

**Final Environmental Impact Statement/
Environmental Impact Report**
National Park Service/California State Lands Commission
Golden Gate National Recreation Area/Point Reyes National Seashore
Marin County

Since the early 1900s, levees constructed at the southern end of Tomales Bay for roads and dairy farms have served to hydrologically disconnect Lagunitas Creek and its tributaries from their floodplains. As a result, wetland conditions within the Waldo Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh (Project Area) have been degraded, and hydrologic and ecological functionality of what was once of the largest integrated tidal marsh complexes in Tomales Bay has been substantially reduced. Natural wetlands provide many important functions for humans and wildlife, including floodwater retention, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Because two-thirds of the Bay's freshwater inflow passes through the Project Area, these wetlands may have once played an integral role in maintaining health of Tomales Bay, which has deteriorated over the last century because of excessive sedimentation, water and sediment quality problems, non-native species invasions, and other issues.

In 2000, the Park Service acquired the Waldo Giacomini Ranch for the purpose of wetland restoration using a combination of Congressional appropriations and mitigation monies from the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans). Because the Project Area is in the northern district of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), it is managed by Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore). The Seashore is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), which owns the portion of Lagunitas Creek within the Project Area, is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

This *Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report* (FEIS/EIR) evaluates four alternatives for restoring wetlands and wetland functionality and incorporating public access opportunities that do not impact wetland function, as well as the No Action Alternative (e.g. closure of the dairy and discontinuation of intensive agricultural management). The primary purpose and objectives of the proposed project include: restoring hydrologic and ecological processes and functions in a significant portion of the Project Area; emphasizing actions that would benefit the health of the entire Tomales Bay watershed and not just the Project Area; and incorporating opportunities for experiencing and enjoying the restored wetlands that do not conflict with the project's purpose.

The *Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report* (DEIS/EIR) was circulated for public review and comment for approximately 60 days, with the public comment period ending February 14, 2007. Responses to comments submitted to the Park Service and CSLC by agencies, organizations, and individuals during the public comment period are included in Chapter 5. Where necessary, additional information has been added to Chapters 2 (Alternatives), 3 (Affected Environment) and 4 (Environmental Consequences and Mitigation Measures) of the FEIS/EIR to improve description of alternatives and analyses of potential impacts and address specific public comments. Based on agency and public comment, the Park Service decided to select Alternative D rather than Alternative C as the lead agencies' preferred alternative in the FEIS/EIR. Alternative D is the lead agencies' preferred alternative, because it best meets the purpose of restoring wetlands while also meeting the agencies' objective of providing public access opportunities that allow visitors and residents to experience and enjoy the restored wetland. Alternative D is also the environmentally preferred alternative, because it provides the most restoration. Alternative D has been slightly modified to improve restoration potential and access opportunities, without causing more than a negligible change in the level of impacts.

The Record of Decision adopting the alternative or actions constituting the approved plan will be prepared not sooner than 30 days after the publication in the Federal Register of the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of filing of the FEIS/EIR. The complete FEIS/EIR will be posted on the Seashore's website at <http://www.nps.gov/pore>, and the printed document and digital version on compact disc will also be available for viewing at the park headquarters and local libraries. For further information on the FEIS/EIR, please check this website or contact Seashore headquarters at the telephone number below.

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