment, as well as, contrary to Federal laws, to establish such a lengthy and well-used vehicular trail on the latter two archaeological sites. In addition, we have all observed how certain OHV users, in particular, motorcyclists and ATV riders, will frequently stray from the established route of travel. The sites would suffer from ongoing degradation within the existing route (routes) and additional damage as some riders inadvertently or purposefully stray off the main path. It should be noted here that various Federal historic preservation laws such as Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and policies related to appropriate recreation uses in an Area of Critical Environmental Concern must guide actions by the BLM on their portion of the informal trail. BLM staff cannot on the basis of this one field visit make a decision to open-up the informal vehicle route.

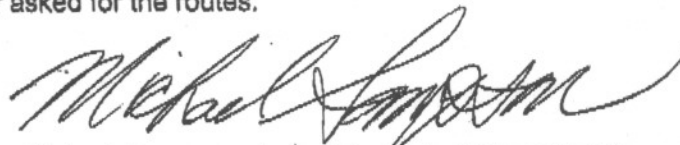
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I met with Kawalisu (Nuooah or Niwi) Elder Harold Williams on 9/29/04 about Red Rock Canyon SP cultural issues. Harold indicated to me that preservation of archaeological sites, including, protecting them from development (such as, vehicle trails), was important to members of his community. Harold understands the role California State Parks plays in serving many kinds of park users, but, he wants us find ways to maintain cultural heritage.

Please note, too, that the large prehistoric chert quarry site on the hill has previously been published in one or more rockhounding guides (as a source for "jasper"). Rockhounding can represent a major source of damage to the site and result in appreciable loss of rock material and artifacts. One effective means of protecting this significant site from the depredations of unregulated rockhounding is to close-off vehicle access routes. The issue of uncontrolled rockhounding is one important reason vehicle routes providing access to this hill and the chert quarry archaeological site had been proposed for closure previous General Plan Amendment team meetings.

The above discussion summarizes some important reasons to close the informal and unauthorized vehicle trails currently located on the south and southwest sides of very prominent hill along our border with BLM land and just north of Steep Trail. Those reasons include, to stop ongoing vehicular damage to important and unique archaeological sites, to cut-off easy access and end uncontrolled rockhounding activities, to satisfy the wishes of the local Native American community, to await an opportunity for a more systematic review of vehicular routes in the Last Chance Canyon Addition (e.g., during a Roads and Trails Management Plan), to end an ongoing source of erosion on the steep slopes here, and because the OHV community has never asked for the routes.



Michael Sampson, Associate State Archaeologist  
Southern Service Center

Gary Watts - RR update

Page 1

**From:** Daphne Greene  
**To:** Watts, Gary  
**Date:** 10/5/2004 7:36:36 PM  
**Subject:** RR update

Gary,  
By now I am assuming you are in receipt of Mike Sampson's memo regarding the trail at RR. Please call or e-mail me with your thoughts. Needless to say, I am concerned.

I hope you are well.

Best regards,  
Daphne

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**Gary Watts - Re: RR update**

Page 1

**From:** Gary Watts  
**To:** Greene, Daphne  
**Date:** 10/6/2004 12:21:30 PM  
**Subject:** Re: RR update

Daphne, Jeff showed me the memo on Monday. We have talked. I am not pleased with this sudden reversal and am giving some thought to how I handle it. I would like to have Phil's thoughts if possible. Agree, Disagree? I also want to nail down BLM's response as I thought they were good with the through route. There is nothing I read in Mike's memo that is a deal breaker as I see it. We may at the end of the day have an unhappy archaeologist. I will keep you posted and cc you on any response. Take care. GW

>>> Daphne Greene 10/5/2004 7:36:26 PM >>>

Gary,

By now I am assuming you are in receipt of Mike Sampson's memo regarding the trail at RR. Please call or e-mail me with your thoughts. Needless to say, I am concerned.

I hope you are well.

Best regards,  
Daphne

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**Gary Watts - Re: Sampson Letter****Page 1**

**From:** Craig Mattson  
**To:** Watts, Gary  
**Date:** 10/6/2004 4:02:38 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Sampson Letter

Thanks. I am concerned that Micheal could be sabotaging any agreement we would come up with by directing the Native American community against any compromise. Specifically his meeting with Kawalisu Elder Harold Williams. We need to get Larynn involved with our cultural resource issues. I trust her more than I do Michael to make sound judgements.

