



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CONEJO OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AGENCY CLOSES ALL TRAILS

As of Friday, March 27 all Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) trails are closed until further notice. The closure follows events in Los Angeles County that have led to the closure of nearly all open space areas in LA County and the added pressure these will add to local trails.

On March 22, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority closed trails under their management in Los Angeles County. On March 23, Los Angeles County announced that all Los Angeles County multi-use trails were closed, and earlier today, Los Angeles County closed all County beaches and bike paths. Finally, a late release from California State Parks stated that State Parks located in Los Angeles County would close as well.

With few outdoor opportunities available in the greater Los Angeles area, the trails of the Conejo Valley were left among few remaining open trail systems in the region. Among the statements in the California State Parks release was that “This order will not be in effect for Ventura County as there is not been a Public Health closure, so the Point Mugu State Park area will not be included at this time.” The tacit recommendation for Los Angeles County residents to seek outdoor experiences in Ventura County is expected to generate visitor levels to the Conejo Valley that cannot be safely sustained on our local open spaces.

Since the Stay Healthy at Home orders were released and our community was asked to practice social distancing, our local trails have experienced local use beyond what we traditionally experience on the busiest of holidays. **Our local open spaces simply cannot absorb all outdoor visitation for both Ventura and Los Angeles Counties in a safe manner. Therefore, for the protection of the land and our visitors we must close our trails. This is only temporary, and in the meantime let’s come together as a community and support each other any way we can.**

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COSCA is a small agency with a big mission. We believe in making vital outdoor experiences available to our area residents because we think they make a difference in people’s lives and make us a stronger community.

Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency

A Joint Powers Agency: City of Thousand Oaks / Conejo Recreation and Park District

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