



# REPORT

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

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DATE ISSUED: February 14, 2017

REPORT NO: 103

ATTENTION: Park and Recreation Board  
Agenda of February 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Renaming of the Carmel Valley Riparian Enhancement Project (CVREP)  
Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail"

### SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Park and Recreation Board approve the renaming of the Carmel Valley Riparian Enhancement Project (CVREP) Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail"?

Director's Recommendation – The Department does not take a position on facility naming requests.

### Other Recommendations –

- On July 26, 2016, the Ocean Air Recreation Council voted unanimously to endorse the renaming of the Carmel Valley Riparian Enhancement Project (CVREP) Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail". John Hardy, Chair.
- On July 28, 2016, the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board voted unanimously to request support for the renaming of the Carmel Valley Riparian Enhancement Project (CVREP) Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail". Frisco White, Chair. Letter sent to Open Space Senior Planner Paul Kilburg.
- On October 5, 2016, the Community Parks I Division Area Committee voted unanimously to approve endorse the renaming of the Carmel Valley Riparian Enhancement Project (CVREP) Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail". Dennis Otsuji, Chair.
- On October 18, 2016, the Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve wrote a letter to Open Space Senior Planner Paul Kilburg detailing the Friends Board of Directors support for the renaming of the Carmel Valley Riparian Enhancement Project (CVREP) Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail". Mike Kelly, Secretary. Consensus for this memorial was also given on July 21, 2015.
- On February 2, 2017, Audrey Mauzy representing the Carmel Valley Village HOA wrote an email message to Carmel Valley Community Planning Board Chair Frisco White in support of the proposed name change for the public trail

February 14, 2017

easement section that runs through the Carmel Valley Village HOA property east of Carmel Country Rd.

Fiscal Impact – None

## BACKGROUND

A request was made by the public for this action. Marvin Gerst was a longtime resident and community advocate that played a key role in the preservation and expansion of trails and open space in Carmel Valley and Torrey Hills. The trail extends 3 miles from the eastern edge of the Palacio Del Mar neighborhood westward to El Camino Real south of Highway 56. Staff has assisted with processing this request in accordance with Park and Recreation Board Policy #1001, "Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities" (copy attached). Background in support of the proposal is also attached.

## DISCUSSION

The renaming of the CVREP Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail" in Honor of Marvin Gerst is in compliance with Park and Recreation Board Policy #1001. The community has also requested that a boulder/plaque be installed to identify the named area. This request would be considered by the Park and Recreation Department Director should the Park and Recreation Board approve the naming request.

## ALTERNATIVES

Do not approve the renaming of the CVREP Trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail".

Respectfully submitted,



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Casey Smith  
Deputy Director  
Open Space Division

