

Angel's

Be  
Alive!

Angel Gomez,  
Director of  
Member  
Services

2



As you can see, there are many trails to choose from.

3



These are the erosion dams built to control water flow, I believe.

4



Angel crosses along the footbridge and gets closer with every step.

5



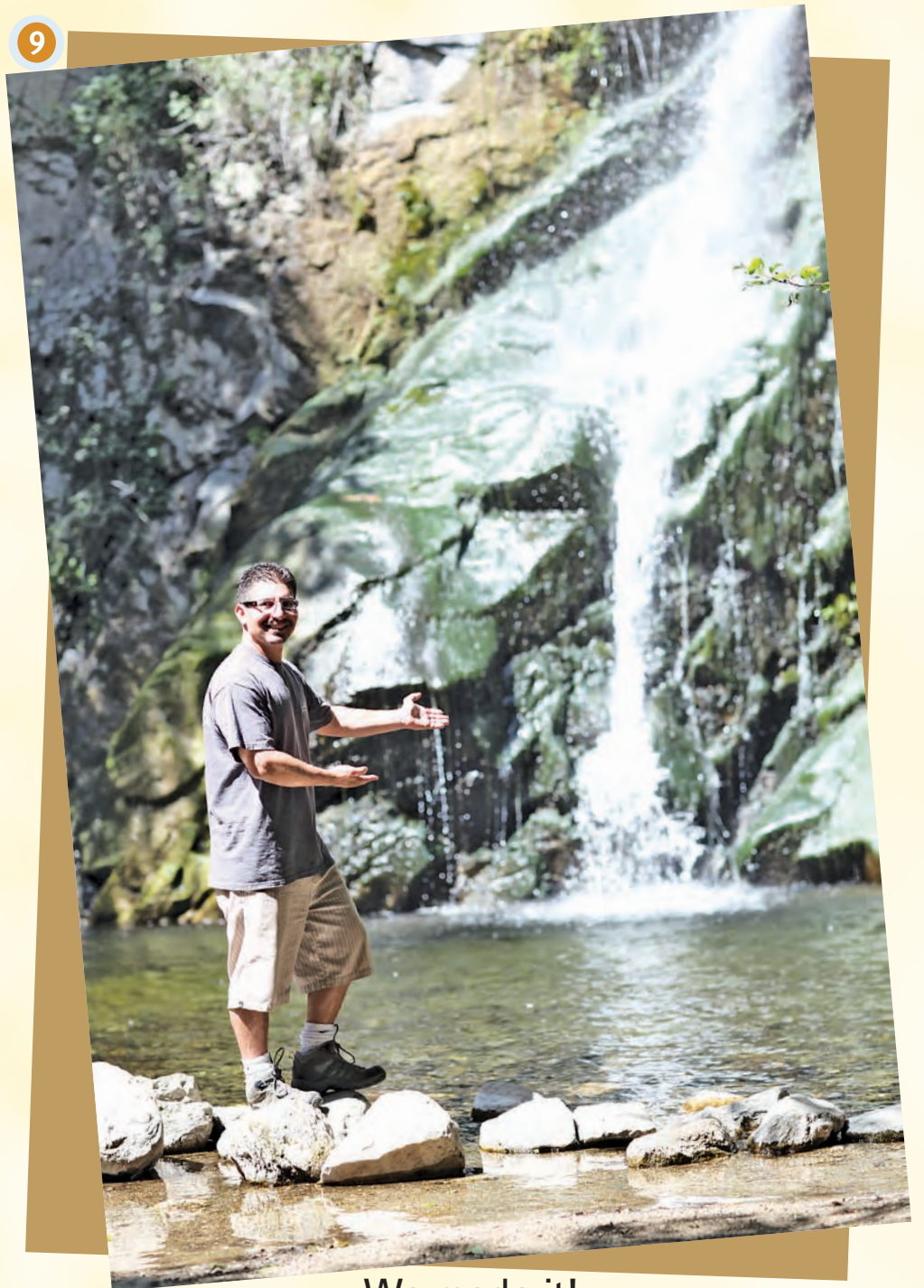
Angel walks along the creek toward the cabins.

6



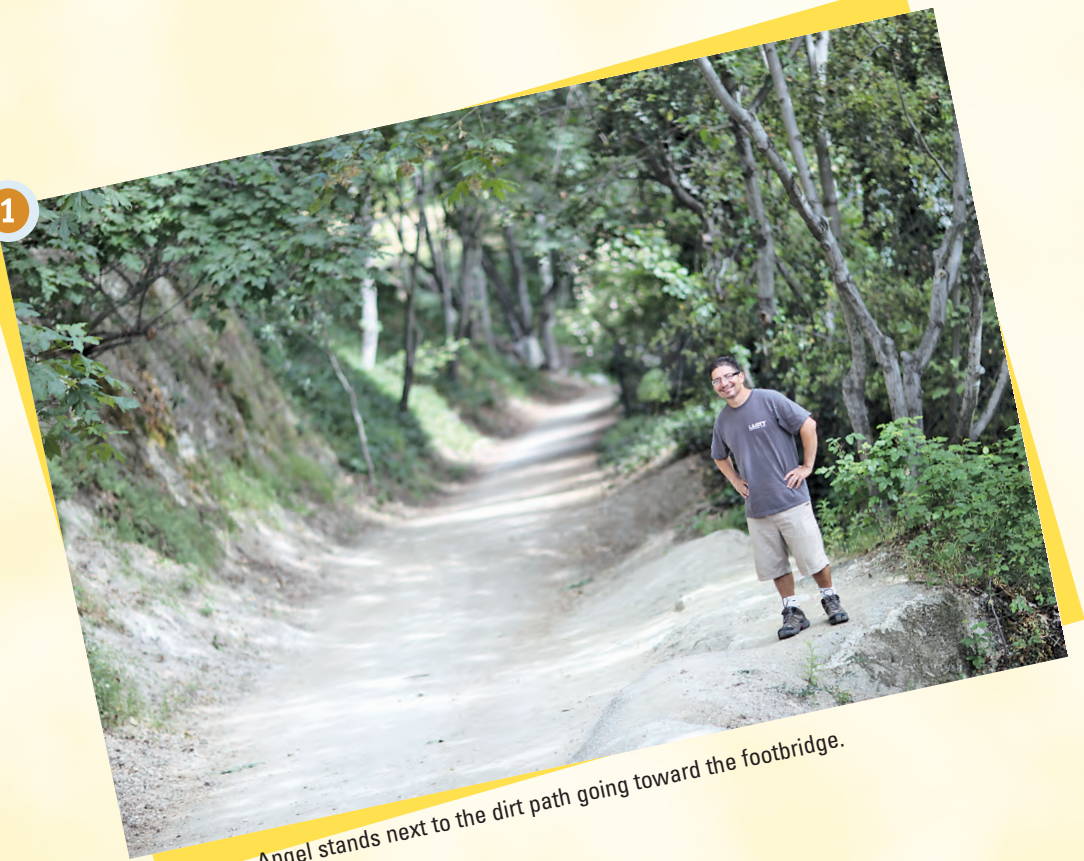
There are a lot of cabins up there.

