

# Clear Creek Management Area - Timeline

Bill Spence

billspence@amlands.org

- **1950's** CCMA increasingly popular with rockhounds
- **1969** Stanford prof identifies San Benito Evening Primrose as new species
- **1970's** BLM and motorcyclists jointly promote CCMA as off-road venue
- **1984** Asbestos detected in LA drinking water from California Aqueduct
  - o Traced by EPA to runoff from Atlas Mine
- **1987** California Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act
  - o Requires stationary sources to report the types and quantities of certain substances routinely released into the air.
  - o Goals of the Act are to collect emission data, to identify facilities having localized impacts, to ascertain health risks, to notify nearby residents of significant risks, and to reduce those significant risks to acceptable levels.
- **1991-96** Atlas Mine remediated (shut down) to prevent runoff
- **1992** Study of CCMA in conjunction with Atlas was basis for "dry season" closures.
  - o Study did not find compelling reasons to limit recreation in CCMA
  - o Study did not differentiate asbestos types.
  - o Used "PCM" technology. (Phase Contrast Microscopy)
  - o EPA committed as part of Atlas project to re-study CCMA w/updated technology
- **September 1993** Revised RMP issued by BLM
  - o Implements "dry season closures"
  - o Recreation otherwise permitted
  - o Essentially ignored EPA
- **1993-2003** Management changes at BLM Hollister
- **2004/5** New EPA study done using "PCME" technology
  - o Revised statistical methods
  - o Test runs done during "closure" months
  - o Activity-based scenarios to emulate asbestos intake
- **May 1, 2008 Emergency Closure**
  - o Public Hearings
- **November 2009** Publication of Draft RMP
  - o Includes rockhounding access by permit
  - o More consultations
  - o Extensive complaints, lobbying by motorcycle contingent
  - o Cal Parks commissions independent confirmation of EPA study
  - o Introduction of HR 6286
- **March 2013** Publication of Final RMP / Commencement of Protest Period
  - o No reference to rockhounding access
- **November 2013** Resolution of protests still pending
  - o CCMA unlikely to re-open in 2013
  - o Access by permit 5 days/year
  - o Rockhounding access to be based on "***adaptive management***"

**"If we do not speak for ourselves, we will not be heard!"**