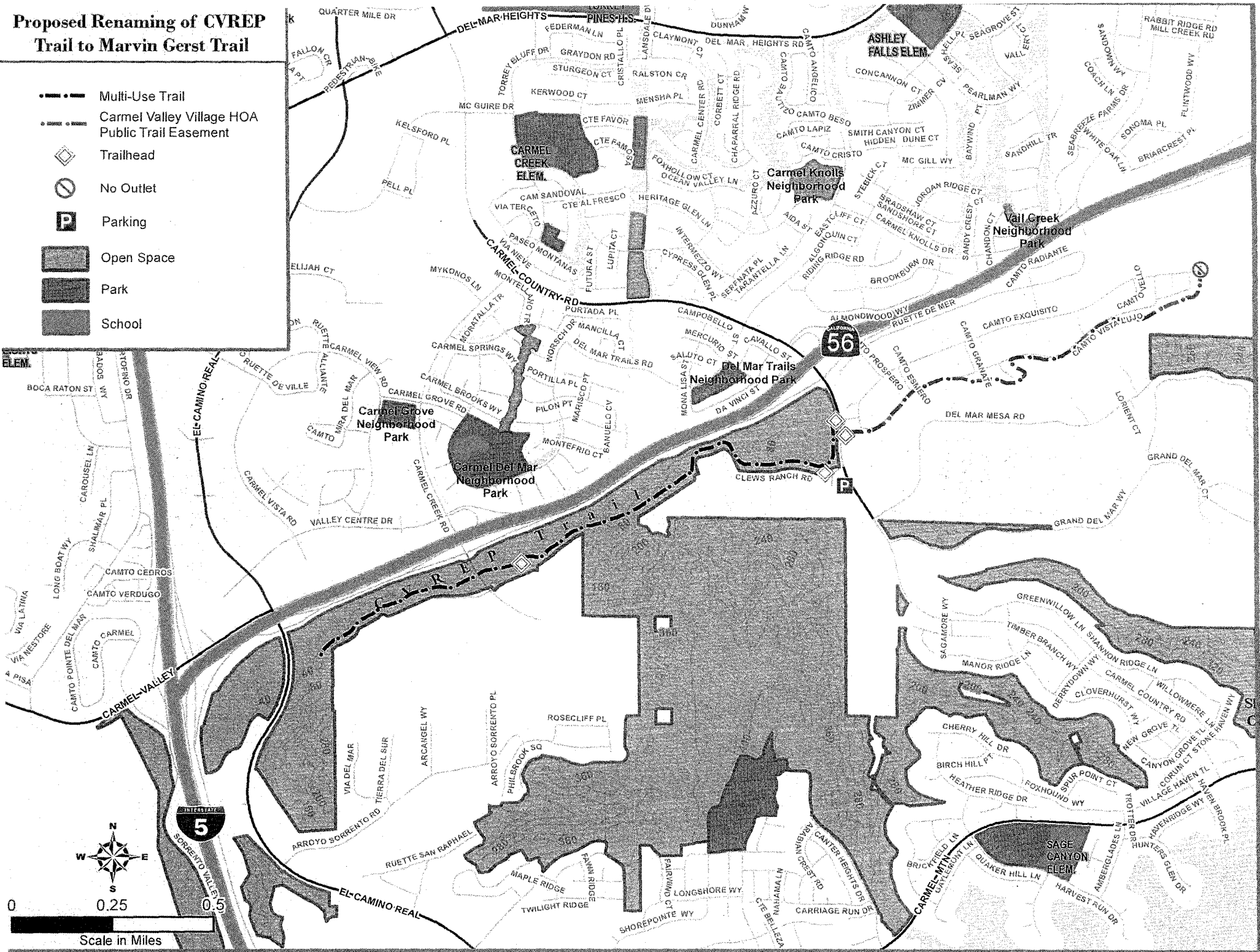
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### Attachments:

- A. Location Map – Carmel Valley Riparian Enhancement Project (CVREP Trail)
- B. Park and Recreation Board Policy #1001 – Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities
- c. Background Information

# Proposed Renaming of CVREP Trail to Marvin Gerst Trail

-  Multi-Use Trail
-  Carmel Valley Village HOA Public Trail Easement
-  Trailhead
-  No Outlet
-  Parking
-  Open Space
-  Park
-  School



PARK AND RECREATION BOARD POLICY

- SUBJECT:** Naming of Parks and Recreation Facilities
- BACKGROUND:** The public sometimes suggests that parks and recreation facilities be named after persons, living or dead.
- PURPOSE:** To provide a systematic procedure for the naming of parks and recreation facilities which will assist in their location by the citizenry, and to develop a method for the retention of names of historical or fiscal significance.
- POLICY:** As a general policy, parks and recreation facilities should be named to identify their locations. Especially for parks, the name of the community area, the names of nearby geographic features, the names of adjacent schools and street names should be given first consideration. However, they may also be named for individuals, living or dead, who are of historical significance to the local area or who have made major financial contributions in the opinion of the appropriate Recreation Councils and/or other advisory bodies, Board committees and the full Board. Facilities within parks, (such as buildings, gyms, courts, etc.) are more appropriate for naming after individuals than are parks.
- Renaming a facility for a person, when that facility is already named for a person, should only be undertaken with the utmost consideration. Every attempt should be made to contact the person or heirs of the person for whom the facility is currently named, to present their views verbally, or in writing, at a public hearing.
- PROCEDURE:** The Recreation Council effected by the proposed name change, shall hold a public hearing to review the request and the supporting documents and information, and shall make recommendations to the Area Committees and the Park and Recreation Board on any and all recommended changes to the renaming of existing facilities.
- SUBSTANTIATION:** Park and Recreation Board Minutes of 6/16/83 (page 2469)  
Park and Recreation Board Minutes of November 15, 2001 (page 4).

