

Communication from Public

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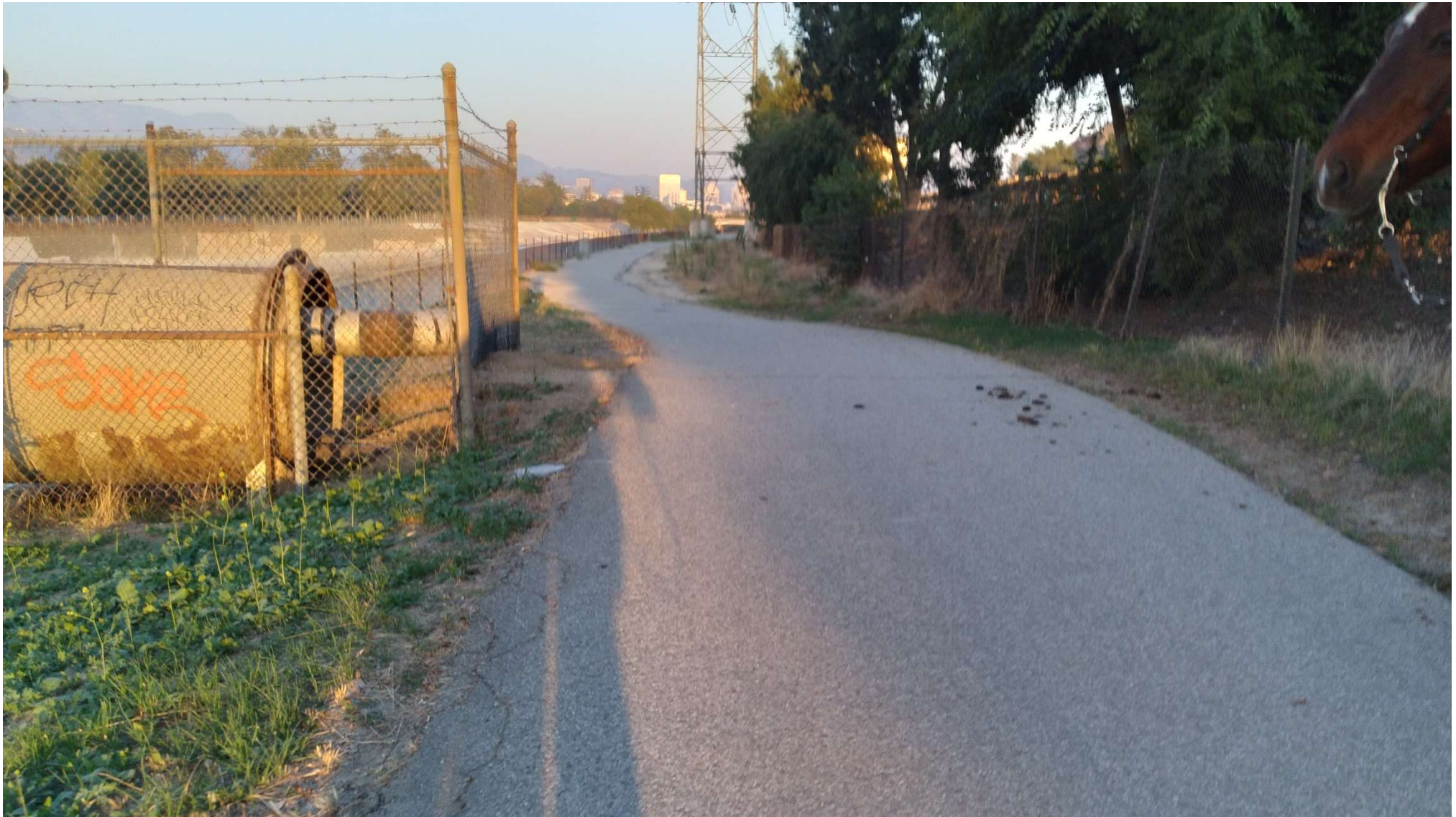
Date Submitted: 11/21/2024 11:51 PM

