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First name: Chris

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

Thanks for providing the opportunity to share my comments in regard to demolishing the barracks at Chantry Flats and ultimately repurposing that location.

My history in the Big Santa Anita Canyon goes back to 1974. Back then, we had Engine 1-17 stationed at Chantry. With what we know about the growth of Southern California's population in the last 50 years, it doesn't appear that public use in the Big Santa Anita / Chantry Flats is going to flatten out in numbers anytime soon.

My sense is that the Chantry Flat Recreation Area is already saturated with more than enough visitors during high use periods. Adding more parking and/or encouraging the use of public transportation (trams) is going to continue to add to the congestion of this area.

The barracks building should continue to exist and be utilized, going forward, as housing for designated rangers / patrol people who will provide a much-needed presence for the recreating public. Preserving the barracks and staffing it is a move toward public service and safety.

Truly, the best hope for the canyon in the long run is to begin limiting the number of cars that can enter the Chantry trailhead as well as turnouts along the road. Managing the car count, coupled with a 24 hour presence of staff who promote and model responsible use of natural resources to the public is essential. Our Forest Service presence at Chantry is really needed.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Chris Kasten

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