SAN DIEGO PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
OCEAN AIR RECREATION COUNCIL

JULY 26, 2016  
MINUTES

**MEETING HELD AT**

Ocean Air Recreation Center  
4770 Fairport Way  
San Diego, CA 92130

**ATTENDANCE**

Jason Hardy - Chairperson  
Paul Ang - Vice Chairperson/North Shore Girls Fast Pitch  
Trent Tracy - Treasurer - Powerhouse Baseball  
Jeff Bernstein - Del Mar Little League  
Clay Stokes - WAVE Church  
Brandon Roach - Friday Night Lights

**STAFF**

Tonya Thomas - Assistant Center Director

**ABSENT**

Traci Trask - Corresponding Secretary Del Mar Camel Valley

**GUESTS**

Ann Harvey

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Chairperson, Jason Hardy.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (P. Ang/ T. Tracy) to approve the Minutes of May 24, 2016.  
Motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

**COMMUNICATION**

Ann Harvey, community resident, informed the group about the history of the CVREP trail and Marvin Gerst and interest to rename the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) trail to the Marvin Gerst Trail. There were no patrons present for opposition or alternative view.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None

**TREASURER REPORT**

Treasurer Trent Tracy reported that the general fund financial report ending report ending June 30, 2016 was \$82,935.00. The month ending balance for the savings account was \$36,195.50. Total general recreation fund account ending June 30, 2016 was \$119,130.50.

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (T. Tracy / P. Ang) to approve the June financial report pending audit. Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Jason Hardy reported that the summer movie in the park went great and staff did a great job.

**STAFF REPORT**

Assistant Center Director Tonya Thomas reported on the Torrey Hills field renovation. The small field will be closed through Labor Day and the small field will only be closed for a week for dethatch and field leveling. Our second summer in the movie in the park will be held Friday, August 12 at Sage Canyon. Movie is "Inside Out".

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Endorsement to rename the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail".

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (T. Tracy / P. Ang) to endorse the renaming of the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) trail to "The Marvin Gerst Trail".  
Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

2. Approval of Friday Night Lights as Organization Member

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (C. Stokes / P. Ang) to approve Friday Night Lights as a member Organization of the Ocean Air Recreation Council. Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

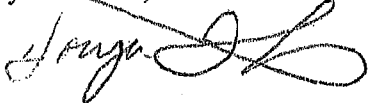
**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** It was moved/seconded (T. Tracy / C. Stokes) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm.  
Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

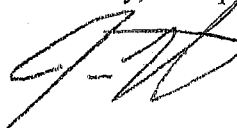
Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Tonya Thomas, Assistant Center Director



Jason Hardy, Chairperson



**CARMEL VALLEY COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD**

Attn: Allen Kashani, CVCPB Secretary  
13400 Sabre Springs Pkwy, Ste. 200  
San Diego CA 92128  
858-794-2571 / Fax: 858-794-2599

August 25, 2016

Paul Kilburg, Open Space Senior Planner  
City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Department  
202 C St., MS 37C  
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Marvin Gerst Trail

Dear Paul:

A group of community members led by Anne Harvey and Lisa Ross made a passionate presentation to our board on July 28, 2016 to request our support for the re-naming of the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) trail to the Marvin Gerst Trail. Many on the board knew Marvin and his many contributions to Carmel Valley and Del Mar Mesa, especially the trail systems.

