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Comments: I recently had the opportunity - and privilege! - of making my first foray into the South Fork area of Cave Creek Canyon. With my wife and a friend, I hiked from the trailhead at the berm up to the Red Rock saddle, where we ate our lunch and admired the stunning views. On the way back, I was shown the original day use area and the roadbed that were flooded out by Hurricane Odile. Upon my return to the berm, my first stop was at one of the Porta-Potties that the Friends of Cave Creek Canyon have thoughtfully provided. On the way back down the South Fork road, my wife and friend told me about this project and showed me its proposed location.

I don't understand why there are only two alternatives: do nothing or do everything all in one space. Doing nothing seems inadvisable, given that it would be unconscionable not to provide toilet facilities for users of the area. I found the Porta-Potties to be ideally-placed for my needs, and while I understand that they are temporary, I feel they should be replaced by something at the berm itself, instead of a mile or so down the road.

Others have commented eloquently about the potential folly of placing a handicap-access trail at the proposed location, due to its being in a floodplain area. I suspect there are other locations in Cave Creek Canyon, not too far from the proposed site, that would work as well as, and maybe even better than, the proposed site itself.

I would also like to state that it seems tantamount to blackmail to require a non-profit such as Friends of Cave Creek Canyon to provide financial support for the proposed facilities. Stating that the facilities will be removed if such support is not forthcoming for all ten years is a very heavy-handed way to make sure that funding is provided, not to mention the additional disruption to the area that would occur if such a removal were to take place.

Because of the existence of three developed areas nearby that are apparently currently unused [Sunny Flat, Stewart, Idlewilde] (temporarily closed? permanently closed?), I think there is ample justification for putting this project on pause, stepping back, and rethinking what it is that the project is trying to accomplish and what is the best way (or what are the best ways - there may be more than one) to achieve the desired goals.