

Important note about the potential PG&E power shutoff (10/8/19)

The weekend we have been anticipating is almost here! In just a few days, we will be building new trails in Dragoon Gulch and/or providing much-needed support at center camp for our trail-builders.

What we did not anticipate? The prospect that PG&E will shut off power to Sonora and to many of the other communities from which volunteers will be traveling in the days leading up to the project weekend!

Never fear: **The project will be going forward as planned.** If there is indeed a power outage and if it extends into the project weekend, what better places to be than at Woods Creek Park and Dragoon Gulch, where **we actually don't need power?** Food is kept cold in coolers filled with ice. Meals are prepared on propane-fueled camp stoves. If you're camping, you already knew to provide your own nighttime illumination with a headlamp or flashlight.

Because a power outage starting tomorrow (Wednesday, October 9) could interfere with, if not outright prevent, our communicating in the days leading up to the project (and would prevent online-based planning), here are my **recommendations for how you can prepare:**

1. Download and **print the project fact sheet today.** As a reminder, it is posted under "Related files" at <https://tinyurl.com/Dragoon2019>. It should tell you everything you need to know about the project, including the schedule, what to bring, how to get to center camp (Woods Creek Park), and where to park.
2. If you are able to do so, print, complete, and bring the **two waivers** you need to participate in the project. V-O-Cal's waiver is at the end of the fact sheet. The City of Sonora's waiver is under "Related files," along with the fact sheet. Volunteers under age 18 will need to make sure to have a parent or legal guardian complete the waivers for them. Having the waivers complete before you arrive will speed up check-in at center camp on whatever day you arrive. (If you are unable to print the waiver forms, hard copies will be available at the registration table at center camp.)
3. If you are driving to the project, **fill your gas tank (or charge your electric car) today.** We don't know what effect a widespread power outage will have on gas stations. Better prepared than sorry.
4. While there is no cost to participate in the project, think about making sure you have **cash on hand** for any incidental purchases you might want to make over the weekend. Credit-card readers won't work if the power is out.
5. In general, think about gathering all of the information today that you will need to be ready to participate in the trail-expansion project this coming weekend. That's what I'm trying to do, and, while it can be stressful in the moment, I think it will relieve stress and uncertainty if we do experience an extended power outage.

If we hadn't been facing the prospect of a massive power outage, here were a few "normal" reminders I had been planning to send today:

1. We've been experiencing **lovely autumn weather** in Sonora, and the forecast looks great for this weekend, with seasonal daytime highs in the mid-70s and nighttime temperatures in the 40s. As the fact sheet advises, I suggest you dress in layers.
2. If you plan to hang around center camp after dinner on Saturday, don't forget to **bring a headlamp or flashlight even if you're not camping**. It'll probably be pretty dark there once the sun goes down.

Finally, even if we don't have a power outage, please know that **I will not be monitoring registrations or the DragoonGulchTrailProject@gmail.com account starting on Friday morning**. If your questions cannot be answered by the fact sheet (and I ask that you please look there first), you can try calling me at 650.906.6616. I will do my best to respond to phone calls (assuming my cell phone still works) between managing other aspects of the project. Late registrants can simply provide all of their information when they check in at center camp.

Thank you for your service! I look forward to seeing all of you in person soon. Just show up at Woods Creek Park (center camp) on the day(s) you're volunteering (7:30 a.m. arrival time for most of you; earlier for kitchen volunteers), and we'll be there waiting for you with a smile.

Karie