Without hesitation the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board considered the presentation to recommend the renaming of the CVREP trail to the Marvin Gerst Trail. The board voted unanimously 10-0-0 to do our part to honor such an outstanding resident and member of our community, who gave so much of his time and energy to provide trails that all can enjoy.

We understand that the Marvin Gerst Trail will extend from the eastern edge of the Palacio Del Mar neighborhood at the foot of the slope south of the homes, westward to El Camino Real and would include both the asphalt and the DG lane.

We look forward to attending the dedication of the Marvin Gerst Trail.

Sincerely,  
Carmel Valley Community Planning Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. White'.

Frisco White, AIA  
Chair

## MINUTES

CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
**COMMUNITY PARKS I DIVISION AREA COMMITTEE**

October 5, 2016

**Meeting held at:**

Doyle Community Recreation Center  
8175 Regents Road  
San Diego, CA 92122

**Mailing Address:**

San Diego Park and Recreation  
CPI Area Committee  
2125 Park Blvd, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

**ATTENDANCE**

Dennis Otsuji

CPI Area Committee Chairperson

Absent

Advisory Group	Representative	Present	Absent
Allied Gardens Recreation Council	Terry Cords		X
Carmel Mountain/Sabre Springs R.C.	Gwen Leslie		X
Carmel Valley Recreation Council	Marilee Pacalli		X
Doyle Recreation Council			X
Dusty Rhodes Recreation Council	Pat Warren	X	
Kearny Mesa Recreation Council	Kirk Brickley	X	
La Jolla Recreation Council	Mary Coakley-Munk		X
Linda Vista Recreation Council	Doug Beckham		X
Mira Mesa Recreation Council	Joe Frichtel	X	
Nobel Recreation Council	Sue Evans	X	
North Clairemont Recreation Council	Robert Murillo	X	
Ocean Air Recreation Council	Jason Hardy		X
Ocean Beach Recreation Council	Jim Nickel	X arrived 7:10	
Point Loma Recreation Council	Steve Riddle		X
Rancho Bernardo Recreation Council	Kelly Batten		X
Rancho Penasquitos Recreation Council	Scott Gellerman		X
Robb Field Recreation Council	Bret Vedder		X
San Carlos/Lake Murray Recreation Council			X
Santa Clara/Pacific Beach Recreation Council	Justin Binns		X
Scripps Ranch Recreation Council	Doug Lambell		X
Serra Mesa Recreation Council	George DeLaBarre		X
South Clairemont Recreation Council	Chris Pierce		X
Standley Park Recreation Council	Kate Woodward	X	
Sunset Cliffs Natural Park	Gene Berger		X
Tecolote Recreation Council	Susan Mournian		X
Tierrasanta Recreation Council	Betty Oglivie		X

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO STAFF**

Mike Rodrigues, Park and Recreation Department Representative

**GUEST** Anne Harvey

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Member, Joe Frichtel at 7:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION                      MOVED/SECONDED                      Pat Warren/Robert Murillo**

A motion was made by Ms. Warren and seconded by Mr. Murillo to approve the July 6, 2016 meeting minutes as written. The motion was carried 5-0-0

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCES** - None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION                      MOVED/SECONDED                      Pat Warren/Robert Murillo**

A motion was made by Ms. Warren and seconded by Mr. Murillo to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 5-0-0

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as "Consent" items.

**COMMUNICATIONS** - None

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** - None

**STAFF REPORT**

Mike Rodrigues, CPI Area Representative, provided an update on Park and Recreation Department Area Manager additions and rotations. For Community Parks I Division, a new position was added to serve the Pacific Highlands Ranch/Black Mountain Ranch/Del Mar Mesa and Torrey Highlands Communities along Highway 56. The Mira Mesa Area has been assigned to Marilyn Stern, District Manager. For Community Parks II Division, a new position will serve the Golden Hills and Presidio Communities.

