

P.O. Box 3133, Quartz Hill, CA 93586--0133

Tele (661) 943-9000

www.avconservancy.org avconservancy@yahoo.com

Directors

Wendy Reed Richard Montijo, Chief Biologist Gary Moll
Don Davis Brenna Humann Bob Large

November 9, 2011

County of Los Angeles
Mr. Abu Yusuf, County Bicycle Coordinator
900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803
ayusuf@dpw.lacounty.gov

**re: County of Los Angeles Master Bicycle Plan, Project No. R2011-00874,
Advance Planning Case No. 201100008, Plan Amendment Case No. 201100005,
Environmental Case No. 201100124**

Mr. Yusuf, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Los Angeles County Master Bicycle Plan. Having attended several discussion meetings, and having reviewed the Plan, the following comments summarize our impressions, including the impressions of several stakeholders who provided their comments to AVC for incorporation into this letter.

Antelope Valley Conservancy (AVC) is a public benefit corporation that preserves and stewards native habitats and watershed resources in the Antelope-Fremont Valleys Watershed and the upper Santa Clara River Watershed. AVC is authorized by the California Department of Fish and Game to hold mitigation lands, and our AVTREC Trails Committee has been involved in trails policy and stewardship—and partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation—for over 25 years.

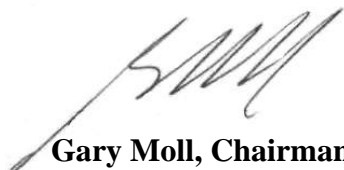
1. We appreciate the County of Los Angeles' investment into signage along Class III Bike Routes, to educate drivers that bicyclists share the road. We applaud the many miles of signage proposed for the "lakes communities" scenic roads, which are much beloved by regional bicyclists. As you may know, AVTREC / Antelope Valley Conservancy host a bicycle ride along those roads, now in its 17th year.
2. We appreciate the County's investment into short distances of Class II bicycle lanes in the Antelope Valley, which total 89 miles in this Plan! It is admirable that these proposed lanes are spread out across the communities of the region. It appears that these sites will increase the safety of bicycle riding in targeted local areas. The attention to recreational and local riding is to be applauded.

(continued)

3. We are concerned that short stretches of signage may not sufficiently provide a continuity of awareness along the long-distance routes typical of Antelope Valley bicyclists.
4. We encourage the County to consider, for some areas that are proposed for Class II bicycle lanes in this Plan, to stripe the lanes on the right side of the parking lane, which greatly increases safety by preventing the danger posed by parked cars pulling out into traffic. Because this Plan provides no Class I improvements in regional Antelope Valley, providing Class II lanes striped to the right of the parking lane would be a reasonable compromise, offering some of the use and increased safety of a Class I route at a fraction of the cost. This increases safety for commuters and shoppers, and encourages use by younger bicyclists.
5. We also believe that the Plan offers insufficient commitment to regional connectivity, lacking integration with rail stations and bus routes, and lacking connectivity with regional trails and the Pacific Crest Trail. Integration and connectivity must be planned in this 25-year plan, or future needs will most certainly not be met. Bicycle routes must provide transportation connectivity across the region, and connect with other means of transportation.
6. We encourage the County to coordinate with the Department of Transportation to provide Class II bicycle lanes along Route 138, at least between Three Points Road and 245th Street West/Lancaster Road. We also encourage the County to coordinate with the Kern Council of Governments Bicycle Plan, now underway, to promote connectivity for Antelope Valley residents between Los Angeles County and Kern County.
7. We realize that resources are limited, but bicycle transportation is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to reduce carbon footprint and promote healthful, lifelong exercise. Therefore we ask that more lengthy Class II bicycle lanes be included in this Plan—even though they may not be foreseeably funded. By inclusion in the Plan, such routes could garner funding from grants or other sources in the future. Omitted from the Plan, they may well be omitted from our region's future.

Thank you for your time, your consideration of our opinions, and your commitment to bicycling in Los Angeles County.

Respectfully Submitted,
By Resolution of the Board of Directors
ANTELOPE VALLEY CONSERVANCY



Gary Moll, Chairman