

# Section 1

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## *Response to Comments*



TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
<b>Purpose and Objectives</b>	
C-1	<p>The Park Service should retain the original purpose of the project that was to remove non-compatible agricultural uses, enhance view opportunities, preclude future development, and create clear undistorted project boundaries.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As discussed in Chapter 1 of the DEIS/EIR, when the National Park Service (Park Service) signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), the California Coastal Commission (CCC), and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), it stated that the purpose of the future project would be “restoring freshwater and saltwater wetlands.” While the legal agreement between CalTrans and the park only obliges the park to mitigate 3.6 acres, all agencies agreed that more fully restoring lands on the acquired property was the ultimate goal, and the MOU called for restoration of a “significant portion” of the historic marsh. Transfer of the mitigation money to the Park Service was approved by the CCC on the condition that the Park Service would either create subtidal and intertidal habitat comparable in character to the area that was impacted by the road repair on State Route 1 near Lone Tree Creek OR restore previously degraded or filled marine or the removal of historic fill, improvement of water circulation, and such other steps as will create or improve habitat for fish, water birds, and other marine or marine-related species. In a separate agreement with the Park Service, CalTrans also stipulated that restoration on the Giacomini Ranch would be in a “manner consistent with the general plan set forth in the feasibility study (PWA et al. 1993). The feasibility study (PWA et al. 1993) established a number of restoration goals, none of which included the objectives listed in the comment letter.</p> <p>During the initial scoping period for the proposed project, the agencies took into account the mitigation requirements imposed by the MOU and agreement with CalTrans and developed a project purpose that refined and improved upon the Park Service’s original stated goal of restoring freshwater and saltwater wetland such that natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions would be restored in a significant portion of the Project Area.</p>
C-2	<p><b>Concern Statement (Project Purpose and Priority for Restoration vs. Public Access):</b> Several commenters stressed that they felt that restoration of natural processes and habitats should be primary objective of the proposed project, not public access. Restoration should be a priority for improving water quality in Tomales Bay and for special status species habitat, which the Park Service has a legal obligation to protect and enhance. Human activities would degrade wildlife habitat and wetlands, so restoration actions should minimize human activities in the Project Area, particularly in creek and riparian areas. For this reason, restoration actions should maximize natural quiet and minimize non-natural visual intrusions.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As discussed in Chapter 1 of the DEIS/EIR, the proposed project has established restoration of natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions as the primary purpose of the proposed project. However, in keeping with the fact that “providing opportunities for appropriate public enjoyment is an important part of the Service’s mission” (Park Service 2006, Section 8.1), the agencies have also incorporated provision of public access opportunities that do not conflict with the project’s primary purpose as an objective of the proposed project. Although not identified as project objectives, the Park Service also places high value on preserving, to the greatest extent possible, natural soundscapes and landscapes, as well (Park Service 2006; Section 4.4.2.4 and 4.9).</p>
C-3	<p>Construction of the Southern Perimeter Trail violates the project's stated purpose that "public access opportunities should not conflict with the project's purpose of restoring natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions."</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies felt that the southern perimeter trail would not conflict with the purpose of the project for several reasons. First, because most of the proposed trail would be in an area with an existing trail, there would be very little additional impacted expected relative to existing conditions in terms of impacts on wetlands and riparian habitat and existing wildlife habitat. Most of the actions in this area represent enhancement of existing public access facilities rather than construction of new ones. Increased visitor use of these enhanced facilities would result in only negligible to minor additional impacts to hydrologic processes, riparian habitat, and wildlife use. For example, the proposed bridge over Lagunitas Creek would be developed such that there would</p>

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	<p>be no footings in the creek that would impinge upon hydrologic processes during smaller flood flows. During larger flood flows, overbank topping of the Giacomini Ranch East Pasture creek bank would occur upstream of the proposed bridge, thereby decreasing flood flow velocities around the bridge infrastructure. The proposed trail was developed as a weather-dependent trail, so flooding of the bridge and associated trail would be anticipated during moderate- to large storm events.</p>
C-4	<p><b>Concern Statement (Project Purpose and Elimination of Public Access):</b> Several commenters stressed that they felt that there should be no new public access facilities constructed as part of the proposed project. Human activities would degrade wetlands and wildlife habitats, and there is enough public access within the Point Reyes-Tomales Bay area already.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As discussed in Chapter 1 of the DEIS/EIR, Park Service Management Policies directly address the recreation and educational values of wetlands, noting that, “when practicable, the Service will not simply protect, but will seek to enhance, natural wetland values by using them for educational, recreational, scientific, and similar purposes that do not disrupt wetland functions” (Park Service 2006; Section 4.6.5). By incorporating public access as a project objective, the agencies are demonstrating that they are committed to incorporating opportunities for the public to learn about the value of wetlands, the problems facing Tomales Bay, and the restoration process, as long as the opportunities do not conflict with the primary purpose of the project. In addition to incorporating trails, viewing areas, interpretative exhibits, and volunteer/educational opportunities, the Seashore and the CSLC also plan to enable people with disabilities to experience wetlands and the restoration process by providing appropriate public access facilities for those with disabilities. The agencies have developed public access opportunities that would not conflict with restoration or degrade wetland and wildlife habitats. While there are abundant public access opportunities in the Point Reyes region, including opportunities to view wetlands (e.g., Estero Trail, Muddy Hollow Trail, Coast Trail, etc.), the agencies want to enhance opportunities for the local community and Park visitors to experience and enjoy the restored wetland.</p>
C-5	<p><b>Concern Statement (Project Purpose and Need for Public Access):</b> Several commenters felt that the proposed project should include public access and opportunities to view the restored wetland. Appropriately designed public access would not degrade wetland and wildlife habitats and would improve public transportation safety and would decrease vehicular traffic and associated damage to natural resources from emissions. The Park Service is a national agency that needs to serve the American public that pays for it, not just the local community. By providing access, Americans can become more physically active and gain opportunities to learn about wetlands through interpretation and educational opportunities.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> See Responses to C-2, C-3, and C-4, which address many of the points raised in Concern Statement #5. The agencies has incorporated opportunities in many of the alternatives that address the local community’s previously stated desires and needs for greater public access safety and connectivity between communities. The prevalence of wetlands and privately owned lands at the perimeter of the Project Area limit opportunities to incorporate public access options in the Project Area that would provide exercise, but there are plenty of nearby through- and loop trails within the Park and on adjacent County, water district, and state park lands that would provide these types of opportunities.</p>
<b>Process</b>	
C-6	<p><b>Concern Statement (Public Input):</b> Commenters believed that the public involvement process was inadequate. Some felt that it was biased toward local residents; others felt that it should be restricted to local residents.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> In a recent study on the effectiveness of NEPA, one of the five key elements of the NEPA process that were considered critical to its effective and efficient implementation included the extent to which an agency provides information to and takes into account the views of the surrounding community and other interested members of the public during its planning and decision-making process (CEQ 1997). As the study noted, the “success of a NEPA process heavily depends on whether an agency has systematically reached out to those who will be most affected by a proposal, gathered information and ideas from them, and responded to the input by modifying or adding alternatives.....” (CEQ 1997).</p>



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	<p>Since the public scoping period and meeting in fall 2002, the Park Service and CSLC have incorporated numerous opportunities for public involvement, including 1) a series of alternative workshops in 2004 for agencies, adjacent landowners, and the general public; 2) public access workshops in 2005 for adjacent landowners and the general public; and 3) a public meeting and 45-day review period for the DEIS/EIR in 2007. All of these public involvement efforts included either formal or informal public comment periods.</p> <p>Because the Park Service is a national agency who serves people throughout the United States, scoping efforts were not limited to the local community, even though the proposed project may have the most effect on that community. While public meetings were all held in west Marin, the public scoping period in 2002 and the public comment period in 2007 were all noticed in the Federal Register, which is a nationally distributed daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations. Notices were also published in the California State Clearinghouse, which coordinates the state level review of environmental documents pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and copies of the document were distributed to select university, county, and archival libraries throughout California, as well as outside of California. Finally, notices were also mailed to the Seashore's general mailing list, which includes organizations, agencies, and people throughout California and the United States.</p> <p>We believe that these extensive public outreach efforts have adequately informed and involved both the local community and interested or affected members across the country.</p>
C-7	<p>The Park Service relied too heavily on public comment when designing and choosing alternatives rather than on scientifically defensible information.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Both the NEPA and CEQA environmental review processes encourage the incorporation of both public input and scientific information in planning, developing, and analyzing projects. CEQ requires agencies to make "diligent" efforts to involve the interested and affected public in the NEPA process (1506.6) and to "encourage and facilitate public involvement in decisions which affect the quality of the human environment" (1500.2 (d)). Under CEQA, an agency must solicit and respond to comments from the public and other agencies concerned with the project. (Title 14, Section 15002(j), also Sections 15073, 15086, 15087, and 15088.) The public has an important role in the NEPA and CEQA processes, particularly in providing input on what issues should be addressed in environmental documents, how alternatives should be added or modified, and how well the documents evaluate potential impacts of a proposed project. Scientific information is used to guide development of reasonable alternatives, evaluate existing conditions, and, perhaps most importantly, evaluate the potential environmental and social consequences of proposed projects. NEPA requires an objective, high-quality scientific analysis of impacts that the proposal or its alternatives may create (1500.1 (b)). CEQA requires that decisions be informed and balanced (Title 14, Section 15003(j)), although it does not require "technical perfection" (Title 14, Section 15003 (i)). As guided by these sections of code, the agencies incorporated both public input and scientific information during the appropriate stage or part of the planning process.</p>
C-8	<p>Is the DEIS/EIR intended to serve as the environmental review for the prospective in-stream flow dedication?</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Yes, the DEIS/EIR incorporates the environmental review for the prospective in-stream flow dedication. It is incorporated as a proposed management action common to all alternatives in Chapter 2, and the effects of the proposed in-stream dedication are evaluated under Public Services – Municipal Water Supply and Distribution.</p>

**Impact Analysis - General**

C-9	<p>The DEIS/R should compare impacts from a pre-disturbance baseline condition to each alternative rather than to existing conditions.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Environmental compliance documents are intended to help the interested public understand how conditions would change relative to existing conditions should one of the</p>

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	<p>proposed alternative (Action Alternatives) be implemented or if no action or project (No Action) is implemented. NEPA and CEQA require that alternatives be evaluated with respect to baseline or existing conditions. The baseline is essentially a description of the affected environment at a fixed point in time, whereas the No Action alternative evaluates what would happen and what changes might occur in existing or baseline conditions, even if “No Action” is taken. Often, baseline conditions in NEPA and CEQA are established as the conditions that existed at the time the Notice of Intent or Notice of Preparation was issued. Because evaluation of potential impacts often involves technical and/or quantitative analysis of how conditions would change under various alternatives relative to existing conditions, comparison of each alternative to some historical baseline condition would be difficult, because there is not enough information available typically to accurately describe resource conditions during that period of time. However, while NEPA and CEQA guidance do not support using pre-disturbance conditions for evaluating the intensity of impacts, the agencies notes that restoration is a purpose of the proposed project and the objective of taking action and, therefore, the alternative comparison at the end of Chapter 2 and the impact evaluation in Chapter 4 does provide a considerable amount of comparison between alternatives under the various impact topics.</p>
C-10	<p><b>Concern Statement (Land Use - General and Agricultural):</b> One commenter felt that limiting public access would help to better preserve the historic character of Point Reyes Station. Another commenter felt that restoration would unacceptably reduce the amount of land devoted to agriculture. A third felt that the expanded range of thresholds used to evaluate impacts to agricultural lands based on the Land Evaluation and Site Analysis needed to be better explained.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The DEIS/EIR addresses these topics under Land Use and Planning. Under CEQA, the County of Marin requires agencies to address how projects would comply with local land use policies, including whether the project would “result in substantial alteration of the character or functioning of the community or present or planned future use of an area.” In Chapter 4, Land Use and Planning – General, the DEIS/EIR notes that the proposed project would result in no more than minor changes to the character of the community. It also evaluates how the proposed project would affect agricultural land uses and the viability of agriculture in West Marin. The EIS/EIR uses a quantitative approach to evaluate impacts to Agricultural Resources, Operations, or Adjacent Agricultural Land Uses developed by the State Department of Conservation called the Land Evaluation and Site Analysis (LESA). Based on the results of the LESA analysis, the proposed project would have no more than minor impacts on adjacent agricultural land uses. A more complete description of this analysis can be found in Chapter 4, Land Use and Planning – Agricultural Land Use and, in the Final EIS/EIR, Appendix C. These sections have also been updated to include a more complete explanation of the thresholds used to evaluate and categorize impacts as “Negligible,” “Minor,” “Moderate,” and “Major or Substantial.”</p>
C-11	<p><b>Concern Statement (Air Resources - Air Quality):</b> One commenter requested that the document include the projected NOx emissions from the proposed project and whether it conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP): this information is needed to demonstrate compliance with the SIP. Another felt that the DEIS/R did not adequately address impacts to air quality from dust and construction vehicles traveling over sandy roads and that these impacts should be mitigated through spraying of construction roads with water.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The DEIS/EIR addresses these topics under Chapter 4, Air Resources – Air Quality. In response to the comment on projected NOx emissions, the agencies have added a table in the FEIS/EIR that shows projected emissions of all pollutants emitted during construction and implementation of the proposed project. The agencies have also incorporated additional discussion in the FEIS/EIR regarding whether alternatives conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). According to Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), fine particulate matter (PM10) or dust is the pollutant of greatest concern with respect to construction activities (BAAQMD 1999). The analysis of potential air quality impacts under Chapter 4, Air Resources-Air Quality does address generation of dust or PM10 during construction. Based on the amount of cubic yards of material excavated, the impacts would be considered negligible under every alternative. In addition, the agencies would be implementing Best Management Practices or Mitigation Measures designed to reduce the generation of dust or PM10, including, where possible, use of water trucks to spray down major construction routes. More detail on mitigation measures</p>