Mike announced the opening of the new children's playground at Rancho Bernardo Community Park funded entirely by the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Bernardo.

New parks currently under construction in the Northern part of San Diego include: Torrey Meadows, Del Sur and Del Mar Mesa. Mira Mesa Community Park expansion is still under construction with an estimated opening of July 2017.

Sue Evans requested a presentation from Park and Recreation Department staff at a future meeting to describe and compare the Park Capital Improvement Plan process for park projects compared to Right of Entry Permit process for community funded park improvement projects.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

101. Request to rename the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) Trail to the "Marvin Gerst Trail" presented by Anne Harvey.

The trail extends 3 miles from the eastern edge of the Palacio Del Mar neighborhood westward to El Camino Real along south of Highway 56. Marvin Gerst is a longtime resident and community advocate that played a key role in the preservation and expansion trails and open space in Carmel Valley and Torrey Hills.

**MOTION                      MOVED/SECONDED                      Jim Nickel/Pat Warren**

A motion was made by Mr. Nickel and seconded by Ms. Warren to approve the renaming of the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) Trail to the "Marvin Gerst Trail." The motion carried 6-0-0

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Joe Frichtel expressed his overall frustration with Public Works leadership of the Capital Improvement Plan process for Park and Recreation projects. He commended Park and Rec staff representing as the client Department representatives for their efforts.

**WORKSHOP ITEMS** - None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Canine Carnival will be held at Dusty Rhodes Park on October 22<sup>nd</sup>
2. Baskets & Botany Native Americans cultural event – October 8<sup>th</sup> @ Tecolote NC

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING** - The next regular meeting scheduled for on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 has been cancelled due to lack of agenda items. The next scheduled meeting is December 7, 2016.

Submitted by

  
Mike Rodriguez, District Manager

# **The Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve**

**POB 26523, San Diego, CA 92196**

**[www.penasquitos.org](http://www.penasquitos.org)**

Oct. 18, 2016

Paul Kilburg  
Open Space Senior Planner  
City of San Diego  
Park and Recreation Dept.

## **Re: Proposal for the "Marvin Gerst Trail"**

Hi Paul,

For the record, the Friends Board of Directors voted many months ago to support the designation of the CVREP trail as the "Marvin Gerst Trail."

On a personal note, I worked with Marvin Gerst over many years through the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee. I headed up the Trails Committee in a tumultuous period for the trails issue. Marvin was deeply invested in trails and their use. He had strong opinions which he expressed, but supported reasonable compromises between trail user groups.

But, most importantly, he pioneered the concept of planning community wide trail systems, even using his own property in Carmel Valley as a bargaining chip to encourage adjacent property owners to develop a comprehensive trail plan such as the eventual CVREP system.

Despite butting heads with Marvin on some issues, I enthusiastically support the proposal to rename the CVREP in Marvin's name.

Mike Kelly, Secretary

Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

## Kilburg, Paul

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**From:** Anne Harvey <aharvey@ucsd.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:48 PM  
**To:** Kilburg, Paul  
**Cc:** 'Frisco White'; 'Lisa Ross Gmail'  
**Subject:** FW: Marvin Gerst Trail

Hi Paul,

Looks like we have an agreement, and we're more than happy to work with the HOA on the design of a new sign, as you suggested some time ago. May we be on the Park and Rec board Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> agenda?

Thank you,

Anne Harvey  
858-481-4280

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**From:** Frisco White [mailto:white@wwarch.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:32 PM  
**To:** Audrey Mauzy <audrey@mauzymanagement.com>  
**Cc:** Anne Harvey <aharvey@ucsd.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Marvin Gerst Trail

Hello Audrey,

Please thank the board for their support. And I'm sure that Anne will have them involved in the design process.

