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From: John Keyes

To: Donaldson, Milford

Sent: Sun Apr 29 16:50:58 2007

Subject: Coyote Canyon letter

April 28, 2007

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-001

Mr. Donaldson,

My name is John Keyes; I am Chair for the California Equestrian Trails and Lands Coalition: CET&LC represents twelve horse organizations and over 60,000 horse owners. I am writing this letter to say: CET&LC supports the nomination of the Coyote Canyon Wild Horse District to the national register of Historic Places.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation Mission statement reads: “ to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the State’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting it’s most valued natural and cultural resources and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation”. I believe I am correct to state: State Parks is mandated to preserve, maintain and interpret historical resources.

I find the definition of history now being described in this discussion is not being used to state the real history of horses in this area. Horses were a part of this historic area, way before California became a State. The early explorers brought horses to reside in this area, as did the early settlers

Yes there can be a fine print discussion concerning the “original” herd that was here over ten thousand years ago. But we are talking about the “History of California” and the mandate that State Parks has to help save historical resources. The Coyote Canyon herd is the story of equine contribution to historic cultural evolution of this unique area.

As a life long residents of California, we feel there is a movement to water down the history we have all studied about California and Coyote Canyon Wild Horse District is part of that history that should remain as a reminder of how California became the wonderful State it is today.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you our thoughts on this marvelous area known as the Coyote Canyon Wild Horse District.

Sincerely,
John Keyes

Chair: California Equestrian Trails and Lands Coalition

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