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	related to Air Quality can be found in Chapter 2 – Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Measures and Chapter 4 – Air Resources – Air Quality, Proposed Mitigation Measures.
C-12	<p><b>Concern Statement (Air Resources - Noise and Soundscapes):</b> At least one commenter felt that the DEIS/EIR did not adequately disclose or mitigate noise impacts from construction of the proposed project to local residences. Another commenter noted that there would be noise impacts to residences along Levee Road whether the southern perimeter trail was routed across a bridge across Lagunitas Creek or on Levee Road and across the Green Bridge (see Alternatives Eliminated).</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> We disagree that the analysis of noise impacts is inadequate or that mitigation has not been thoroughly discussed or disclosed. The DEIS/EIR addresses impacts from construction noise to all residential areas on the Project Area perimeter and has disclosed that impacts in areas could be Major or Substantial, if they are not mitigated. Within very specific areas that are directly adjacent to construction zones, which are called sensitive construction areas in the DEIS/EIR, construction contractors would be required to implement noise-reducing Best Management Practices (BMP). Within sensitive construction zones, construction would be limited to the hours of <u>8 a.m.</u> and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, with weekends only permissible under authorization by the Park Service and CSLC. All equipment would have sound control devices that are no less effective than those provided by the original equipment and would have muffled exhaust. In addition, contractor would be required to <u>maintain</u> properly tuned equipment and limit idling time to 5 minutes and limit the number of concurrently operating pieces of construction equipment within the Sensitive Construction Area. In addition, the Construction Manager would notify adjacent residences in advance of construction and, if properly notified, potentially reschedule construction activities. These mitigation measures would be expected to reduce, but not necessarily eliminate, impacts from noise to certain sensitive noise receptors or residences, which is signified within the DEIS/EIR by the fact that impacts after mitigation are characterized as “Moderate” or “Less than Significant,” but not No Impact. Unfortunately, there are no mitigation measures available that would completely eliminate impacts during construction.</p> <p>In terms of the second comment, noise impacts from public access along Levee Road and the Green Bridge were not evaluated, because this particular alternative was eliminated from at least project-level evaluation in this document. In the FEIS/EIR, Alternative D now incorporates the potential for the Park Service to work cooperatively with the County of Marin on expanding public access on the southern perimeter of the Project Area, including potentially reevaluating use and improvement of Levee Road in a future environmental document. See C-103 for more detail.</p>
C-13	The Park Service should be aware of a potential for willow tree invasion from south of the Project Area.
	<p><b>Response:</b> This stand of willow was mapped both as part of the vegetation and wetland maps prepared for the proposed project. This stand of willow appears to be sustained by sheetflow and pooling of groundwater that emerges at the base of the Point Reyes Mesa slope. While it is possible that this willow stand would expand westward were there less public access use of the Green Bridge County park, it is likely that, even without trails, the stand would not expand much further westward, because it is at the extent of its current limit given existing hydrologic patterns and high elevations currently present in the Green Bridge County park.</p>
C-14	<p><b>Concern Statement (Vegetation Resources - Public Access Impacts):</b> Several commenters felt that inclusion of public access would degrade natural habitats, particularly those sited along riparian corridors. A few questioned whether some of the proposed trails would violate County, Local Coastal Plan, Point Reyes Community Plan, or California Department of Fish and Game policies by intruding into and potentially degrading riparian habitat. At least one felt that the Park Service should offer protection for those habitats that would surpass that of local policies. Another commenter was concerned that the bridge across Lagunitas Creek would create additional pressure to build more trails that would intrude further into wetlands.</p>

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	<p><b>Response:</b> As noted under C-2, most of the public access trails proposed in riparian corridors are actually improvements of existing trails or roads and would not involve removal or destruction of existing riparian habitat, with the possible exception of a the eastern perimeter through-trail under Alternatives A and B and the bridge proposed under Alternatives A – C. Also, the possible extension of the southern perimeter trail to Inverness Park in the future could result in loss of riparian vegetation along the eastern edge of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. While the above referenced policies are discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, Vegetation Resources, we have added information to supplement the discussion of impacts to these policies in response to commenters’ concerns.</p> <p>To summarize this additional analysis, some of the proposed trails could violate Local Coastal Plan and Point Reyes Station Community Plan policies or objectives on development within riparian and Point Reyes Mesa bluff corridors, specifically Alternatives A and B. A more complete discussion of this issue can be found in Chapter 4, Vegetation Resources, of the FEIS/EIR.</p>
C-15	<p><b>Concern Statement (Fish and Wildlife Resources- Noise-Related Impacts):</b> Several commenters felt that noise from public access facilities would adversely impact use of the restored Project Area by wildlife. Public access sited along riparian corridors would also unacceptably degrade wildlife habitat. At least one commenter felt that the DEIS/EIR was inadequate, because it did not fully disclose negative impacts to wildlife and their habitats from trails. Another questioned whether the document had adequately studied the potential for cumulative impacts to wildlife from viewing areas in both the Park Service and County-managed lands. This commenter felt that the total number of viewing areas needed to be maintained at existing levels to ensure that there was no increase in cumulative impacts.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Analysis of changes in wildlife habitat and use did take into account potential disturbance from visitation, however, because changes are evaluated relative to the continuation of existing conditions, which, in this case, involved operation of a dairy, with several herds or strings, operation of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), backhoes, trucks, and other farm equipment, the impacts of public access were considered relatively minor by comparison and overshadowed by the improvement yielded by the shift from a dairy to a park. Similarly, impacts to wildlife from visitation are also evaluated relative to continuation of existing public access conditions. These existing conditions include evaluation of existing public access and associated impacts on both Park Service (Giacomini Ranch East Pasture and West Pasture north levee, Tomales Bay Trail, Olema Marsh) lands and County park (White House Pool and Green Bridge County parks) lands. This means that the increase in impacts that may occur from adding more viewing opportunities to an area with established viewing areas at White House Pool and Green Bridge County parks is actually assessed as a project impact in the DEIS/EIR rather than a cumulative impact. Relative to the degree of existing use and viewing, increases in visitation were characterized as causing no more than minor additional impacts to wildlife habitat and use. To ensure that these conclusions are clear to the reader, some clarifying language has been incorporated into the discussion in Chapter 4, Fish and Wildlife Resources.</p>
C-16	<p>The impact analysis for salmonids under Fish &amp; Wildlife appears incorrect, because Alternatives C and D are both considered to offer the same increase in aquatic edge habitat even though there’s an increase in tidal channel creation under Alternative D.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As described in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR, there is actually a small increase in creek creation and a small decrease in tidal creek creation under Alternative D relative to Alternative C. While Tomasini Creek would be fully realigned into one of its historic alignments, creating more total creek and backwater channel relative to Alternative C, much of the upper portion of the new Tomasini Creek within the Project Area would be only tidally influenced in the late summer and early fall when freshwater flows drop and would, therefore, would not be considered a tidal creek. In addition, the small starter tidal creek off Lagunitas Creek proposed in Alternative C was not included under Alternative D in the DEIS/EIR. However, based on the impact thresholds established, Alternatives C and D were considered comparable, because both would offer a Major or Substantial beneficial improvement or more than 50 percent increase in the extent of aquatic edge available as rearing habitat for salmonids. In the FEIS/EIR, Alternative D has been modified to include the small starter channel, so the total amount of tidal channel creation would be approximately equal between Alternatives C and D.</p>

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C-17	<p><b>Concern Statement (Public Health and Safety - Disease Vectors):</b> One agency commented that the interim restoration period and certain components of the post-construction Project Area such as the freshwater marsh in the East Pasture would require close monitoring to ensure that mosquito breeding conditions are not exacerbated. Mitigation for an increase in mosquito numbers, particularly those of the <i>Culex</i> genus, should include control efforts, as well as vegetation and nutrient management plan.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Based on Park Service Management Policies (2006), native organisms such as mosquitoes that are often perceived by the public as “pests” are viewed as natural elements of the ecosystem and are allowed to function unimpeded, except under certain conditions. One of these conditions under which native organisms are controlled or managed includes when they pose a human health hazard as determined by agencies such as the U.S. Public Health Service (Centers for Disease Control or the Park Service public health programs; Park Service 2006, Section 4.4.5.1). The Park Service uses an Integrated Pest Management Program to reduce the risk to the public, park resources, and the environment from pests and pest-related management strategies (Park Service 2006, Section 4.4.5.2). Normally, source reduction--eliminating or altering the water so that the mosquitoes cannot breed or complete their life cycle--is the first choice for control (Park Service, IPM Manual). If source reduction is impossible or incomplete, the next tactic to consider should be biological control of the larvae with predators, bacterial insecticides, or growth regulators (Park Service, IPM Manual).</p> <p>Source reduction and vegetation management would not be considered a viable strategy for natural areas, including restored or created habitats such as the freshwater marsh in the East Pasture that is being specifically constructed to pond for a sufficient duration to create habitat for breeding of federally threatened California red-legged frog (<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>). The Park Service would either monitor this area itself or amend its current permit with the Marin-Sonoma Mosquito &amp; Vector Control District (District) such that it could monitor this area, which is adjacent to a rural residential area. Based on the Seashore’s West Nile Virus Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the Seashore would then review monitoring results and decide whether to treat with <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Bti), a biological pesticide which specifically targets mosquito larvae, is biodegradable, and does not have measurable effects on other species.</p>
C-18	<p><b>Concern Statement (Public Services - Traffic and Transportation- Traffic):</b> Several commenters were concerned that the proposed project would increase traffic and congestion in what they felt was an already heavily visited area. Specific traffic concerns raised included whether traffic impacts had been addressed; impacts from construction of the southern perimeter trail; monitoring of traffic and parking availability in Point Reyes Station and mitigation for impacts if they should occur; and the accuracy of concluding that public access would decrease vehicular traffic.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The DEIS/EIR evaluates impacts to traffic and transportation that would result from potential increases in visitation associated with construction or improvement of public access facilities, as well as from construction of the proposed restoration and public access components, specifically hauling of excavated sediment, mobilization and demobilization of construction equipment, commuting of construction personnel, and traffic delays and temporary road closures caused by construction. The evaluation of impacts did not assume that public access would decrease vehicular traffic. Rather, it assumed that there would be an increase because of increased visitation. However, this increase would be negligible to minor for all alternatives, because the limited through-trail connectivity offered would be less likely to attract visitors interested in longer or more strenuous visitor experiences, and because some local residents would walk or bike to the trails rather than drive. The increase in visitation could cause moderate impacts on parking demand in Point Reyes Station under Alternatives A and B, but some of these impacts were reduced under Alternatives C and D by relocating the existing 3<sup>rd</sup> and C Street trailhead to the Green Bridge. Because of the relatively minor effects on traffic that would be anticipated to occur, a traffic study and additional mitigation measures are not considered warranted, particularly since there has been a relatively recent traffic study conducted in Point Reyes Station for the Point Reyes Affordable Housing Project (EDAW 2001).</p>
C-19	<p><b>Concern Statement (Public Services - Traffic and Transportation-Safety):</b> Many commenters brought up the issue of public safety with regards to public access and the proposed siting of public</p>