**Frisco White AIA I Chair**  
**Carmel Valley Community Planning Board**

On Feb 2, 2017, at 12:21 PM, Audrey Mauzy <[audrey@mauzymanagement.com](mailto:audrey@mauzymanagement.com)> wrote:

Hi

They are fine with the concept but would like to be involved once you have determined what will be placed.

Audrey Mauzy  
Telephone: 888-513-9945 ext. 7006  
Fax: 951-834-9507

<image003.png>

41870 Kalmia Street  
Suite 135  
Murrieta, CA. 92562



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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**From:** Frisco White [<mailto:white@wwarch.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:09 AM  
**To:** Audrey Mauzy  
**Cc:** Anne Harvey; Kilburg, Paul  
**Subject:** Marvin Gerst Trail

Hello Audrey,

We haven't forgotten about developing a design for the board to see. A sign designer/manufacture hasn't been selected. I sort of volunteered to do a quick image for the board, but I need to get it scheduled.

I offer a solution in order for the proposers to submit this request to the city park and recreation committee for review. I ask that the board support the concept of the signage recognition with the commitment that they will have input and say on the sign design at a later date. What do you think?

**Frisco White AIA | Chair**  
**Carmel Valley Community Planning Board**

## **Marvin Gerst Day**

Presented by District 1 Councilmember Sherri S. Lightner

WHEREAS, Marvin Gerst grew up in the San Fernando Valley and attended Reed College and Stanford University before moving to San Diego during the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, soon after the move to San Diego, Marvin bought his beloved Appaloosa horse, Scout, and enjoyed riding throughout the vast open space that is now Carmel Valley, Torrey Hills, Pacific Highlands Ranch and Del Mar Mesa, from the San Dieguito River Valley to Los Penasquitos and Lopez Canyons, and from Black Mountain to the beach at Torrey Pines; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, he purchased a horse ranch next to Carmel Creek, just south of what is now SR-56; and

WHEREAS, when the development plan for Carmel Valley Neighborhood 8 was being established, Marvin had only one request- that a horse trail traversing all of the properties, from east to west, be included in the plan; and

WHEREAS, that trail is now two trails, known to the community as the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) trail, and is travelled daily by a number of people, of all ages, including commuter bicyclists, jogging strollers, dog walkers, horseback riders, runners and those just enjoying a leisurely walk; and

WHEREAS, Marvin has since been a leader in advocating for the preservation and expansion of the trails and played an integral role in organizing the community when the development of newer neighborhoods threatened the future of the trails; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 1990, Marvin served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the then newly established Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. He rejoined in 2003 when a rumor circulated that the Preserve was going to exclude horses, and has served as chair of the CAC for the past three years; and

WHEREAS, for nearly ten years, he has served as a property owner representative and recreation advocate on the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board, and

WHEREAS, Marvin has also served as an advocate for the preservation of the rural landscapes in the San Dieguito River Valley, and the connection of all of the pieces of the 55 mile long Coast to Crest Trail, as a member of the San Dieguito River Park Citizens Advisory Committee and its Project Review Committee; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, in appreciation of his exceptional work and service to protecting and enhancing San Diego's trails and open space, does hereby declare May 10, 2012, to be "**MARVIN GERST DAY**" in the City of San Diego.

## The Marvin Gerst Trail 1981-2016

Marvin S. Gerst, Ph.D. was a familiar sight on Carmel Valley and Del Mar Mesa trails for over twenty-five years, and was known to City staff and decision makers as a project applicant and as an outspoken trails advocate. He died last May after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease, and grateful local citizens would like to name the existing trail often referred to as the "CVREP" trail after him.

The newly named Marvin Gerst Trail would extend from the eastern edge of the Palacio Del Mar neighborhood, at the foot of the slope south of the homes, westward to El Camino Real, and would include both the asphalt lane suitable for bike wheels and strollers and the softer gravel lane intended for pedestrians and horses.