Craig Mattson

>>> Gary Watts 10/6/04 11:56:35 AM >>>

I agree Craig, please stand by while I fashion a response.

>>> Craig Mattson 10/6/2004 9:53:46 AM >>>

I am sure you have read Michael Sampson's letter on the Proposed OHV Trail on Hill near Steep Trail. What do you think? First of all Micheal needs to realize that the proposed road is not an "OHV" road as I see it. It will be an approved route of travel for vehicles including street legal.

His stand on cultural issues is important but I am under the impression that we are taking actions to minimize the impacts to the cultural sites. Any problems we experience with this road with inappropriate use will need to be monitored, mitigated and we will need to perform enforcement of laws to protect the sites. Closing the roads is not going to stop those persons who are intent on violating the law.

I am just venting my frustration with his stand on this issue. I believe we have a new plan that serves both the visitors and protects the cultural sites.

Craig Mattson

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Gary Watts - Red Rock GPA

Page 1

**From:** Gary Watts  
**To:** Perez, Tony  
**Date:** 3/11/2005 1:23:51 PM  
**Subject:** Red Rock GPA

Tony, the team has now met with

1. BLM and OHV division
2. Environmental Community (Sierra Club)
3. Native American Community

We have informed each of the potential modifications to the plan that was presented as the preferred plan at the last public hearing in California City in June 2003.

Preliminary reads are that BLM will probably work with us to close some of the spaghetti roads (especially if OHV gives them money) around Steep Trail and to designate one through route to their property. However they may have cultural issues that may not be easy to overcome as well as us as long as a through route in that area crosses two major arch sites. Hopefully this compromise will still satisfy Ed W. and Daphne.

The Sierra Club is not happy with the changes and will no doubt raise their displeasure either through Senator Feinstein's office and especially at the Commission hearing.

The Native Americans want to see us close some of the routes through their sacred areas and will registering their displeasure through various means.

Bottom line, we can't make everyone happy so if we move forward with the plan Ruth wanted us to we will encounter opposition.

We are ready to make this report to Ruth to await her further direction but I wanted to let you speak with Ted and advise as to how you two want to proceed. Regardless she needs to know what we are going to run into all the way through the commission hearing and we (the team) needs to know how she wants to proceed.

We had talked previously about getting back to her in a small briefing and then getting direction to go. I would recommend that we have a small briefing with you, Ted, Paul, Ruth, Daphne, Jeff Brown, and myself if you concur.

Let me know your thoughts when you get a chance. Thanks GW

4/6/8/9

Gary Watts - Fwd: Re: Red Rock

Page 1

**From:** Gary Watts  
**To:** Gray, Balenda  
**Date:** 4/26/2005 9:50:37 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Red Rock

2:00 oclock right, not 3:00?

>>> Daphne Greene 4/26/2005 9:14:07 AM >>>

Hi Ted,

Thanks for the offer to get together. I would welcome the opportunity to learn more about the trip. I am available at 3:00 if that works. Thanks,

>>> Ted Jackson 4/26/2005 9:03:19 AM >>>

Will this afternoon or tomorrow work for the call?

>>> Ted Jackson 4/26/2005 9:02:10 AM >>>

Daphne

I think it would be good if you, me, Gary and Tony could have a discussion about Red Rock and the general plan issues. I have not yet met w/Ruth regarding any decisions made as a result of the site visit last Friday.

I'll have Laura arrange for a conference call ASAP so we can bring you into the loop.

Ted

>>> Daphne Greene 4/25/2005 7:28:57 PM >>>

Gary,

Thanks for the heads-up. While I am certainly upset by the decision (especially give the fact that I wasn't asked to be part of the discussion), I really appreciate your willingness to let me know directly and not hear from the grapevine.

I am very interested to hear more about this consensus, and in particular, would like to hear more about the data which must have been provided to you since the last time we met. Needless to say, I hope this isn't a trend for the rest of the trails in the Park.