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	<p>access in various areas of the Project Area. These comments either addressed how proposed public access facilities would increase public safety or would decrease public safety (e.g., siting of Mesa Road spur trail and parking lot off Mesa Road, which has no sidewalk). One commenter stated that the DEIS/EIR was inadequate, because it did not cite levels of bicycle accidents in West Marin and show that safety for public access is currently minimal under existing conditions. Another commenter felt that Alternative C was undesirable, because it could decrease safety for pedestrians by increasing the number of weekend bicycle riders in the Project Area.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Additional information to address these specific concerns, e.g., the potential for conflict between pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars, has been added to the Visitor and Resident Experience - Public Access Resources of the FEIS/EIR. To summarize that additional information, the proposed project would be expected to have no more than a minor adverse effect on public safety related to factors such as increased usage of roads and road shoulders to access or connect to constructed or improved public access facilities.</p>
C-20	<p><b>Concern Statement (Public Services - Municipal Water Supply and Distribution):</b> One agency commented that the DEIS/EIR does not adequately evaluate and mitigate for potential impacts to the municipal water supply system from potential increases in salinity intrusion. The document does not adequately discuss: 1) the potential effect of salinity intrusion on the quality of drinking water, specifically the creation of disinfection by-products through the combination of chlorides with the sodium hypochlorite used for disinfection and 2) potential impacts during drought, as well as normal streamflow years. The mitigation measures proposed do not appear adequate to mitigate for potential impacts. The agency suggests that adequate mitigation might involve the Park Service funding an extension of the existing pipeline to the well at the Gallagher Ranch for use during periods when the Coast Guard wells could be impacted by salinity intrusion.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies have responded to the agency's comments in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Chapters 3 and 4 have been revised to clarify that salinity intrusion has negative effects on the municipal water supply by not only affecting the taste, but through the creation of disinfection by-products that are also regulated by the California Department of Health Services;</li> <li>2) The methodology used to evaluate impacts in Chapter 4, Public Services – Municipal Water Supply and Distribution, has been revised to incorporate the potential changes in creek salinities during drought and average-flow periods, and, where necessary, the intensity and nature of impacts have been changed accordingly;</li> <li>3) Based on hydrodynamic modeling conducted for each of the alternatives, most of the potential impacts from salinity intrusion appear to be caused by incorporation of Olema Marsh into the restoration project. Under Alternatives C and D, hydrologic connectivity of Olema Marsh with Lagunitas Creek would be restored, thereby increasing tidal prism or the volume of tidally influenced waters stored within and discharged during ebb tides from the marsh into Lagunitas Creek. While the prism of Olema Marsh is relatively small compared to Giacomini Ranch, the location of its confluence with Lagunitas Creek is located considerably upstream of that for the Giacomini Ranch, which appears to increase the effect it has on salinities within upstream sections of Lagunitas Creek. Modeling results suggest that, under Alternatives C and D, average chloride concentrations in this reach of Lagunitas Creek would increase by 32 percent over baseline conditions during spring or high tide conditions (&gt;5.5 feet MLLW) under normal-year flows and 27 percent under dry-year streamflow conditions, respectively (KHE 2006a). These impacts would not be expected to alter the quality of the municipal groundwater supply, but rather to affect municipal water supply operations in that it could increase the need for, if not the frequency of, off-tide pumping and the time and freshwater recharge needed to reduce creek-derived chlorides within the aquifer. NMWD currently conducts off-tide pumping during tides greater than 5.9 – to 6.0 feet MLLW to minimize the potential for salinity or chloride intrusion into the groundwater supply system.</li> </ol> <p>As noted in the mitigation measures proposed under Alternatives C and D, the agencies have proposed to delay implementation of the major Olema Marsh adaptive restoration elements until:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) monitoring and further investigation of the relationship between Lagunitas Creek and the alluvial aquifer suggest that increased surface water salinities would not pose a threat to the quality of the municipal water supply;</li> <li>2) there is new information suggesting that restoration of</li> </ol>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	Olema Marsh would not increase salinities or otherwise pose a threat to the quality of the municipal water supply; or 3) NMWD receives funding and moves ahead with construction of a pipeline to the Gallagher Well for use during off-tide pumping conditions. These major adaptive restoration actions include replacement of the Levee Road and Bear Valley Road culverts, which were identified as later-stage restoration elements such that they would only be implemented if initial stage restoration elements did not achieve the desired degree of hydraulic connectivity between Olema Marsh and Lagunitas Creek. As it has done throughout the planning process, the Park Service will continue to meet and work cooperatively with NMWD in trying to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of this complex hydrologic system and to ensure that there are no impacts to municipal water supply from implementation of the proposed project.
C-21	<b>Concern Statement (Visitor Experience - Public Access):</b> Several commenters felt that DEIS/EIR is deficient in assessing the potential impacts of the proposed project on trails and facilities such as bathrooms that are maintained and managed by other agencies such as the County.
	<b>Response:</b> This impact topic was previously addressed under Land Use and Planning – General Land Use as one of the CEQA thresholds contained in the County of Marin’s CEQA checklist. In the FEIS/EIR, the discussion of this topic has been expanded and changed to an impact sub-topic in the Visitor and Resident Experience – Public Access Resources section. To summarize this information, some of the public access components proposed under some of the alternatives would affect facilities owned and/or managed by other agencies, specifically the County of Marin Parks and Open Space District’s White House Pool and Green Bridge County parks. Effects on these facilities would be expected, however, to be no more than minor and not to substantially degrade or to accelerate degradation of physical facilities.
C-22	<b>Concern Statement (Visitor Experience - Visual Resources):</b> Several commenters felt that transportation corridors, including the proposed bridge over Lagunitas Creek, would degrade scenic views and be aesthetically intrusive. At least one commenter felt that the DEIS/EIR incorrectly characterized the stand of willows that grows on the east side of the Green Bridge County park as being negatively viewed by adjacent landowners.
	<b>Response:</b> With a few exceptions, most of the public access components involve improvement to existing trail or road facilities and would, therefore, not constitute more than a minor impact on visual resources. One of the exceptions is the non-vehicular bridge proposed under Alternatives A-C. As discussed under C-27 below, the height of the bridge would need to exceed 16- to 17-foot NAVD88 to allow conveyance of 10-year flood event flows and 18.2 to 19.2 feet NAVD88 to allow for conveyance of the 50- to 100-year flood flows, including the 1- to 2-feet of freeboard that is typically incorporated. Elevation of adjacent lands in White House Pool County park are approximately 11 feet NAVD88, so the bridge would be elevated anywhere from 6- to 9 feet above the surrounding grade. The bridge would be specifically be designed to visual impacts by building it so that it does not exceed the maximum height of the adjacent 30-foot-high tree canopy or 41 feet NAVD88. In terms of the willows that grow along the eastern perimeter of the Green Bridge County park, the agencies had received comments during earlier public scoping and informal comment periods that suggested that some of the adjacent landowners perceive the willows as an impediment to views within that particular portion of the Project Area.
C-23	Alternative C will increase noise, traffic, pollution, and/or congestion in residential areas and impinge on ecological processes.
	<b>Response:</b> Please see the following sections of Chapter 4 of the DEIS/EIR for analyses of these impacts: Air Resources – Air Quality; Air Resources – Noise and Soundscapes; Public Services – Traffic and Transportation; Vegetation Resources; and Fish and Wildlife Resources. Alternative C would potentially increase noise, traffic, and pollution, but this increase would be relatively minor: any potential major or significant impacts during construction would be mitigated to moderate or less-than-significant levels. The agencies believe, however, that Alternative C would not impinge ecological processes, but that it would restore natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions to a significant portion of the Project Area.
<b>Impact Analysis – Hydrologic and Hydraulic Processes and Flooding</b>	
C-24	Water emerging from sub-street drainages under 4th Street, Point Reyes Station, is hydrologically

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>connected to the restoration project; the DEIS/R inappropriately fails to address this connection.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> In Chapter 3, Water Resources – Hydraulic and Hydrologic Processes, the DEIS/EIR references emergence of hillside springs or seep flow from the base of the Point Reyes Mesa. It is likely that water emerging from underneath C Street near 4<sup>th</sup> Street onto the Giacomini Ranch dairy lot represents one of these groundwater seeps or springs. This groundwater source is evident in many areas on the perimeter of the Mesa by the establishment of dense riparian scrub and marshy areas on the edges of the Mesa or even on its slopes. Discussions with groundwater well drillers in the area and site investigations suggest that the source of these seeps and springs is one or more of the shallower water-bearing alluvial layers that have been documented by groundwater well development in the Point Reyes Mesa terrace. Natural groundwater influences in many of these areas have probably been augmented to some degree by septic systems from the relatively densely populated developments on the top of the Point Reyes Mesa and, in some areas, by non-point source run-off from the town of Point Reyes Station.</p>
C-25	<p>The DEIS/R does not adequately address the effects of sea-level rise.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Sea-level rise is addressed in both Chapters 3 and 4 of the DEIS/EIR. In Chapter 3, Water Resources – Hydraulic and Hydrologic Processes, the issue of sea-level rise is referenced under a description of Tidal Hydrologic Processes in Tomales Bay. In Chapter 4, Water Resources – Hydraulic and Hydrologic Processes, potential effects of sea-level rise are addressed for each alternative under Tidal Prism. In addition, indirect impacts of this issue are also addressed under Vegetation Resources, Fish and Wildlife Resources, and Public Health and Safety – Flooding, and Public Services – Municipal Water Supply. Based on the current level of uncertainty regarding rate and intensity of sea-level rise, the agencies believe that they have adequately addressed this issue in the environmental analysis.</p>
C-26	<p><b>Concern Statement (Mitigation of Impacts from Urban Run-Off):</b> Several commenters felt that the Park Service needed to address non-point source runoff from Point Reyes Station in the DEIS/EIR and that these impacts needed to be monitored and mitigated either by the Park Service or the County.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The issue of non point source run-off is addressed in Chapter 3 of the DEIS/EIR under Water Resources – Hydraulic and Hydrologic Processes, Stormwater Run-off Sources for Project Area. Because the proposed project would not necessarily change the alignment or loading rates of the three known sources of run-off that flows into Lagunitas Creek or the Giacomini Ranch, this issue is not separately addressed in Chapter 4, although it is indirectly addressed by evaluation of the improvement over time in downstream loading rates from Lagunitas Creek into Tomales Bay and in the quality of waters within the Giacomini Ranch East Pasture. The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board has done some monitoring of pollutant loads within these run-off sources (RWQCB 2001). As part of the long-term monitoring program, the Park Service has monitored some of the downstream receiving waters within the Giacomini Ranch (Parsons, <i>in prep.</i>). Reduction in pollutant loading within these run-off sources would need to be addressed by agencies responsible for maintaining the stormwater run-off system within the town of Point Reyes Station. In addition, residents could help to decrease pollutant loading through decreasing fertilization of lawns, washing of cars, and other activities that lead to introduction of pollutants into urban run-off.</p>
C-27	<p>Creation of a bridge across Lagunitas Creek will impede <b>natural hydrological processes</b>.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The pedestrian-bicycle bridge proposed under Alternatives A-C would affect hydrologic processes, however, as described in Chapter 4, Public Health and Safety – Flooding, the bridge has specifically been designed to minimize its impacts on these processes. It would be designed to accommodate flows equal to or greater than those conveyed by the vehicular Green Bridge directly upstream of the Project Area, which only floods under the largest storms. The height of the bridge would be high enough to allow most small to moderate flood flows to pass underneath. During larger storms, the bridge would be inundated such that flows would pass over the deck, but flow velocities would be reduced in this reach relative to upstream locations, because overbank flooding would have occurred, thereby dissipating the erosive energy of flood flows. Based on expected flood elevations in this reach (KHE 2006a), height of the bridge would need to</p>



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	<p>exceed 16- to 17- feet NAVD88 to allow conveyance of 10-year flood event flows and 18.2 to 19.2 feet NAVD88 to allow for conveyance of the 50- to 100-year flood flows. Bridge heights would need to be raised 1- to 2-feet additional vertical feet in order to provide needed freeboard. The southern perimeter trail has been specifically designed as a weather-dependent trail, so public access components would not be designed to necessarily allow access under all conditions.</p> <p>The bridge was specifically proposed for this location, because this particular reach was narrow enough to allow the bridge to be constructed without footings in the active channel or portion of the floodplain that would be flooded on a frequent basis (~every 1.5 – to 2 years). Most of the adverse impacts from bridges come from installation of footings in the channel or active/bankfull floodplain of creeks, so hydrologists recommend creating bridges that span the active floodplain where possible. The amount of armoring or riprapping would be the minimal amount necessary required to protect the footings.</p> <p>This portion of the estuary is a dynamic system, and, so, to some degree, public access would need to be dynamic, too. Should at some point flood flows negatively affect the trail or bridge, public access alignments and infrastructure would be modified to adapt to the changed resource conditions rather than modifying the resources to fit the existing public access alignment. Because of these design features, the agencies believe that the bridge would not necessarily impede natural hydrologic processes, although installation of a bridge is always a less preferable course than finding another alternative that does not involve bridge construction.</p>
C-28	<p>Extensive excavation under Alternatives C and D could result in unacceptably high siltation in Tomales Bay.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Although excavation would occur under both alternatives, with more in Alternative D, impacts from siltation would be minimized by a number of factors. Most of the excavation under Alternatives C and D would come from removal of levees and construction of tidal creeks. The areal extent of excavation is actually quite limited for these activities relative to the size of the remainder of the Giacomini Ranch, which would remain vegetated following construction. There would be scraping of the top 6 inches of the southeastern portion of the East Pasture to remove weeds, but this area would be seeded and actively revegetated to some degree to minimize erosion and would only be inundated a few times a year, if that. The extent of excavation does increase under Alternative D due to lowering of higher elevation areas to active floodplain and intertidal marshplain elevations, however, this area would also be actively revegetated to minimize erosion. During construction, Best Management Practices would be employed to avoid or minimize the potential for siltation in downstream areas, including installation of siltation control fencing to capture and contain soils loosed during earthmoving and temporary water diversion measures when construction must occur at the toe or within creeks themselves. See Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR for more information on Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Measures.</p>
C-29	<p><b>Concern Statement (Flooding Effects on County Parks):</b> At least one agency commented that the agencies should mitigate for damage caused to County-managed public access facilities by additional flooding caused by the proposed project, including any necessary trail repairs from erosion or other damages or any need to elevate the trails to maintain access. These mitigation measures could include improvement of drainage facilities in the park and parking lot, construction of an elevated boardwalk, or construction of an elevated parking lot.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Based on hydraulic modeling results, the proposed project would actually decrease vertical flood elevations in the vicinity of County-managed parks, so mitigation measures are not warranted. As described under Public Health and Safety-Flooding, hydraulic modeling conducted for the proposed project shows that all of the action alternatives (Alternatives A-D) would result in a moderate reduction of vertical flood elevations of Lagunitas Creek for the section of creek between Olema Creek and White House Pool under Alternatives A – D. During 10-year flood events, vertical flood elevations could be reduced as much as 0.5 to 0.9 feet (KHE 2006a). In addition, under Alternatives C-D, standing water levels within Olema Marsh would be reduced, which would reduce the severity of flooding of Levee Road and the southern portion of the White House Pool County park. There would be smaller reductions in vertical flood elevations for the Green Bridge County park, similar to that discussed for the eastern portion of Levee Road in Chapter 4 (KHE 2006a).</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

