

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2023 6:18:40 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I applaud the efforts of the Heroes Project to support our wounded veterans who have given so much in service to our community. This opportunity for men and women vets to experience the mountain, by the construction of 1 building to be used as a place for veterans to spend the night, store their gear, and as a base for mountaineering training is an excellent one. I am also in favor of the construction of a water storage holding tank, rather than allowing access to the water system currently in use by residents. I am in favor of these specific portions of the Special Use Permit

However, I am against a Special Use Permit to: open a store, coffeeshop/snackshop, the offering of room/bed rental to the public, and the construction 4 additional buildings for the following reasons: 1. Over the past two years we have seen a large uptick in trash in the canyon/parking area including coffee cups, water bottles, energy and candy bar wrappers. Including a shop where these items can be purchased so close to the trail will certainly increase this debris. 2. The parking lot is already inadequate for the large number of hikers wishing to use the Icehouse Canyon trail. This results in cars parking in both directions well down Mt Baldy Road. 3. The Forest Service's own website states that the Cucamonga Wilderness area is already under duress due to the impact of overuse: "There is an increasing pressure on the land from large groups visiting and requesting to visit the wilderness. These groups tend to be larger than the average group size, and combined with the high visitor use already occurring, are having a negative impact on the resources and visitor experience. Although the group size is limited to 25 and a permit is required to visit the Cucamonga Wilderness, groups often ignore the regulations posted at trailheads, or they are unaware of the impacts of their over-use."

[see: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/angeles/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5210347>]

While bringing in veterans will not impact the usage greatly, the opening of a store, a restaurant, and offering lodging certainly will.