The trail's location was approved as part of the CV Neighborhood 8 Precise Plan in 1984. The land it traverses later became part of the Caltrans Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP), and was improved with the trail as mitigation for the disruptions to Carmel Creek and surrounding open space associated with the construction of SR-56. The trail east of Carmel Country Road is now maintained by the Palacio Del Mar HOA, and the trail west of the road is maintained by the City of San Diego.

Carmel Valley is a 4000-acre master-planned community whose 1975 design did not include any trails through open space, nor any trail connections to the adjacent emerging regional open space parks, Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve and the San Dieguito River Park. The major developers were very reluctant to provide trails, in part because the City did not have any trail standards. Marvin Gerst was the first property owner/developer to convince his fellow property owners to nevertheless include a three-mile trail in their plans. From that wildly successful starting point trail enthusiasts were able to argue/lobby/petition and demonstrate, on foot, on horse and on bike, to achieve the interconnected public trail system that we all enjoy today.

Over the years, Marvin continued to do his part, serving as the recreation representative on the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board, as an early member and later chair of the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee, and as a property owners' representative and a member of the Project Review Committee for the San Dieguito River Park CAC.

Community members have stepped forward to fund new trail signs, possibly including a granite boulder with a bronze plaque depicting Marvin and his impressive spotted horse, Scout.

Anne Harvey and Lisa Ross

August 30, 2016

# Residents hope to establish Marvin Gerst Trail



Marvin Gerst riding his beloved horse Scout. (Courtesy)



By **Karen Billing**

JUNE 29, 2016, 3:00 PM

**A**n effort is building to name one of Carmel Valley's most popular and well-used trails in memory of Marvin Gerst, an avid defender of San Diego's sensitive open space preserves. Gerst, who passed away on May 11 after a long fight with Parkinson's disease, played an important role in the establishment of the Carmel Valley Restoration and Enhancement Project (CVREP) trail, which is traveled daily by bicyclists, jogging strollers, dog walkers, horseback riders, runners and those just enjoying a leisurely walk.

While the area will always officially carry its "bureaucratic" CVREP name, longtime friend Anne Harvey hopes the "anchor" pathway he helped create can be known as The Marvin Gerst Trail.

Harvey and Lisa Ross of the Friends of Del Mar Mesa, made their initial presentation on their proposal to the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board on June 23. They will have to also get approval from the Ocean Air Recreation Council.

“There was no stronger advocate for trails than Marvin Gerst,” Ross said.

After Gerst moved to San Diego in the 1970s, he and his beloved Appaloosa horse Scout enjoyed riding throughout the wide open space that is now Carmel Valley, Torrey Hills, Pacific Highlands Ranch and Del Mar Mesa.

In 1982, Gerst purchased a horse ranch next to Carmel Creek, just south of what is now SR-56.

Harvey met Gerst back in the 1980s at a Sorrento Hills planning meeting (Sorrento Hills is now present-day Torrey Hills), when they both objected to the approved community trails plan being just SDG&E service routes. When the bulldozers came with the giant wave of development, Harvey said Gerst wanted to be involved in the process so that there would always be trails, for equestrians and other users. Harvey said back in those days, trail users weren’t taken seriously, dismissed as “birdwatchers and mushroom gatherers,” a customer that the new developments didn’t think they would likely have. And developers said no one would have horses in the future, Harvey said.

“It all changed when a Building Industry Association study in the early 1990s showed that the number one thing that homeowners were looking for was access to trails and open space,” Harvey said.

When the development plan for Carmel Valley Neighborhood 8 was being established, as a property Gerst had only one request — he would not cooperate until he got a trail traversing all of the properties, connecting from the east end to the west end —that trail now known as the CVREP trail.

Carmel Valley Community Planning Board Chair Frisco White said Gerst was a very respected community asset.

He was on the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board for over 10 years and served as an advocate for the preservation of the rural landscapes in the San Dieguito River Valley as a member of the San Dieguito River Park Citizens Advisory Committee and its Project Review Committee.

Gerst also served on the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee and, for several years, was its chair.

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