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C-30	<p>Will any of the alternatives increase the frequency or severity of flooding on the properties along the east side of Sir Francis Drake Blvd just north of the Project Area towards Inverness? If restoration actions will increase flooding, will the Park Service mitigate adverse impacts to these homeowners?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Based on hydraulic modeling results, the proposed project would not increase the frequency or severity of flooding for properties north of the Project Area. Hydraulic modeling of vertical flood elevations north of the Project Area and south of open water portions of Tomales Bay suggest that the added floodwater storage created by removing the Giacomini Ranch levees would effectively reduce vertical flood elevations across the entire Lagunitas Creek delta. For example, under Alternative C, vertical flood elevations for properties on the east side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard directly adjacent to Fish Hatchery Creek could be 0.1 foot lower than under existing conditions, based on modeling results (KHE 2006a). Vertical flood elevations would not increase above those that currently exist under any of the alternatives. These results could change if Lagunitas Creek changed its current channel course. The levees have maintained the current channel alignment in roughly the center of the southern portion of the Bay. If levees were removed, the channel could change course and even reoccupy one of its historic alignments in what is currently the Fish Hatchery Creek channel, which is some distance west of the current channel. This alteration in channel alignment could change the effect of the proposed project in terms of the erosive energy or scour of flood flows and instantaneous peak flood levels, which may lead to damage of adjacent lands and necessitate improvement and strengthening of levees for homes on the east side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard north of the Project Area.</p>
C-31	<p>Alternatives B-D propose construction of low berms around private properties immediately adjacent to the West Pasture along Sir Francis Drake Blvd; the Park Service should better describe these berms.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> As described in Chapter 4, Public Health and Safety-Flooding, flooding of private properties adjacent to the West Pasture in Inverness Park by Lagunitas Creek could increase under Alternatives B-D. However, hydraulic modeling, combined with detailed topographic surveys, suggests that the effects of these increases in vertical flood elevations would be restricted to the eastern portion of properties that are undeveloped and would NOT affect homes, garages, driveways or the health and safety of residents by limiting access to or by emergency medical or other types of public service personnel. Because of this potential increase in flooding by Lagunitas Creek during certain flood events, the agencies proposed construction of low-elevation earthen berms for some of the lower elevation homes or properties as one of the potential mitigation measures.</p> <p>The DEIS/EIR noted that these berms would probably need to be at least 2- to 3- vertical feet in height to maintain existing flood protection during 50- to 100-year flood events. Additional detail was not provided in the DEIS/EIR, because the dimensions of the berm would depend upon which property it was being built to protect. Any berm constructed would require that the agencies contract with a geotechnical engineer to complete the necessary soil/geotechnical studies and provide design assistance. In addition, any berm design would need to take into account hydraulic issues, including the fact that most of the flooding of these homes is currently caused by tributaries draining the Inverness Ridge, which discharge flow and sediment underneath Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and into the West Pasture. Berms that inhibit the passage of these material or improperly designed berms could exacerbate flooding of properties by these creeks.</p>
C-32	<p>Tidal inundation on the West Pasture may impact adjacent septic systems.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Implementation of the proposed project would be expected to have no adverse impact on septic systems for homes within the West Pasture (Greg Kamman, KHE, <i>pers. comm.</i>). Based on modeling results, removal of levees and increased tidal exchange would improve drainage of both tidal waters and floodwaters relative to the somewhat impounded conditions that exist currently and could actually improve functioning of septic systems by lowering local groundwater tables (G. Kamman, KHE, <i>pers. comm.</i>). See Public Services – Wastewater Treatment and Disposal in the FEIS/EIR for additional information. Septic systems for these homes are located within the apex of alluvial fans formed by sediment deposited from outflow of the numerous small perennial Inverness Ridge drainages that flow out into the West Pasture. These systems probably lie anywhere from approximately 3- to 9 feet above the extremely shallow groundwater table that underlies the West Pasture that is fed by strong surface water and</p>

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	<p>groundwater flow from the Inverness Ridge. An increase in tidal exchange with Lagunitas Creek would not affect these systems, because tides would not reach the elevations of the homes and septic systems (maximum tide elevation = 7.0 feet NAVD88), and any effect on tides on the groundwater table through an increase in hydraulic pressure would be expected to be extremely localized and only extend within a few feet of creeks such as Fish Hatchery Creek (Greg Kamman, KHE, <i>pers. comm.</i>).</p>
C-33	<p>Various culverts along the Project Area perimeter are proposed for replacement. Before the County approves the work, it will require that detailed hydrology and hydraulic analysis be provided to ensure that the project will not result in any increased risk of flooding. It is also concerned that the project design should incorporate the County's need to maintain county road and culverts, including clearance for equipment and personnel.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Through the contract with Kamman Hydrology &amp; Engineering, Inc. (San Rafael, CA), detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses have been conducted for sections of creek where culverts have been proposed for replacement under one or more alternative, specifically Bear Valley Creek at Levee Road, Bear Valley Creek at Bear Valley Road, and Tomasini Creek at Mesa Road. A specific project need and design criterion for these structures was to increase conveyance of flood flows. Another design criterion was to minimize maintenance associated with sediment accumulation. Preliminary siting, hydraulic analyses, and modeling results indicate that the conceptual designs proposed for these crossings would achieve these objectives. During the engineering and final design phase, the agencies would continue to work closely with the County to allow the County the opportunity to further review analyses and proposed designs to ensure that it meets County flood control, maintenance, and fish passage requirements.</p>
<p><b>Document Content and Structure</b></p>	
C-34	<p><b>Concern Statement (Suggestions on Improvement of Document Structure):</b> Several commenters had suggestions for improving the structure of the DEIS/EIR. These suggestions included: 1) a table in Chapter 2 showing acreages restored, feet of levee removed, and other parameters; 2) more tables and figures in Chapter 4 to improve the ability of the reader to compare alternatives; 3) better graphics, including typical cross-sections, to depict what public access would look like; 4) inclusion of the Land Evaluation and Site Analysis (LESA) worksheets that were used to evaluate impacts to agricultural land use and a write-up in the Appendices.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The EIS/EIR has been modified to incorporate a table in Chapter 2 that provides a comparison of the restoration and public access changes proposed under each of the proposed alternatives. Where possible, more tables have been incorporated into Chapter 4 to help readers follow changes that could potentially occur under each of alternative. The Land Evaluation and Site Analysis (LESA) worksheets – the results of which are discussed in Chapter 4, Land Use and Planning- Agricultural Land Use – have been added to the FEIS/EIR as an appendix. Because many of the proposed public access components involve relatively minor improvements to existing facilities such as conversion of earthen trail to decomposed granite, cross-sectional figures were not considered warranted in many cases. The DEIS/EIR did provide an example cross-section for the low-elevation boardwalk proposed as part of the eastern perimeter through-trail, as well as an example graphic of prefabricated bridge as proposed for the southern perimeter through-trail. Because the possible extension of the southern perimeter through-trail to Inverness Park is considered in this document as a programmatic component and not as a project-level component, cross-sectional figures were not considered appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Concern Statement (Suggestions on Improvement of Document Content):</b> Several commenters had suggestions for improving the content of the document. These suggestions included:</p>	
C-35	<p><i>The DEIS/R did not adequately describe the relationship between Park Service and CalTrans with respect to this project, which is defined by a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties. The Park Service failed to reproduce this MOU in the EIS/R.</i></p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The relationship between the Park Service and the California Department of Transportation was discussed in Chapter 1 at a level of detail that the agencies believe is adequate to allow the public to understand the relationship and the Memorandum of Understanding. The agencies do not believe that incorporation of the MOU in the document is necessary for the</p>

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	purposes of understanding, reviewing, and commenting upon the proposed alternatives and the analysis of impacts, however, the MOU will be posted on the Seashore's web page under the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project for those who are interested in reviewing it. Also, interested public can visit the Seashore's headquarters to review the MOU or request that the Park Service mail a copy.
C-36	<i>The MOU does not precisely define how much of the Giacomini Ranch would be restored to wetlands; the Park Service preferred alternative has an unacceptable bias toward ecological restoration at the expense of public access. The DEIS/R is inadequate, because it does not describe why CalTrans funds "have a link to being used to consider 'Transportation' issues on and near the subject property."</i>
	<b>Response:</b> The purpose of the agreement between the Park Service and CalTrans was to transfer obligations to mitigate impacts to aquatic habitat caused by repair of State Route 1 to the Park Service in exchange for monies for purchase and restoration of a "significant portion" of the Giacomini Ranch wetlands. In other words, the repair of State Route 1 caused impact to aquatic habitat, and CalTrans was obligated to provide off-site mitigation at another location. Because the Giacomini Ranch was located in the general vicinity of the road impact, the regulatory agencies agreed to CalTrans transferring its mitigation obligations to the Park Service in exchange for CalTrans providing monies to the Park Service for acquisition and restoration of the Giacomini Ranch. While mitigation obligations agreed to by regulatory agencies specify that only 3.6 acres of wetlands have to be restored for obligations to be fulfilled, the agreement between CalTrans and the Park Service calls for restoration of a "significant portion" of the historic marsh. Because of this, the primary purpose of the proposed project is restoration, although public access is incorporated as an objective as long as opportunities do not conflict with restoration. While CalTrans is a state of California transportation agency, there is no link between the CalTrans wetland mitigation monies and transportation issues such that the monies must be used to consider transportation issues.
C-37	<i>Include GFNMS as one of the political recognitions of the importance of Tomales Bay to wildlife.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> This will be incorporated into the FEIS/EIR where appropriate.
C-38	<i>The project background in Chapter 1 does not discuss the Park Service mission to provide opportunities for appropriate public enjoyment or the relevant Park Service Management Policies that seek to enhance natural wetland values by using them for educational, recreational, scientific, and similar purposes.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> This background information is incorporated in Chapter 1 of the DEIS/EIR under the section where the project objectives, including public access, are described.
C-39	<i>The DEIS/R rejects the use of the Green Bridge to be used as part of the southern perimeter trail due to the "substantial concerns" of local residents. This statement is not adequately supported in the document.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies have incorporated some additional summary information on concerns of Levee Road residents regarding routing of an access alignment on Levee Road from the two technical public access studies conducted during the planning process. This alignment was included in the preliminary public access concepts, but eliminated from the final alternatives presented and was not analyzed at a project-level in the DEIS/EIR. During the early planning process, Levee Road residents voiced substantial concerns at several meetings regarding potential impacts of this alignment on noise, traffic, and public safety. Similar concerns had apparently been voiced almost two decades earlier during public scoping efforts for the West Marin Pathways Study (Wittenkeller and Associates and Copple Foreaker & Associates 1988). The Park Service recently received a joint letter from residents along Levee Road stating they would prefer that the southern perimeter trail be routed along Levee Road rather than across Lagunitas Creek via a non-vehicular bridge.
C-40	<i>In Chapter 3, sharp fluctuations in salinity of Lagunitas Creek during the summer are discussed, and no strong conclusion is made as to whether these events stem from natural or unnatural causes. NMWD comments that the variation can be attributed to MMWD adjusting releases from Kent Lake to maintain the flows upstream at the Samuel P. Taylor gauge while the reported data referenced here is</i>

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	<i>collected at the Gallagher gage.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> This would appear to be a reasonable explanation for these fluctuations, however, because Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) does not quantify its releases, other possible reasons for these fluctuations cannot be ruled out.
C-41	<i>The DEIS/R is inadequate because it does not describe that the site of the railroad grade was not wetland habitat prior to construction of the railroad.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> It is difficult to draw this conclusion because most of the information on physical and biological resources prior to construction of the railroad in the late 1800s comes from highly detailed maps prepared by U.S. Coast Survey maps that only cover low-lying intertidal areas subject to possible boat navigation. However, some of the earliest 1942 aerial photographs show riparian vegetation on the face of the Point Reyes Mesa. The presence of groundwater in the coastal marine terrace suggests that mesic vegetation such as willows have probably been present for some time, although the extent of this vegetation on the face of the Mesa could have increased since that time in response to: 1) changes in groundwater patterns and 2) berming of Tomasini Creek along the perimeter of the Mesa.
C-42	<i>The EIS/R does not incorporate 2005 Park Service transportation legislation.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> This information will be reviewed for applicability and, if appropriate, incorporated into the document.
	<b>Concern Statement (Corrections of Factual Inaccuracies or Questions of Factual Accuracy in Document):</b> Several commenters wanted to correct factual inaccuracies or questioned factual accuracy of certain statements in the document. These included:
C-43	<i>The Point Reyes Community Plan was published in 2001, not 2000.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Correction incorporated.
C-44	<i>The zoning designation of the parcels on C Street in Point Reyes Station is incorrect in the EIS/R.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Correction incorporated. References to "commercial residential" have been changed to "coastal residential."
C-45	<i>The DEIS/R noted that Value Analysis attendees included representative from GFNMS. It did not, and GFNMS would not have endorsed Alternative C as the Preferred Alternative. Please change text in ES, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 5.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Corrections incorporated.
C-46	<i>Clarify that Cordell Bank Sanctuary does not share any marine boundaries with the Park.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Correction incorporated.
C-47	<i>Correct mistakes in list of agencies owning lands in the Land Use section in Chapter 4.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Corrections incorporated.
C-48	<i>The DEIS/EIR states that 2 cfs of water is pumped from the Downey Well to the Giacomini Ranch for irrigation purposes. This is incorrect. The NMWD agreement commits 1.23 cfs of irrigation water to be delivered. Actual experience has shown that the amount delivered is closer to 1 cfs.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> The Giacomini family has an appropriate water right for up to 2 cfs. NMWD's contract with the Giacomini family is for only 1.23 cfs, according to NMWD.
C-49	<i>In Chapter 1 under Constraints, the DEIS/EIR states saltwater intrusion conditions into groundwater wells in Point Reyes Station would not exceed current levels or any increase caused would be mitigated. It is not clear that saltwater intrusion conditions would not exceed current levels under the project alternatives, nor is it clear that the Park Service will fully mitigate any increase.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> The statement in Chapter 1 reflects one of the constraints that the agencies identified as helping to guide project planning and alternative development and design process.



TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	The agencies believe that they have fully incorporated this constraint into project planning, design, and impact analysis, as evidenced by the considerable amount of meetings with North Marin Water District staff and computer modeling that was performed to try and determine what effect the proposed project would have on salinities in upstream portions of Lagunitas Creek. The adequacy of the analysis and the proposed mitigation measures are discussed under C-20.
C-50	<i>In Chapter 2, it is stated that Water Right Order No. 95-17 prohibits installation of a gravel dam. The SWRCB actually directed that the Giacomini no longer install the summer dam at its former location after 1997, but does not prohibit installation of a summer dam upstream of the Green Bridge. The Giacomini family chose not to install a dam upstream but rather to pursue an agreement with NMWD for provision of these waters.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Clarification noted and incorporated. While a dam could be installed, it should be noted that it would need to undergo full environmental compliance process prior to installation.
C-51	<i>In Chapters 2 and 3, it is stated that the Giacomini family has a 0.5 cfs appropriative water right and that NMWD has a water right for 0.666 cfs on Fish Hatchery Creek. NMWD questions the accuracy of these statements.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> The Giacomini family was issued an appropriative water right license for 0.5 cfs of direct diversion between April 1 and December 1 on Fish Hatchery Creek (A021371; License No. 009730) in 1971.
C-52	<i>In Chapter 2, the DEIS/EIR states that the NMWD's agreement with the Giacomini family would terminate with the close of the dairy. NMWD notes that it will terminate on July 1, 2008.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Correction incorporated.
C-53	<i>In Chapter 3, the DEIS/EIR notes that NMWD has a water right on Bear Valley Creek. Please clarify that NMWD holds no permanent water right on Bear Valley Creek. It secured a temporary permit in 1977 for use during that year.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Clarification noted and incorporated.
C-54	<i>In Chapter 3, the DEIS/EIR states that the study commissioned by NMWD in 1997 recommended implementation of the off-tide pumping practice. NMWD comments that the 1997 study recommendations did not include institution of off-tide pumping, but rather construction of a pipeline to Gallagher Ranch well.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> Correction incorporated.
<b>Alternatives</b>	
C-55	Alternatives A and B do not provide adequate ecological restoration.
	<b>Response:</b> The Park Service's mitigation agreement with CalTrans called for restoration of a "significant" portion of the historic marsh, although, legally, the Park Service is only required to mitigate at least 3.6 acres. This language is reflected in the project purpose, which states that the purpose of the proposed project is to restore natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions within a significant portion of the Project Area. "Significant" is not defined in the MOU with CalTrans, however, the Park Service interpreted the language as meaning a majority of the Giacomini Ranch when developing alternatives. Under Alternative A, natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions would be restored to approximately 350 acres of the 550-acre pastures, while under Alternative B, they would be restored to all the pastures. Based on these factors, Alternatives A and B appear to meet the project purpose and provide adequate ecological restoration, although, as noted in the DEIS/EIR, neither was the preferred alternative.
	<b>Concern Statement (Changes to Alternatives or Preferred Alternatives):</b> A number of commenters submitted comments regarding changes to alternatives or changes to the preferred alternatives. Many of the changes proposed to specific restoration or public access components are discussed in separate sub-sections below. Changes proposed to the structure of alternatives and to the choice of preferred alternative are synopsized below.
C-56	<i>The Park Service should implement the preferred alternative, Alternative C, but without the public</i>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<i>access components along the railroad grade.</i>
C-57	<i>Alternative C should be the alternative implemented, but it should include a through-trail on the railroad grade.</i>
C-58	<i>Alternative D should be modified to eliminate the proposed spur trail extended from Railroad Point south on the railroad grade.</i>
	<b>Response:</b> The project planning team considered all comments from the public on preferences for alternatives and alternative elements, both during scoping and the DEIS/EIR review period. The agencies elected to keep the public access components on the eastern perimeter in Alternatives C and D as proposed in the DEIS/EIR with two spur trails in Alternative C and one spur trail in Alternative D. Alternatives A-D provide a balanced range of public access options on the eastern perimeter that are compatible with other restoration and public access components under each alternative.
C-59	<b>Concern Statement (Alternative D Should Be Preferred Alternative):</b> Many commenters felt that the preferred alternative should be Alternative D.
	<b>Response:</b> Based on public and agency input, the agencies have shifted their preferred alternative to Alternative D, which has been modified slightly in the FEIS/EIR to reduce some of the environmental impacts associated with excavation. As discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR, the agencies originally selected Alternative C as the preferred alternative, even though it had identified Alternative D as the environmentally preferred alternative, because it appeared to best meet the project purpose and objectives by providing full restoration while also providing a moderate amount of public access. This combination appeared to best meet needs expressed by commenters during extensive formal and informal scoping for increased safety and connectivity between communities. However, comments from review of the DEIS/EIR appeared to be quite different during those received during scoping or early public input. Many of the comments received on the DEIS/EIR indicated were concerned that the public access components suggested under Alternatives A-C were largely incompatible with restoration and that these access components would increase traffic, noise, pollution, and change the rural character of an area already considered to be too congested by visitors on the weekend. Ultimately, the objective of incorporating public access is to provide restoration- and resource-compatible opportunities to view and enjoy the restored wetland for both able and disabled visitors and residents. Because the agencies believe that public access that is resource-compatible and that provides opportunities to view and enjoy the restored wetland for both able and disabled visitors and residents is desirable, some of the modifications to Alternative D in the FEIS/EIR also include incorporation of an ADA-compliant trail component and a programmatic component for developing a southern perimeter trail system in the future in cooperation with the County of Marin.
C-60	<b>Concern Statement (Alternative D Should Be Preferred Alternative, but Modified to Include Bridge):</b> Many commenters felt that the preferred alternative should be Alternative D, but that it should include a bridge. At least one commenter felt that the spur trails proposed in Alternative D would be "orphan" trails that would force non-vehicular traffic onto the unsafe shoulders of Levee Road.
	<b>Response:</b> The goal of alternatives developed and presented in the DEIS/EIR was to present a range of public access opportunities, from the extensive public access incorporated in Alternative A to the minimal public access included in Alternative D. Ultimately, the objective of incorporating public access is to provide restoration- and resource-compatible opportunities to view and enjoy the restored wetland for both able and disabled visitors and residents. In developing alternatives, the planning team created a range of restoration and public access options, and, because Alternative D represented the most restoration, the decision was made to eliminate the bridge from at least project-level consideration, because it could have negligible to minor hydrologic impacts. Based on this perspective, the limited facilities proposed under Alternative D meet this objective of the proposed project, even if they do not provide through-trail connectivity that would allow non-vehicular traffic such as bicycles to move off road shoulders such as a non-vehicular bridge over Lagunitas Creek. The issue of whether the proposed project would adversely affect public safety is now addressed as a sub-topic in the FEIS/EIR under Visitor and Resident

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	Experience – Public Access Resources.
C-61	<p><b>Concern Statement (Alternative D Not the Most Environmental Option):</b> Several commenters disagreed with the project proponent’s assessment that Alternative D would be the environmentally preferred alternative. They noted that extensive grading would be disruptive to wildlife and would more air quality impacts, demand for non-renewable resources, and traffic in the local community and region.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR, these are many of the very same issues that the project planning team brought up in evaluating which of the alternatives would be the environmentally preferred one. Ultimately, the environmental advantages of excavation were considered large enough to outweigh some of the impacts. The document notes that the project planning team thought that the environmental advantages of Alternative D over Alternative C as proposed in the DEIS/EIR were relatively slight. In the FEIS/EIR, Alternative D has been modified slightly to reduce the depth of excavation in the southwestern portion of the East Pasture, which should decrease some of its environmental impacts and increase the relative advantage that it offers over Alternative C.</p>
C-62	<p>The Park Service should not implement any restoration alternatives, because natural processes, such as tides and annual floods, will restore the wetlands without the expense of planned restoration.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Flood-induced erosion and lack of maintenance of levees could eventually result in unplanned breaches and degradation over time of the levee system from many portions of the Giacomini Ranch. However, this process would take decades to unfold and would both delay the hydrologic and ecological benefits that restoration would provide, as well as result in most of the levee material being swept out during flood flows to Tomales Bay, which has already been declared impaired by the RWQCB for sediment. Excessive sediment decreases water quality and clarity and contributes to continued “shallowing” of the Bay, which is already considerably shallower than it was under historic conditions. Under the proposed project, most of the excavated levee material would be hauled away to a quarry for use in restoring degraded lands: some materials would be spread across the pasturelands. This would decrease short- and long-term impacts from sediment to the Bay.</p>
C-63	<p>The Park Service should not implement any restoration alternatives, because construction will create unsafe conditions and too much noise for local residents.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> During construction, every effort would be made to continue to allow visitor access to existing trails while ensuring the safety of visitors and adjacent residents. Because current public access occurs in specific areas and the rest of the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh are not subject to public or resident access, safety concerns are somewhat reduced. The issue of noise is addressed in the DEIS/EIR in Chapter 4 and elsewhere in this response to comment summary. For most residents, construction noise should not be problematic. For those immediately adjacent to certain construction areas (called sensitive construction zones), construction-related noise impacts could be major or substantial, however, agencies have proposed mitigation measures to reduce them. Please see the revised mitigation measures in Chapter 4, Air Resources – Noise and Soundscapes, of the FEIS/EIR for more detail. On balance, although impacts from construction in some cases would still be considered moderate even with mitigation, they would be temporary and offset, in general, by the major benefits to wildlife, hydrology, vegetation, views, species of special concern, and park visitors that the proposed project would provide.</p>
<b>Restoration Component</b>	
C-64	<p><b>Concern Statement (Actions to Maximize Tidal Action and the Extent of Tidal Influence):</b> Several commenters discussed the need to maximize tidal action and whether excavation in the southwestern corner of the East Pasture would reasonably achieve this purpose. One commenter felt that the amount of excavation in Alternative D was not excessive. Another felt that it was excessive and that even scaled back excavation in this area should only be performed if the excavation increased the potential for restoring tidal influence into Olema Marsh.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies do not think that the amount of excavation proposed is excessive. As discussed in several sections of the DEIS/EIR (Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Geology), elevations within the Giacomini Ranch are much higher than many other diked wetlands within the</p>



TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>San Francisco Bay region. Most of the pasturelands are at or slightly above what would be called mid-marsh or intertidal elevations. Excavation of the 23 acres proposed in the DEIS/EIR under Alternative D would convert more of the pasturelands that would be exposed to tidal influence during just the higher high tides or only very infrequently to marshlands that would be exposed during average high tide conditions. It would not increase the amount of intertidal mudflat or low marsh.</p> <p>This restoration action would only slightly increase tidal prism within the Giacomini Ranch. As such, its effect on tidal influence in Olema Marsh would also be slight, but it would probably serve to increase salinities within the marsh, if not the volume of tidally influenced waters exchanged between the marsh and Lagunitas Creek or the areal extent of tidal influence within the marsh (G. Kamman, KHE, <i>pers. comm.</i>). Excavation of this component as proposed in the DEIS/EIR would generate approximately 60,000 CY of material. In the FEIS/EIR, this component has been modified slightly to expand the areal extent of excavation (32.5 acres), but maintain the volume of excavated material (up to ~60,000 CY), but generally decreasing the average depth of excavation.</p>
C-65	<p><b>Concern Statement (Restoration of Olema Marsh and White House Pool County park):</b> Several commenters felt that Levee Road should be replaced or reconstructed to maximize connectivity of the marsh with Lagunitas Creek and the rest of the Project Area. These commenters suggested either replacing the road with a causeway or installing more culverts than proposed. One commenting group felt that, if the high elevations of the White House Pool County park were one of the reasons that Levee Road was not going to be replaced, then the Marin County Parks and Open Space District should reconsider its decision to want to preserve existing conditions of the park, because restoration of the County park could be achieved without losing any value or use of the park. This group felt that this decision should not have been made without public input. Also, this group felt that scraping of the East Pasture of the Giacomini Ranch would have little value -- and possibly a negative impact -- on efforts to restore Olema Marsh.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> In developing possible restoration scenarios for Olema Marsh, the Park Service convened an informal working group with all of the affected land agencies and organizations that included Audubon Canyon Ranch (which owns more than half of Olema Marsh), County of Marin Public Works (which owns and maintains Levee Road), and County of Marin Department of Parks and Open Space District (which leases and manages White House Pool County park). One of the first considerations in looking at options to restore Olema Marsh was existing topography. The Park Service commissioned a topographic survey of Olema Marsh to complement the survey that had already been performed in White House Pool County park and Levee Road by the U.S. Geological Survey. It was immediately evident that elevations throughout the County park were extremely high after years of fill and flood deposition and that they were high enough to invalidate the concept of a causeway without extensive excavation that would be extraordinarily costly, as well as have other environmental impacts. Similar constraints in terms of the amount of excavation, money, and environmental impacts would make restoration of the westernmost Olema Marsh culvert very difficult to implement. This culvert used to be the primary culvert prior to the 1998 flood, but large amounts of sediment deposition have essentially cut it off from the rest of the Olema Marsh and led to formation of a stand of juvenile riparian vegetation.</p> <p>These constraints were the primary factors driving the current restoration approach of using adaptive restoration to implement discrete actions that would or would not at some future point include replacement of the existing culverts for Bear Valley Creek at Levee and Bear Valley Roads. This approach would also help to reduce the severity of some of the negative impacts to the ecosystem that would be expected with an improvement hydrologic connectivity and the elimination of the water impoundment problem and the trend of steadily increasing water levels observed during the last decade.</p> <p>Shallow scraping of the East Pasture in its southern portion is intended only to remove vegetative, cover, and shallow roots of non-native grasses and herbs in a high-elevation upland area where inundation by salty water cannot be used to eliminate these species. It is not expected to have any effect on Olema Marsh.</p>
C-66	<p><b>Concern Statement (Restoration of Tomasini Creek):</b> Several commenters emphasized the</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>importance of full restoration of Tomasini Creek, but some questioned the approach proposed in the project. At least one felt that the cost to benefit ratio of excavating a new channel was low when it was likely that the creek would move on its own without maintenance of the berm. Another suggested that a causeway be constructed at Mesa Road rather than replacing the culvert as proposed in Alternative D. There was also some concern on at least one commenter's part that restoring hydrologic connectivity by replacing the culvert might actually increase the amount of contaminants that are transported from upstream portions of Tomasini Creek into the restoration area: it might be better to not replace the culverts and instead maximize wetland area for contaminants that do pass through.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Under Alternative D, the alignment of Tomasini Creek is shifted into roughly what was one of its historic alignments, with the creek running through the center of the so-called Tomasini Triangle and then turning north to flow to Tomales Bay. The Tomasini Triangle is where the freshwater marsh for mitigation of impacts to the federally threatened California red-legged frog would be constructed. Therefore, the creek is aligned to run through the center of the marsh, with low vegetated berms on either side to prevent marsh waters from draining directly into the creek channel, but still allowing overflow into the marsh during high flows. However, commenters are correct that creeks such as Tomasini are dynamic systems and that it is entirely possible that the creek would migrate or jump to a new alignment on its own during a larger storm. When and if it occurs, this would be considered by the agencies to be successful restoration of natural process. Construction of the channel is only intended to give the creek a "starting point" and to foster development of the marsh during its early stages.</p> <p>One of the objectives for the proposed project is to improve the health of Tomales Bay. This includes acting as a filter for pollutants from upstream portions of the watershed. Currently, it is likely that some of the pollutants from the upper portions of the Tomasini Creek watershed have deposited within the somewhat artificially low gradient, depositional reach of Tomasini Creek at Mesa Road, where the undersized existing culverts have reduced hydraulic connectivity with the lower reach and encouraged a backwater effect that encourages sediment – and pollutant – deposition. While ensuring that some of the pollutants do not reach downstream portions of the watershed, this reduced connectivity has reduced other functions, including salmonid passage. Both coho and steelhead salmon have been observed recently within this creek. The appropriate facility for replacing the existing Tomasini Creek culvert would be determined during the final design for this element, which would involve further consultation with the county. It is anticipated that it could be an arched culvert, bridge, or causeway.</p>
C-67	<p><b>Concern Statement (Creation of Additional Tidal Channels):</b> At least one commenter questioned why the Lagunitas Creek pilot channel included in the central portion of the East Pasture in Alternative C was not included in Alternative D. The commenter also suggested that some additional pilot channels could be created in the southern portion of the East Pasture.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies have incorporated the pilot channel that was proposed in the DEIS/EIR under Alternative C in Alternative D in the FEIS/EIR. The topography of the Giacomini Ranch, however, restricts the ability to create these channels in the southern portion of the East Pasture, because elevations are extremely high from repeated sediment deposition during flood events (and some fill activities), and these areas function more as floodplains in the current fluvial-dominated environment.</p>
C-68	<p>One commenting organization urged that the scope of the project be expanded and funds set aside for opportunistic replacement of culverts along Project Area perimeter to enhance biological and hydrological connectivity.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The proposed project incorporates at least three potential replacements of culverts (Levee Road, Bear Valley Road, and Mesa Road) under Alternatives C and/or D. The agencies focused on those they felt posed the most constraint to restoration of natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions. The Park Service would be interested in working with the County of Marin Public Works should the county identify other culverts that it owns and maintains on the project perimeter for replacement.</p>
C-69	<p>The Park Service should remove the 1983 rip-rap along Lagunitas Creek because it was installed</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	immediately after a large flood and had the effect of unnaturally forcing the stream into an old alignment.
	<b>Response:</b> This action is included under Alternatives B-D of the DEIS/EIR.
C-70	What are the plans for removal or retention of Waldo's Dike?
	<b>Response:</b> In Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR, the document describes that the north levee of the West Pasture, which is also known as Waldo's Dike, would remain under the No Action Alternative and Alternative A and be removed under Alternatives B-D.
C-71	Will the tidegates on Fish Hatchery Creek be removed?
	<b>Response:</b> As noted above, the north levee of the West Pasture and the Fish Hatchery Creek tidegate would remain under the No Action Alternative and Alternative A and be removed under Alternatives B-D. The tidegate and flashboard dam structure on Tomasini Creek would be retained under all alternatives for at least 10- to 15 years until alternate habitat for the federally endangered tidewater goby ( <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> ) has expanded within the restored marsh. Tomasini Creek is home to one of the largest occurrences of tidewater goby in the Project Area and Tomales Bay watershed.
C-72	The Project's first priority, and first action, should be to remove the northern levee on the West Pasture.
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies have put together a preliminary of restoration tasks that would be completed during the two separate years of project implementation, but, ultimately, the order in which tasks would be completed would be worked out with the construction contractor and would be based on a number of factors, including prohibitions on construction in the vicinity of clapper rail and black rail habitat during the breeding season.
C-73	The EIS/R conclusion that the restored wetlands will remove 2-18% of the pollutants entering the Project Area seems low; the Park Service should configure the wetland restoration project to maximize pollutant uptake efficiency.
	<b>Response:</b> While the Park Service believes that water quality improvement could be one of the most important functions that could be restored with the proposed project, the intent of the proposed project is not to create a so-called treatment wetland, but to remove impediments to natural hydrologic and ecological processes that would promote a number of hydrologic and ecological functions, including habitat and support for wildlife, habitat for rare plants, and floodwater retention and dissipation of the erosive energy of flood flows. The estimates of removal for pollutants, which have been refined in Chapter 4 of the FEIS/EIR, refer specifically to those conveyed downstream by Lagunitas Creek and its tributaries and are based on hydraulic modeling estimations of overbank flooding rates during some of the more frequent flood events. These numbers do not take into account removal of pollutants that are conveyed by other sources and that might have higher rates of retention within the Project Area. These would include Tomasini Creek, Fish Hatchery Creek, other small West Pasture drainages, stormwater run-off that flows into the Giacomini Ranch from the town of Point Reyes Station, and potentially septic-influenced groundwater inflows.
C-74	<b>Concern Statement (Creation of Additional Upland Refugia):</b> Commenters suggested that the agencies incorporate more high tide refugia for special status species by reusing more of the excavated soils or leaving more portions of the levees as "islands."
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies have incorporated this idea under Alternatives B-D by extending the high tide refugia area that was created as part of a 2006 enhancement project southward. See Chapter 2 of the FEIS/EIR for additional detail. Additional refugia would continue to exist in the East Pasture at the Tomasini Triangle created freshwater marsh retention berm and on the Tomasini Creek berm, which would not be removed, but allowed to deteriorate over time.
C-75	<b>Concern Statement (Restoration of Additional Areas, Including Along C Street):</b> The scope of restoration component should be expanded to include more lands along C Street in Point Reyes Station and along the margin of the West Pasture. Lands proposed for exchange as part of a separate

