Public Comments on Draft Grazing Management Plan

- What type of CEQA document will be prepared as part of the Draft Grazing Management Plan – a Negative Declaration or EIR?
- Riparian Habitat Impacts from Grazing Plan– on California Tiger Salamanders. What is the proposed distance of the grazing areas from riparian habitats?
- Per the 1992 Master Plan for Santa Teresa County Park, there was a Geology study showing active landslides [within the proposed Bernal Hill grazing area] located in the northern area of park. If overgrazing occurs in this area of the Park, the soils would be denuded and a major storm event may result in additional landslides.
- Concern with grazing prescriptions and active landslide areas impacting neighbors along the northern most part of the Park.
- How will active grazing areas proposed in the northern and southern parts of the Park affect endangered species habitat?
- Trails that park users use versus trails created by cattle - Can humans use cattle trails? Will a park user get cited for hiking on a trail that was created by cattle?
- Concerns with soil compaction resulting from bicycle use to other types of recreational trail uses
- How does soil compaction impact the host plants for Bay Checkerspot Butterfly habitat?
- When is the growing season for host plants for the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly?
- Will there be compaction from winter/ spring grazing?
- Will the Grazing Management Plan decrease the likelihood of fire hazards?
- The guard rail on Bernal Road has been down for a while, where it has been difficult to find an agency to remedy. Who do I contact – City of San Jose or County for future concerns related to the grazing program at the Park?
- How many heads of cattle will be grazing at Santa Teresa County Park?
- Will there be future public meetings and will notices be sent out for these public meetings?
- Fences – type of exterior fencing (five-strand barbed wire)
- What is wildlife friendly fencing? (smooth wire/barb wire fencing combination to allow animals to pass under fencing)
- Burrowing Owl – will the proposed cattle destroy Burrowing Owl habitat?
- Will Burrowing Owl habitat be enhanced as part of the Grazing Plan?
- Fires – will fire training with San Jose Fire and prescribed burns continue to take place at the Park?
• Will deer have any vegetation left to eat after the cattle graze and prescribed burns take place?
• Will there be water contamination from cattle using springs and creeks?
• Wildlife friendly fencing – can wildlife (e.g. deer) still go thru fences?
• Will maps be made available on the County Parks Department website? Will the PowerPoint presentations also be made available?
• Comment regarding the spring box located near Santa Teresa springs
• Wetland plants
• Will some of the trails be hardened?
• Section of Rocky Ridge trail is a concern with regards to cattle grazing so it would be great to do a re-route of the trail higher in elevation.
• What are the proposed funding sources for this Plan/study?
• Will the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) be potential new funding source?
• What about the $250K that is currently in the budget for this project?
• What measures are taken for safeguarding cattle from predators (animals and humans)
• Who to call if there are cattle found on the road?
• What types of gates will be used on Rocky Ridge trail? (Either self closing gates or gates left open when cattle are not present)
• Wildflowers – what are the impacts of grazing on the wildflowers?
• Will there be more public meetings to provide input on the Grazing Management Plan?
• What are the next steps in the process? When will the plan be implemented?
• Will there be buffering between the cattle grazing and the northern park boundary neighbors?
• Will there be exclusion of public access to grazing areas? (no additional restrictions to public access are associated with grazing, except for additional gates to hold cattle and allow recreation to pass through).
• How will department address impacts to cattle from domestic animals (packing dogs take of cattle and calves)?
• What are the impacts to burrowing owls, streams and wetlands? Concern with burrowing owls related to rodent control activities and grazing regimes impacting insect, reptiles, and rodent populations by uniformly grazing the habitat to a state that does not allow those populations to thrive (prefer diverse habitat, terrain and aspect).
• Support for Grazing Management Plan for Santa Teresa County Park.