

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2025 8:40:42 PM

First name: Steven

Last name: Youra

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I respectfully object to the creation of a shuttle stop at Chantry Flat. Currently, parking (and therefore the number of visitors) at Chantry is limited to designated lots; some areas along Chantry Road; and the privately run Adams Pack Station lot. However, even with these limitations on the number of cars, this part of the Angeles Forest is overrun with visitors, especially during summer weekends. Many hikers are responsible. That said, the huge crowds leave trash behind, degrade the trails (often short-cutting designated paths, causing erosion), and paint rocks and trees with graffiti. My concern is that creating a shuttle stop will eventually lead to a shuttle bus system that will bring even larger hoards of visitors to Big Santa Anita Canyon. Although this phase is not about the shuttle itself, still, without an environmental study of how additional crowds would affect the fragile ecosystem, the door will be opened to future disastrous effects on this gorgeous natural environment.

Furthermore, the Chantry area is already understaffed for the use it gets (even on busy weekends, there is not a single Forest Service staff person walking the trails, monitoring bad behavior, answering visitors' questions, alert to emergencies, etc. And ongoing trail maintenance is almost exclusively the work of wonderful volunteers, who will be stretched thin to keep up with the inevitable destruction caused by even more visitors. So, I urge the FS to nip this idea in the bud. Chantry Flat needs fewer, not more, visitors. The future of the Canyon area is at risk!