Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/2/2021 10:58:10 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not support the proposed mountain coaster project. I am an avid outdoor recreationalist, and I lived in Albuquerque for several years where I enjoyed hiking and mountain biking on both the east and west sides of the Sandia Mountains. When my parents with limited mobility came to visit, they enjoyed making the scenic drive up highway 536 as well as taking the tram ride. I think these activities fulfill the need for passive recreational opportunities in the Sandias.

Rather than a mountain coaster, I propose that the money available for this project be used to enhance the mountain biking trails and infrastructure at Sandia Peak.

I have spent time in Europe, where many ski resorts/mountain bike parks have adopted the mountain coasters. I noticed that the coasters do not attract nearly as many people as the mountain bike parks. I also noticed that only small children typically ride these coasters, while bike parks attract people of all ages.

Bike parks would also generate more and more sustainable revenue than a mountain coaster. It is unlikely that visitors will come to Sandia peak just for the short coaster ride. However, mountain bike parks attract avid mountain bikers who often buy season passes, generating sustainable revenue. For example, "Angel Fire Bike Park sees 14,000 rider visits annually, accounting for nearly 12 percent of the resort's annual ticket sales and more than half of summer revenue-greater than golf, zip lines, RV camping and scenic chairlift rides combined" (source: https://www.saminfo.com/special-reports/4457-rolling-out-the-green-carpet).

For all of the above reasons, I feel that the mountain coaster project is a poor investment in recreational activities at Sandia Peak. I feel that greater investment in mountain biking would create more sustained revenue and an overall more attractive recreational experience to attract visitors to Sandia Peak.