Council File No: 23-0722

Comments for Public Posting: The 80+ year old Mariposa Trail has a whole section that isn't wide enough to SAFELY allow two horses to walk past each other if a bicycle path is added to the trail. When two horses pass each other, one going West and one going East there needs to be space between the fence that is planned to be placed between the path and the trail and the horse #1 plus space between horse #1 and horse #2 and space between horse #2 and the freeway chain-link fence. The width of a horse (from the outside of the rider's left foot to the outside of the rider's right foot) is around 3 feet. The space between fence and the rider should be - for the best safety - should be around 2 feet and between the horses as they pass should be the same as the space between the horse and the freeway fence. So we're looking at 2 + 3 + 2 + 3 + 2 totaling 12 feet. This particular section of the trail in question is around 22 - 24 feet from the river fence to the freeway fence. BUT!!!! When a horse is threatened (maybe by the horse it's going past) or spooked (by a piece of trash blowing across the trail) or frightened (by a crash or backfire on the freeway) their first instinct is to turn and run (and maybe kick while they're doing that) AND!!!! Being herd-bound animals when one says "Danger, Run" they all say "Danger, Run". Most of the time a rider can stop the horse before it runs but almost always the horse can turn - and not both in the same direction. From the tip of a horse's nose to the back of their tail is approximately 10 feet so two horses turning and needing space between the freeway fence their rumps and the proposed fence between the path and the trail you're looking at close to 24 feet - the same width the trail is now.....where are you going to put the bicycle path? Are you going to put both riders and horses' lives at risk? There are very few horse trails compared to bike paths. - and this turning issue will happen! No matter how well a horse is trained - unlike a bicycle - they are a living beathing animal and can have reactions...fast reactions.

AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?

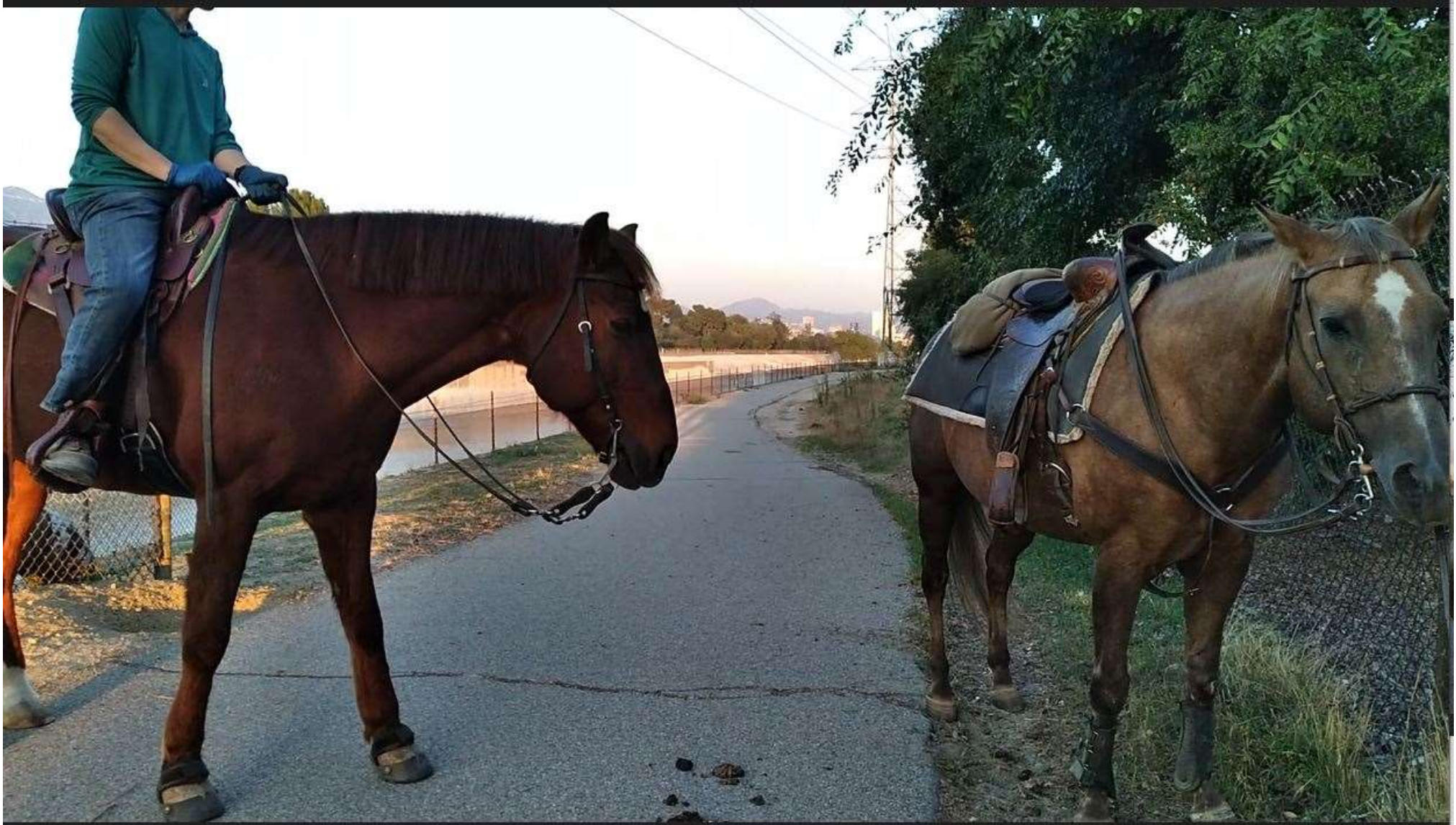
THE TRAIL BY THE PIPE [34.156856, -118.302896]