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>project should be retained (see Cumulative Effects analysis in Chapter 4), and the agencies should acquire additional lands that are either owned by the Giacomini family or potentially other private landowners. At least one commenter noted that water from small creeks that were buried as part of development of Point Reyes Station flows into the cattle corrals along C Street and that there is a potential to use this hydrology to expand the growth of willows along the Mesa perimeter. Also, one commenter requested that the agencies discuss with the County the potential of removing the Cypress trees that were planted by the County to obscure views of the loafing barn on the dairy.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The Park Service’s MOU with CalTrans calls for a restoration of a significant portion of the Giacomini Ranch. However, it does not call for restoration of the entire ranch. In developing the proposed project, the planning team focused its efforts on where it felt that money available for restoration could yield the most ecological benefit. For the most part, these were areas in the low-lying pastures or former historic coastal marsh areas that are not directly adjacent to existing residential, commercial, and agricultural development and areas that have not been subject to intensive historic impacts such as repeated fill events that would require extensive excavation and rehabilitation before they could be considered “restored.” For this reason, the agencies elected not to focus their restoration efforts on the dairy facility parcels along C Street in Point Reyes Station. They have been subject to repeated fill activities and disturbance from dairy activities. They are also directly adjacent to the town of Point Reyes Station, which would increase the likelihood of wildlife disturbance from people and domestic and feral animals. These were some of the reasons that the Park Service elected to enter discussions with the Giacomini family to exchange some of the higher-elevation C Street parcels for low-lying pasturelands that were considered to have more existing ecological value. This is a separate project that is discussed in the DEIS/EIR under Cumulative Impacts in Chapter 4. Until the fate of this proposed project is determined, the Park Service has no plans to remove the stand or row of Cypress trees along C Street, nor is it aware of any such plans by the county.</p>
C-76	<p>Restoration actions should proceed slowly for the protection of plants and animals.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> For most alternatives, construction activities would be phased over two (2) seasons. Construction can occur within the pastures while levees remain but once the levees are breached or removed, the difficulty of performing construction in many areas would increase considerably and make it logistically complex, if not infeasible. Therefore, restoration activities cannot be feasibly implemented over a longer period of time. Because the agencies are restricting excavation to removal of levees, berms, manure-laden or “hot” soils, and weedy upland areas, most of the pastures would be expected to convert from non-native grass- and herb-dominated grasslands to a mosaic of native-dominated salt, brackish, and freshwater marsh slowly. As discussed in the DEIS/EIR under Chapter 4, Vegetation Resources, this transitional period in which grasses are slowly killed off by higher salinities and replaced by disturbance-adapted brackish and eventually salt marsh species could take as long as 10- to 15 years, although shifts in some systems have occurred as rapidly as 5 years.</p>
C-77	<p>The Park Service should quickly and thoroughly revegetate the Project Area after excavation.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Please see response to C-76 above. Restoration would not involve removal of vegetation cover except under Alternatives C and D in the southern portion of the East Pasture. Grassland vegetation would persist for a number of years as increased tidal influence slowly replaces salt-intolerant or marginally tolerant species with disturbance-adapted brackish marsh and, eventually in most areas, salt marsh species. Active revegetation is typically not considered necessary in areas where natural colonization would be expected to proceed quickly because of abundant seed and propagule sources and appropriate establishment environments and where non-native species are not expected to readily outcompete and exclude native species. For this reason, active revegetation is only planned for higher elevation and more disturbed areas where establishment environments are not conducive to natural community establishment, and non-native invasive species would be likely to outcompete native vegetation. These areas include high-elevation riparian floodplain terraces, high marsh/upland ecotone, dry upland grassland, and excavated and created areas.</p>
C-78	<p>In Alternative D, what is the purpose of constructing a "fence to limit cattle access" in the West Pasture if there will be no cattle grazing within the Project Area?</p>

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Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p><b>Response:</b> Under Alternative B in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR, it notes that the Park Service earlier constructed a fence to limit cattle access to the 100-acre portion of the Giacomini Ranch in the West Pasture that has been owned <b>and managed</b> by the Park Service while the Reservation of Use Agreement with the Giacomini Ranch is still in effect. Under the Reservation of Use agreement, the Giacomini have continued to graze cows in the West Pasture, and this fence was built to preclude cattle from entering areas in the 100-acre portion of the pasture that had been enhanced through creation of freshwater marsh and high tide refugia. One of the actions under Alternatives B-D is to remove that fence. Under Alternative D, the Park Service proposes to construct a different fence to limit cattle access to the portion of the Point Reyes Mesa on the Martinelli Ranch that is directly northeast of the Giacomini Ranch, because this area could act as aestivation or breeding habitat for the northwestern pond turtle. The Martinelli family has a Reservation of Use agreement with the Park Service for beef cattle grazing on the Martinelli Ranch that extends through 2012.</p>
C-79	<p>The Park Service should remove abandoned structures and equipment within and adjacent to the Project Area.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As described in Chapter 2 under Alternatives A and B, the agencies have incorporated removal of agricultural infrastructure as one of the restoration components. Additional infrastructure adjacent to the Giacomini Hunt Lodge that could extend onto private property would also be removed and is described in Chapter 2, Actions Common to All Alternatives.</p>
C-80	<p>The Park Service should remove infrastructure, pipelines, and electrical wiring from the privately owned lands adjacent to the Giacomini Hunt Lodge.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> This action has been incorporated as an alternative element common to all alternatives in Chapter 2 of the FEIS/EIR.</p>
<b>Public Access - General</b>	
C-81	<p>The DEIS/R is inadequate because it does not conclude that the restoration project must include installation of transportation corridors on the margins of the Project Area.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> We disagree and note that relevant plans for jurisdiction on the margin of the Project Area do not require such corridors. Instead, the draft Marin Countywide Plan (Marin County Community Development Agency 2005), the Marin County Unincorporated Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Alta Transportation Consulting 2001), the Local Coastal Plan (Marin County Comprehensive Planning Department 1981), and the Point Reyes Station Community Plan (Marin County Community Development Agency 2001), recommend development of additional trails and bike paths in the Point Reyes Station-Inverness area, specifically along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and the railroad right-of-way "where feasible" (Alta Transportation Consulting 2001). The LCP notes that recreational resources should be incorporated where "consistent with the protection of natural resources and agriculture" (Marin County Comprehensive Planning Department 1981). The LCP also directs federal parks to provide access "where feasible and where consistent with the protection of the parks' natural resources" (Marin County Comprehensive Planning Department 1981). Projects should "avoid or minimize disturbance to wetlands, necessary buffer areas, and associated important wildlife habitat" (Marin County Comprehensive Planning Department 1981).</p>
C-82	<p>Local, state, and federal managers should consider building additional trails, such as a trail between the Green Bridge and White House Pool via Levee Road, or along the railroad grade.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Please also see response to C-39. In the DEIS/EIR, a trail along the railroad grade is considered under Alternatives A and B. A trail between the Green Bridge and White House Pool via Levee Road was originally incorporated into Alternative D, but was eliminated on the basis of public comment from the final alternative design and is referenced under Eliminated Alternatives in Chapter 2. Since then, a considerable amount of local community members appear to support a trail in this location. This alternative will not be addressed at a project-level in the FEIS/EIR, but the agencies would entertain working with the County of Marin, which owns and maintains the Green Bridge and Levee Road, to develop some type of southern perimeter trail system.</p>



TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
C-83	<p><b>Concern Statement (Extension of Southern Perimeter Trail to North Levee or Inverness):</b> The Project should extend the western portion of the Southern Perimeter Trail to the northern end of the Project Area and/or to Railroad Point to encourage hiking. One commenter suggested that extension of the Southern Perimeter Trail to Inverness be considered now rather than later, because construction of the trail could utilize some of the fill being created by excavation in the Giacomini Ranch.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As noted under C-82, a trail along the railroad grade to Railroad Point is considered under Alternatives A and B in the DEIS/EIR. The agencies have also proposed a programmatic component that would explore extending the southern perimeter trail to Inverness Park under Alternatives A-C. As part of some earlier public access studies, the agencies did evaluate extending the trail as far north as Drakes View Drive. However, routing of the trail near the Lucchesi/Kostelic residences poses some considerable technical challenges, because of the proximity of the road to the property boundaries and the difficulties in routing trails behind the residences because of the 1906 Drainage. This is discussed in the DEIS/EIR in Chapter 2 under Alternatives Eliminated.</p>
C-84	<p>The Park Service should retain at least a portion of the north levee on the West Pasture as public access.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies feel that it is important to eliminate the north levee of the West Pasture for a number of reasons. First, levees that are perpendicular to the primary flow path are some of the largest impediments to hydrologic processes. Secondly, public access on the levees during extreme high and storm tides could be jeopardizing the population of state-threatened California black rails (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>) that lives in the undiked marsh north of Giacomini Ranch and that uses the levee for high tide refugia during those periods. The presence of people limits the amount of area available for rails to use and may increase their susceptibility to predation. With elimination of most of the levee, the amount of habitat for black rails and the federally endangered California clapper rails (<i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i>) would expand southward and increase considerably. The retention of some of the north-south trending or levees parallel to Lagunitas Creek would retain higher elevation areas necessary for refuge during high tides.</p>
C-85	<p>Maximize opportunities to create multi-use pathways that are not adjacent to roads.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies have incorporated, where possible, pathways that are not adjacent to roads. However, efforts to incorporate restoration- and resource-compatible access opportunities are complicated by the fact that wetlands and riparian areas extend right up to the edge of roads. Under all of the action alternatives, the Park Service has retained most or all of the existing East Pasture trail (and adjacent Green Bridge County park trails), and, under Alternatives A-C, this is linked via a bridge to White House Pool County park trails. The bridge has been eliminated from project-level consideration under Alternative D in this document, because it was felt that more restoration-compatible alternatives for creating a southern perimeter trail system should be explored first. The issue of intended users is addressed below under C-89.</p>
C-86	<p><b>Concern Statement (Overlooks in Public Access Component):</b> The public access components should be focused on observation points such as viewing areas. At least one commenter felt that these observation points should be located away from residential areas.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies have incorporated viewing and overlook areas at select locations along the Project Area perimeter where they believe that visitors and residents could have unique views of the restored wetland. These receive the most focus under Alternative D, because it does not offer a through-trail component in the Giacomini Ranch. Because residential areas surround the Project Area, it is impossible to locate viewing areas completely away from them, but the agencies believe that they have sited them in areas that provide the least disturbance to adjacent residents.</p>
C-87	<p><b>Concern Statement (Educational Opportunities):</b> Several commenters encouraged the agencies to expand educational opportunities through public access or interpretative displays. At least one commenter suggested that the agencies should retain one of the houses now owned by the Park</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	Service in Inverness Park as an educational or interpretation facility.
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies are very interested in incorporating educational and interpretative opportunities through not only exhibits at viewing and overlook areas, but through programs offered through the Seashore's Interpretation Division. The house in Inverness Park has been badly damaged from years of occupancy by Giacomini Ranch workers and would require a considerable investment to allow it to be used as an educational or interpretation facility. Therefore, it is unlikely that the re-use proposed by the commenter would take place.
C-88	<b>Concern Statement (Width, Surfacing, and Fencing of Trails):</b> Several commenters made suggestions on the types of trails or trail surfacing and fencing that should be incorporated as part of the public access component. A few commenters felt that trails should remain unimproved or be simply modest, non-vehicular trails that would appeal mainly to birdwatchers and walkers. Another felt that the trails should be surfaced with decomposed granite treated with a pine resin binder. Other commenters felt that measures should be taken to protect adjacent natural areas, either through fencing or perhaps preferably vegetative barriers that would enhance scenic views. The County of Marin requested that trails be of sufficient space and surfacing to allow all-weather access. However, one commenter requested that the County of Marin follow the Park Service lead in creating trails that are not too wide and that are environmentally sensitive.
	<b>Response:</b> During public access workshops, one of the most consistent comments received from members of the public regarding trails in the Project Area was that they not be paved, but be left as earthen or constructed of decomposed granite. Members of the local community felt that this would help to retain the rural character of the region. The agencies have considered a variety of surfacing approaches, including earthen, decomposed granite, decomposed granite with pine resin binder, and boardwalks. The exact surfacing to be used would be decided during final design, but no paved trails would be constructed within Park Service-owned lands. Split-rail fencing and vegetative barriers would be incorporated in certain areas to ensure that people stay on trails and out of restored areas.
C-89	<b>Concern Statement (Intended Trail Use):</b> Several commenters discussed the need for having public access that serves a variety of users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. There was one request for more clarification on the intended users for the various public access facilities proposed.
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies intend for all trails proposed within the Project Area to be multi-use or serve a variety of users, with the exception of the West Pasture north levee trail under the No Action Alternative and Alternative, which would be restricted to hikers. This is addressed in Chapter 4, Visitor and Resident Experience – Public Access Resources, and is clarified in Chapter 2 of the FEIS/EIR under the description of the public access components.
C-90	<b>Concern Statement (Parking):</b> Many commenters took issue with the proposal to create a small (~ 5-car) parking area in the gravel lot off Mesa Road currently used by a gardening company for equipment storage for a number of reasons, including impacts to vegetation resources, wildlife, traffic, parking, public safety, noise, and other issues (See Concern Statement: Public Access - East for more detail). At least one commenter said that Alternative C was not preferable, because it created new parking areas. The Park Service should not create a trailhead in Point Reyes Station without providing adequate parking. Another felt that creation of a new parking area was not necessary, because there was already adequate parking at the elementary school on weekends and that additional parking is being created at the ecumenical housing site. Others suggested that the proposed parking area be moved either closer to town or onto Park Service lands within the Giacomini Ranch.
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies do not believe that conversion of the small gravel lot currently being used by a gardening company for storage of vehicles and equipment would cause impacts to vegetation resources, wildlife habitats, or wildlife, because it is currently a disturbed area. It is also distant enough from town that it is unlikely that it would be used by visitors to town as overflow parking. Most of the people parking there would be people using the some of the Eastern Perimeter facilities proposed. Impacts from visitation on traffic and noise are addressed in Chapter 4 of the DEIS/EIR under the relevant sections – Air Resources – Noise and Soundscapes

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	and Public Services – Traffic and Transportation. Based on the analysis in the DEIS/EIR under Public Services – Traffic and Transportation/Parking, increased visitation that results from construction of public access facilities would cause no more than a minor impact in parking demand, and this minor impact would be reduced to negligible under Alternatives C and D when the Point Reyes Station trailhead is shifted from Third and C Street to the Green Bridge at State Route 1. In terms of moving the parking area, most of the Giacomini Ranch lands are either wetland or riparian area or are immediately adjacent to residences and would create potentially greater impacts.
C-91	<p><b>Concern Statement (Public Access and County Involvement):</b> Several commenters felt that design, funding, and maintenance for public pathways should be undertaken jointly by the Park Service and the County of Marin. At least one commenting organization faulted the DEIS/EIR for not studying or encouraging better coordination between the Park Service, the County of Marin, and the Wildlife Conservation Board, which owns the lands that the County leases for White House Pool and Green Bridge County parks. As part of this coordination, several commenters felt that the agencies should cooperate to make signage, maintenance, and rules along the Southern Perimeter Trail generally consistent between Park Service and County-managed lands. At least one commenting organization felt that the two agencies should coordinate to make a coherent set of viewing areas so impacts to wildlife from viewing are not increased. The County of Marin commented that there was no agreement as to the division of maintenance responsibilities for trails that may exist or be built in the right-of-way and that it has not budgeted for any potential capital expenditures.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies agree that certain aspects of the public access components, specifically the southern perimeter trail system, are projects that necessitate inter-agency involvement and cooperation. However, we have come to recognize that this is not the right time – or this EIS/EIR, the right vehicle – to plan for this trail system. The agencies base this conclusion on recent comments submitted by the public, which show that opinion has changed dramatically regarding the use of a bridge versus use of Levee Road, as well as on comments by public agencies that suggest that further planning and coordination efforts are needed between the Park Service and the County. Based on these comments, it would appear that the southern perimeter trail system is not “ripe for decision.” Under NEPA, one of the determinants of whether an applicant has a project is whether it has an action that is “ripe for decision.” When all involved agencies and the public agree that it is time to move forward on planning, the Park Service would be committed to working on expanding public access facilities on the southern perimeter of the Project Area. This cooperative project would enable better planning of viewing areas and maintenance responsibilities. (It should be noted that the current DEIS/EIR does not include any trails in County right-of-ways, although the programmatic component proposed between the Park Service and County could include a trail along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.)</p> <p>One of the options that could be reevaluated under this cooperative project would siting of a trail along Levee Road to the Green Bridge, where it could connect to the enhanced Green Bridge County park trail entrance proposed under Alternatives C-D. It could also include the extension to Inverness Park discussed programmatic in the DEIS/EIR under Alternatives A-C. Because this path would be entirely within the County right-of-way, it would be appropriate for the County to take the lead. The Park Service would commit to working with the County 1) on portions where the trail enters or abuts Park Service lands and 2) on raising the necessary funding. Another option would be to construct a bridge at the location of the old summer dam as is proposed currently under Alternatives A-C. However, should any of these options be chosen, a separate environmental compliance process would be required, as this component is only addressed as a future potential project under Alternative D.</p>
C-92	Funding for the public access components of the project should be secured simultaneously with funding for ecological restoration components of the project.
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies were not able to secure funds simultaneously for restoration and public access components, because public access components required additional baseline studies and public scoping efforts that delayed finalization of design relative to restoration components. In addition, many of the sources that are willing to fund restoration do not also fund public access, so the agencies have to pursue different types of federal and private funding sources.</p>