I would like to talk with you about this so please call me when you have a chance. Could you also please leave me a number where I might be able to reach you.

Gary, thanks again for making the effort to contact me. I look forward to talking with you.

Best regards, Daphne

>>> Gary Watts 4/25/2005 10:43:30 AM >>>

Tried to call you on this but your assistant says you are unavallable all day.

Wanted to let you know we met at Red Rock on Friday with Ted and Tony and Jeff Brown and Craig Mattson and we came to a consensus that we could not adequately defend the decision to keep a route open through the arch sites above Steep Trail. It seemed that our stewardship responsibility was greater than the need to provide another option to drive through the area.

It will be our recommendation to Ruth that we go with the original plan of closing the "Steep Trail complex" because of cultural resource concerns.

I know that we had come to some kind of compromise on that area but I have to pull back from that and felt I owed that explanantion to you as quickly as possible. Please feel free to call me if you want to

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Gary Watts - Re: Control 4450

Page 1

**From:** Gary Watts  
**To:** Jackson, Ted; Pepito, Al  
**Date:** 12/12/2005 5:33:35 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Control 4450

10-4 we will get started on a response later this week and try to get our end done by next week or so.

>>> Ted Jackson 12/12/05 5:22 PM >>>  
Gary

I spoke with Ruth last week about the Red Rock letter. She wants you and your team to take the first crack at preparing a response. She willingly admits it will need a number of reviews including legal and legislation.

She gave me the following as tips for proceeding with our response:

She stated we need to address whether we are in compliance with the desert protection act - she stated we may want to check w/Sen. Feinstein's office on this issue (i.e., what, if any, are our legal obligations under the act?)

She also added that our official position on the completion of the general plan is that we are out of money and cannot move forward without new \$\$\$'s or the passage of a new bond act.

Ted

>>> Gary Watts 12/02/05 11:40 AM >>>

Laurie as a followup to my phone call, this controlled correspondence is a time bomb waiting to go off and probably back at the dept. in a lawsuit. It involves Red Rock and the GPA and huge issues. It is my recommendation that the letter be reviewed in detail by the highest level (Ruth) before a response strategy is formulated. It is clearly way beyond my capacity to respond to or prepare a suggested response at this point. I will await Tony's response.

>>> Laurie Taylor 11/30/05 3:22 PM >>>  
Gary,

Please write a draft response for Tony's review. thanks, Laurie

**CC:** Perez, Tony; Taylor, Laurie

**From:** Steve Lehman  
**To:** Woodroof, Wayne, Amann, Kathleen, Brown, Jeff, Keck, Dave, Jackson, Ted, Gordon, Nina, Nastro, Louis, Watts, Gary, Mattson, Craig(...)  
**Date:** 11/11/2005 9:11:07 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Red Rock Commission Meeting

I spoke to Ruth about this several weeks ago and she said she wasn't in any hurry to move on this. She also said we should only move ahead if the OHV division had staff available to work out OHV issues with Park Ops. and had sufficient staff to participate in the General Plan process.

I mentioned Red Rock to Daphne a while back and said we needed to talk about the general plan. So we need to close this loop. Maybe Paul or Kathy can bring it up at the Monday exec. meeting. I will not be there.

>>> Paul Romero 11/10 4:50 pm >>>  
Is this plan ready to go next year? Can we discuss merits of proceeding or not since the commission schedule has a 6 month gap from April to December.

Paul D. Romero  
Chief Deputy Director  
State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
ph. 916-653-1570

>>> Ted Jackson 04/25/05 1:48 PM >>>  
Paul

I know you are planning to meet soon with the general planning team to work on the upcoming schedule for P&R Commission hearings. As you and I discussed earlier, after meeting w/district staff and Jeff Brown (Red Rock General Plan project manager), all agreed that if it is at all possible the best date for a Commission meeting on the Red Rock General Plan would be March/April '06.

Ted

**CC:** Perez, Tony, Gray, Balenda, Aguon, Laura

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Gary Watts - Red Rock

Page 1

**From:** Gary Watts  
**To:** Greene, Daphne  
**Date:** 4/25/2005 10:43:30 AM  
**Subject:** Red Rock

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Take care, Gary

3/6/9