A HORSE GOING EAST AND A HORSE GOING WEST BY THE PIPE - **NOTE:** AS CLOSE TO EACH FENCE AS POSSIBLE (not the safest way to ride). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



ONE HORSE GOING EAST, ONE GOING WEST BUT TURNING AROUND BY THE PIPE (NOTE: if a horse is startled, spooked or reacting to the another horse, their first instinct it to turn and leave.)). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



ONE HORSE GOING EAST, ONE GOING WEST BUT BOTH TURNING AROUND BY THE PIPE (NOTE: horses are herd-bound animals, if one turns to leave the other will want to do the same.)). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



THE SECTION OF THE TRAIL JUST EAST OF THE PIPE AND BEFORE THE MAINTENANCE GATES BY THE FOREST LAWN EXIT/ENTRANCE FROM THE 134 FREEWAY, BOTH EAST HORSE AND WEST HORSE TURNING (NOTE: unsafely close to each fence) [34.156830, -118.303388]. AND THIS SECTION OF THE TRAIL GOES TO 34.156233, -118.307287 ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILE). **AND THE QUESTION IS, WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?**



As you can see when the safety for horses and riders is taken into account (and that includes the psyche and physics of equines) there's no place for bicycles to "share" this trail.

OR if measurements are easier to understand: the trail at this section goes from around 25' to 22'. A horse with a rider going East (safely with no "issues") takes up around 5'. A horse with a rider going West (safely with no "issues") takes up around 5' a horse going West. That equals 10'. **BUT** if the horse going East is startled,

spooked or reacting to the horse going West, the first instinct is to turn and leave. The length of a horse from the tip of its nose to the back of its tail averages 8' so if the East horse turns that's 8' plus 5" which equals 13'. **BUT** horses are herd-bound animals and if one turns to leave the other will want to do the same. Now you're looking at the East horse (8') turning at the same time as the West horse (8'). That equals 16'. You also need to take into account, there'll be space between the horses because they're not going to want to hit each other so add 2 more feet to the total and now you have 18' for two horses to somewhat safely pass each other on this trail. That brings up the question:

WHERE DO THE BICYCLES GO?