9



We made it!

1



Angel stands next to the dirt path going toward the footbridge.



# Sturtevant Falls

## Hello again!

This month we visit Sturtevant Falls, “the crown jewel of Big Santa Anita Canyon,” near Arcadia. This is a fairly easy (day) hike and only about 3.7 miles round trip. On our adventure, you will see a lovely creek, a 50-foot waterfall, historic cabins and campgrounds. What more could you ask for?

## History

Sturtevant Falls was named for canyon pioneer Wilbur M. Sturtevant, who carved out a trail in the 1890s and built his Sturtevant Camp trail resort two miles up the canyon from the falls. (1)

During the Great Hiking Era (1895-1938), lots of hikers trod the famous Sturtevant Trail to enjoy the delights of Big Santa Anita Canyon. Weary hikers found respite at a host of trail hotels — Jose Clark’s Halfway House, First Water Camp, Roberts’ Camp, Fern Lodge, Muir Lodge, Hoegee’s Camp, and of course, Sturtevant Camp. Other items in the area included a stone lodge and a dining area, and numerous cabins and tents once stood here; there were enough buildings to accommodate 180 guests at a time. Some of those old cabins are the ones you see here today. People actually live in these cabins.

## The Hike

Start from the entrance of the lower parking lot at Chantry Flat. Walk past the locked gate and

## Hiking Information:

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Lovely creek; 50-foot waterfall, historic cabins and campgrounds, ocean views  
**DISTANCE:** 3.7 miles round trip  
**ELEVATION:** 700 feet  
**HIKE TIME:** 1.5 hours  
**DIFFICULTY:** Easy  
**INFO:** www.parks.ca.gov

look for a sign calling this route the Gabrielino Trail. (2)

Gabrielino Trail meanders under the shade of oaks and wanders along Big Santa Anita Creek. The stream is tamed somewhat by a series of small erosion dams, forming pretty artificial waterfalls and glassy pools. (3)

Hike north down the paved road into Big Santa Anita Canyon. After sixth-tenths of a mile, veer to the right, cross a footbridge, and arrive at Roberts Camp, the confluence of Winter Creek and Big Santa Anita Canyons. Take a few minutes to read about the history of the location. (4)

A trail sign at Roberts Camp points the way to Sturtevant Falls (about one and a quarter miles). Follow the broad path (5) east, which then curves north up the main canyon. The path soon narrows, and you’ll pass a number of rustic cabins from the early 1900s. (6)

About three-quarters of a mile from Roberts Camp, you reach Fern Lodge Junction. (7)

Turning left would take you to Sturtevant Camp and beyond. But to reach the falls, continue straight ahead (the sign indicates a half-mile to Sturtevant Falls). In about three minutes, the trail veers right (east) and crosses the creek. The cabin there has a sign that reads “Fiddler’s Crossing.” (8)

The creek crossing is a little dicey with some possibility of getting wet if you lose your footing. In another three or four minutes, the trail veers left (west) and crosses the creek again; this is also a little dicey. In about 100 yards, you arrive at a jumble of river rocks, marking the entry to the sanctuary of this majestic waterfall. (9) (10)

Enjoy the view.  
I almost forgot — there is a small store above the parking area, open Fridays through Sundays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (11)

Bring plenty of water snacks and maybe spend a little time at the waterfall having a picnic.

Let me tell you, I liked this hike so much that I am taking my family out this weekend. If you also take your family or friends, I would love to see your pictures. So send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com.

## As always, Be Safe and Be Alive!



The Fern Lodge Junction sign.



Fiddler’s Crossing and a cabin are in the background.



Enjoy the view.



Adam’s Pack Station and General Store.

## Directions:



From the Foothill Freeway (I-210), in Arcadia, take the Santa Anita Avenue exit and drive north to Chantry Flat, 4.6 miles.

A National Forest Adventure Pass is required for parking. The vehicle gate for Chantry Flat Road is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Access note: Due to destructive weather, Chantry Flat is subject to periodic and extended closures. It is best to check with the Forest Service (626) 574-5200, or the Sierra Madre Police Department, (626) 355-1414, before hitting the trail.



Angel stands next to the Chantry Flat Sign.