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Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
<b>Public Access - ADA</b>	
C-93	<p><b>Concern Statement (Public Access and ADA Components):</b> Several commenters discussed the inclusion of accessible or ADA-compliant trails as part of the public access components. At least one commenter felt that Alternative D was not adequate, because it had failed to provide an ADA-compliant trail, and an ADA-compliant trail could be incorporated without compromising the environmental benefits of this alternative. Several commenters felt that the ADA-compliant pathway for all alternatives should be the one included in Alternatives A and B, which originated from C Street rather than being a spur trail originating from Mesa Road as proposed in Alternative C. Other commenters suggested that ADA-compliant access be provided at White House Pool County park, Olema Marsh, or Martinelli Open Space.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Topographic constraints for the trails incorporated under Alternative D had limited the agencies' ability to incorporate an ADA-compliant trail in this alternative. Strenuous objections by adjacent residents to the continued presence of a trailhead in the vicinity of 3rd and C Streets has pushed the planning team to incorporate a new Point Reyes Station trailhead at the Green Bridge and State Route 1 under Alternatives C and D, and this entrance is very steep and not suitable for ADA access. The Park Service explored other options on C Street, but they were not feasible. After subsequent discussions with County Parks and Open Space District, the Park Service has incorporated an ADA-compliant component at White House Pool County park under Alternative D in the FEIS/EIR. Further detail on this component can be found in Chapter 2 of the FEIS/EIR.</p>
<b>Public Access - Bridge</b>	
C-94	<p><b>Concern Statement (A Bridge Should or Should Not be Constructed):</b> Many commenters stressed the importance of incorporating a bridge across Lagunitas Creek as part of the public access component. They felt that it was a high priority and should be built as soon as possible, because it would increase public safety, allow people to enjoy the restored wetlands, and reduce vehicular traffic. One commenter suggested that the bridge be named the "Sis Arndt Memorial" Bridge.</p> <p>Other commenters stressed the importance of eliminating the bridge from the public access component. They felt that it was not desirable, because it would disturb wildlife by increasing human activities or would impact the existing visitor experience. Some felt that it was not worth the expense, because it would not create a through-trail.</p> <p>There was a concern that the bridge is too costly to build and/or maintain. Some felt that this was a reason not to build a bridge; others suggested that the agencies either build a less substantial bridge or install a seasonal bridge. Another commenter felt that the main objection to building the bridge was its cost and that the agencies should raise additional funds and thereby eliminate this objection.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As the bridge is incorporated under Alternatives A-C, both the advantages and disadvantages of the bridge are addressed in Chapter 4 under various resource topics, including Fish and Wildlife Resources, Visitor and Resident Experience – Public Access Resources and Visual Resources, Vegetation Resources, Air Resources – Noise and Soundscapes, and Public Services – Traffic and Transportation. The topic of public safety is addressed in greater detail in Public Access resources section of the FEIS/EIR than it was under the DEIS/EIR, because of the number or comments relating to public safety received during the public comment period. While the bridge would not create a complete through-trail, it would offer greater connectivity. However, because it is impossible to determine how many people would not drive because of the presence of a bridge, the environmental document does NOT assume that incorporation of a bridge would reduce traffic, although it is possible that it might.</p> <p>The planning team did explore lower cost and seasonal options for a bridge, but concluded that a pre-fabricated bridge was best, because it is actually less costly to design and install than a designed bridge. Based on the issues expressed in C-3, C-14, C-15, and C-22, the main objection by the public to the bridge is its impact on natural resources such as wildlife, riparian habitat, and viewscales and other environmental issues such as traffic, air pollution, and character of the local community, not the expense. Therefore, raising additional funds is not likely to eliminate these concerns. Any naming of bridges would probably occur during the final design phase at which time suggestions would be considered.</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
<b>Public Access - Dog</b>	
C-95	<p><b>Concern Statement (Dog Policies in Project Area and Adjacent County Parks):</b> Many commenters addressed the topic of dogs and whether dogs would be permitted in the Project Area. Several felt that access for dogs -- and possibly other domesticated animals -- should not be allowed or at least limited, because dogs disturb wildlife. Even if leash policies are instituted, one commenter noted that dogs-on-leash policies are often not enforced, so owners allow dogs to run off-leash. Several other commenters felt that dog walking should be allowed within the Project Area. Some felt that dogs should be allowed to walk and run off-leash. Another commenter suggested that, to accommodate both ecological restoration and community needs, the agencies should fence off a portion of the Project Area as an off-leash dog recreation area. There was also concern from some people about how the proposed project would affect dog policies in the County parks, with people wanting to maintain the existing policy of allowing people to walk dogs in those areas.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The issue of whether dogs would be allowed on Park Service-owned lands in the Project Area is clarified in Chapter 2 of the FEIS/EIR. To summarize, dogs would not be allowed in any areas where they are not currently allowed. This would include all of the restored wetland and grassland areas that are not designated trails. It would also include the Eastern Perimeter through-trail and spur trails included under Alternatives A-C, because these areas have not been open to the public. Dogs are also currently not allowed on the Tomales Bay Trail. Under the No Action Alternative and Alternative A, dogs would not be allowed on the north levee of the West Pasture, because of the trail's proximity to habitat for federally and state listed California clapper rail (<i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i>; FE, SE) and California black rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>; ST).</p> <p>Because the Southern Perimeter spur trail is connected to the Green Bridge County park, which allows dogs, dog use would continue to be allowed on the Southern Perimeter through- and spur-trail components. All dogs would be required to be on a 6-foot leash at all times (36CFR 2.15 (a) 2), and owners would be subject to fines for off-leash dogs. However, if at some point in the future dogs are determined to be negatively impact wildlife, including nesting or special status wildlife species, the area could be closed to dog walking altogether through the Superintendent's Compendium process (36CFR 2.15 (a) 1). In general, dogs would continue to be allowed in County park areas subject to current and future county policies.</p>
<b>Public Access - East</b>	
C-96	<p><b>Concern Statement (There Should Be No Trails or Parking Areas on Eastern Perimeter):</b> Many commenters felt that no public access should be constructed on at least the southern portions of the eastern perimeter of the Project Area. Most of these comments focused on the Mesa Road spur trail and parking area, because these were the primary components included in the preferred alternative, although most applied to construction of any trail on the railroad grade. Commenters indicated that they believed that public access facilities would significantly alter the quality of life for Point Reyes Mesa residents by increasing noise, traffic congestion on Mesa Road, threats to public safety on Mesa Road, and the potential for vandalism, arson, brawls, human waste, and fire and that these factors could lead to decreases in local property values. Others felt that the facilities would degrade natural systems and wildlife habitat, including riparian habitat (See Impact Analysis section). Some commenters questioned the value of having public access facilities in this area, because there would be no through-trail (at least in Alternatives C and D), and few people would use the trail, making the costs higher than the benefits offered.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies included a trail on the eastern perimeter, because considerable interest has been expressed in having public access on the historic railroad grade both prior to initiation of and during scoping for the proposed project. As with other components, the agencies attempted to create a range of actions on the eastern perimeter from a through-trail with a small parking lot and two viewing areas under Alternatives A and B to a simple spur trail and viewing area the Tomales Bay Trail under Alternative D. The agencies believe that the potential impacts of incorporating public access on the eastern perimeter of the Giacomini Ranch raised by commenters have been, for the most part, adequately addressed in the DEIS/EIR under a variety of resource topics, including Air Resources-Noise, Public Services-Traffic and Transportation, Vegetation Resources, and Fish and Wildlife Resources. Additional information regarding public</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>safety has been added to the FEIS/EIR under Visitor and Resident Experience – Public Access Resources. Construction of public access features such as trailheads would be expected to have no more than a minor adverse impact under Alternatives A and B – and negligible impacts under Alternatives C and D -- on public safety in this area relative to existing conditions. The project planning team felt that spur trails would still offer public access benefits, even if fewer people used the trail.</p>
C-97	<p><b>Concern Statement (There Should Be Trails on Eastern Perimeter):</b> In contrast to C-96, several commenters supported creation of a trail on the eastern perimeter of the Project Area. Some supported the idea that this trail could be linked in the future to other portions of the historic railroad grade, providing a much more complete public access system. Another felt that the trail should be unimproved and for foot traffic only. One commenter requested that the agencies evaluate combining a through-trail public access option with full restoration of the rest of the Project Area and indicated that the benefits of such an option were not adequately discussed in the EIS/EIR, including potential benefits to public safety of the through-trail. Also, the discussion was inadequate because the document did not cite any authors or experts that supported creation of a trail on the railroad grade.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies believe that the benefits of having a through-trail are adequately addressed in the DEIS/EIR under Visitor and Resident Experience – Public Access Resources and under Public Services – Traffic and Transportation/Alternative Transportation. As discussed under CS-96, the agencies attempted to create a range of actions on the eastern perimeter and did examine a through-trail option, as well, under Alternatives A and B. The planning team did not incorporate an eastern perimeter through-trail option with full or extensive restoration of the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh under Alternatives C and D, because it was felt that this element was incompatible with full or extensive restoration. It would involve both permanent and temporary removal of riparian vegetation, would permanently impact wetlands that are subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and would negatively affect both directly and indirectly important wildlife habitat for special status species such as the federally endangered tidewater goby (<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>), the federally endangered central California coast coho salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>), the federally threatened central California coastal steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>), and the state and regional federal species of special concern saltmarsh common yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas sinuosa</i>). In addition, it could potentially violate the Streamside Conservation Act policies of the Local Coastal Plan (LCP; Marin County Comprehensive Planning Department 1981) and the Point Reyes Mesa buffer protection policies of the LCP and the Point Reyes Station Community Plan (Marin County Community Development Agency 2001). Likewise, the planning team was concerned that creating an unimproved trail would only result eventually in larger impacts to the resources through unofficial widening of the trail. Obviously, larger benefits to alternative transportation would come from a longer through-trail option that would link to other portions of the historic railroad grade. These portions of the railroad grade are outside of the scope of the Project Area and the proposed project. The Park Service has explored in the past the potential for purchasing other lands that incorporate the historic railroad grade, but were unable to reach agreement with the owners.</p> <p>The through-trail under Alternatives A and B was intended to serve walkers, bikers, and equestrians, although, because of the resource values in this area and the fact that it has not been previously open to dogs, dog-walking would not be allowed.</p>
C-98	<p>If the Park Service constructs a trail and parking area on the eastern border of the property, they should construct a sidewalk along Mesa Road to protect non-vehicular traffic.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Because of the community's interest in preserving the rural character of the local communities, the agencies have attempted to avoid creating new paved areas for trails, parking, or sidewalks. Mesa Road offers very little opportunity for creation of a sidewalk due to the presence of wetlands, riparian habitats, streams, and the proximity of private property lines and fences to the road or lack of road shoulder in many areas. One of the reasons that the agencies included a small gravel parking lot at the trailhead for the Eastern Perimeter facilities was to specifically not encourage walking along Mesa Road, which currently has very little shoulder available for placement of a formal sidewalk or even unpaved footpath. Under Alternative D, there are no public access facilities off Mesa Road under Alternative D. Under Alternative C, it is</p>

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Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	unlikely that the Mesa Road spur trail would create enough foot and bike traffic between downtown Point Reyes Station and the trailhead to create a safety problem and warrant inclusion of a formal, paved sidewalk. However, under Alternatives A and B, the through-trail facilities could increase foot and bike traffic from the downtown area of Point Reyes Station. However, impacts to public safety would be considered no more than minor adverse relative to existing conditions. Should these alternatives be implemented, the Park Service may install signage at the trailhead to warn trail users that those walking along Mesa Road do so at their own risk.
C-99	<b>Concern Statement (Better Town Access to Martinelli Ranch):</b> One commenting organization suggested that the park try to find better town access to the Martinelli Ranch by securing an access easement from one of the property owners on the south boundary and/or constructing a gate at the southeast corner.
	<b>Response:</b> The Park Service would be potentially interested in pursuing this in the future.
Public Access - South	
C-100	The DEIS/EIR identified a southern perimeter trail from a proposed bridge across Lagunitas Creek to White House Pool park. No specifics were provided on the exact alignment and whether the pathway is supposed to be inside or outside of the county right-of-way. Please provide details in the environmental document.
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies included graphics in the DEIS/EIR (Figure 7, 12, and 15) that shows the alignment of the Southern Perimeter Trail proposed under Alternatives A-C. This graphic illustrates the proposed alignment and shows that the pathway does not fall within the right-of-way for any County of Marin roads. The document also discusses a programmatic component that would potentially extend the Southern Perimeter Trail from White House Pool County park to Inverness Park in a collaborative project with the County of Marin (Figures 7, 12, and 15). This component would potentially fall within a County right-of-way for Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. Because this extension is being discussed in this document only as a possible future extension of the proposed trail, it is treated more generally or programmatically, because the decision on whether or how to proceed is not yet "ripe for decision." Specific alignments and other design details would be decided with the help of future technical study and design and additional environmental analysis and public input through a future NEPA and CEQA process.
C-101	<b>Concern Statement (Support for and Suggested General Modifications to Southern Perimeter Trail System):</b> Several people expressed support for the Southern Perimeter Trail, stating that it would not unacceptably degrade natural resources and that the agencies should provide safe alternatives for non-vehicular traffic between Inverness Park and Point Reyes Station. Several other commenting individuals and agencies had suggested modifications to the proposed through-trail, including: 1) constructing the trail as a Class I pathway and paving it; 2) not creating a trail for weekend bicycle riders; 3) creating public access at Olema Marsh; 4) constructing a sidewalk along C Street to connect the Project Area to Highway 1; and 5) maintaining a bridge near White House Pool County park parking lot as part of the trail system.
	<b>Response:</b> <b>1 and 2)</b> During public access workshops conducted in 2005, members of the local community and general public expressed a strong preference for not creating paved paths within the Project Area. The belief was that paved paths would alter the rural character or nature of the local communities. Without paving, public access facilities would be unlikely to attract road cyclists, which is discussed in the DEIS/EIR. <b>3)</b> The agencies have discussed connecting the southern perimeter trail system proposed under Alternatives A-C with the Olema Marsh trail with a crosswalk across Levee Road, however, this would require further traffic analysis and consultation with and approval by the County of Marin Department of Public Works before it could be implemented. <b>4)</b> As noted under C-88, the agencies have attempted to minimize the amount of paved infrastructure constructed as part of the proposed project. Connection of C Street with State Route 1 would actually require sidewalks to be constructed along 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street and B Street. Under Alternatives A and B, C Street would be connected to State Route 1 through the Green Bridge County park. C Street access would be eliminated under Alternatives C-D, which would negate

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Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>the need for a sidewalk under these alternatives.</p> <p><b>5)</b> There would be no plans to alter or remove this bridge under any of the alternatives.</p>
C-102	<p><b>Concern Statement (Southern Perimeter and Access from C or B Streets):</b> Several commenting individuals and agencies suggested that the Southern Perimeter Trail should include access from C Street in all alternatives, not just in Alternatives A and B. Several trailhead locations were suggested, including the trailhead at 3rd Street as well as one at Fourth Street. Conversely, other commenters noted that the agencies should avoid maintaining a trailhead at 3rd Street, because it would unacceptably increase the amount of vehicle traffic and create parking problems. At least one commenter suggested that the agencies explore the potential of creating a parking lot and trailhead at the corner of B Street and Highway 1 to avoid increases in traffic and parking problems on 3rd Street.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The existing trailhead for the informal trail on the Giacomini Ranch’s East Pasture levee is located at Third and C Streets. As noted under C-93, strenuous objections by adjacent residents to the continued presence of a trailhead in the vicinity of Third and C Street pushed the planning team to incorporate a new Point Reyes Station trailhead at the Green Bridge and State Route 1 under Alternatives C and D. The northernmost parcels along C Street are in private ownership (Giacomini family), and, should the land exchange move forward, most of the remaining parcels directly adjacent to C Street would also be in private ownership. The Giacomini were not interested in granting an easement to the Park Service. The Park Service has approached the trustees for the lands at the corner of B Street and State Route 1, however, there are no ongoing negotiations at the time the FEIS/EIR was prepared. The Park Service would pursue this option should the trustees express interest in the future.</p>
C-103	<p><b>Concern Statement (Southern Perimeter Trail and Replacement of Bridge with Levee Road and Existing Green Bridge):</b> Several individual and organization commenters suggested that the Southern Perimeter Trail be routed along Levee Road and the existing Green Bridge rather than constructing a new bridge at the old summer dam location. One person commented that the bridge was not necessary, because bicycling on Levee Road is safe. Others felt that access along Levee Road could be improved by either creating a bike lane in the existing road footprint or widening Levee Road, potentially on the southern side, and that widening would increase public safety. Some of the commenting organizations disagreed with statements in the DEIS/EIR that this alignment is infeasible because of concerns regarding public safety and impacts to landowners from noise and traffic, with at least one noting that this section of road would with certainty be improved at some point in the future by the County of Marin regardless of landowner concerns. Conversely, some commenters expressed concern about use of Levee Road for public access, saying that there should be no new public access along this road because it is -- and would continue to be -- too dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists and that only the bridge trail would provide enough safety. One commenting organization stressed the need for the County of Marin and the Park Service to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to plan, site, and fund public access facilities in this portion of the Project Area together rather than separately.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies had originally considered inclusion of the Southern Perimeter Trail via Levee Road and the Green Bridge as part of Alternative D during development of its preliminary public access components. However, strong objections were voiced during the alternative and public access workshops (and reportedly during the public meetings for the West Marin Pathway study) from adjacent landowners regarding traffic and noise and from the general public regarding concerns for safety of pedestrians and bicyclists due to the speed and proximity of motor vehicles. Based on these concerns, the agencies eliminated this component from Alternative D, as is discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR under Alternatives Eliminated. Public opinion then changed during the comment period for the DEIS/EIR, with many local community members voicing a preference for having access along Levee Road rather than along the south bank of the East Pasture and across Lagunitas Creek. Several residents of Levee Road submitted a letter in support of having access along Levee Road.</p> <p>As noted in the response to C-91 above, the agencies believe that, based on the change in public opinion and the comments from local agencies, that the southern perimeter trail system is not “ripe for decision” by NEPA standards, despite years of study and meetings with agencies and the public. Further planning is apparently needed before this component can be fully implemented</p>



TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>with support from the affected public. The agencies are committed to working with the appropriate agencies on expanding public access facilities on the southern perimeter of the Project Area. This cooperative project would better enabling better planning of viewing areas and maintenance responsibilities.</p> <p>Based on recent public input, this trail system should first re-explore the feasibility of siting a trail along Levee Road to the Green Bridge, where it could connect to the enhanced Green Bridge County park trail entrance proposed under Alternatives C-D. It could also include the extension to Inverness Park discussed programmatically in the DEIS/EIR. Because this path would be entirely within the County right-of-way, it would be appropriate for the County to take the lead. The Park Service would commit to working with the County: 1) on portions where the trail enters or abuts Park Service lands and 2) on raising the necessary funding. Another option would be to construct a bridge at the location of the old summer dam as is proposed currently under Alternatives A-C. However, should any of these options be chosen, a new environmental document would be required, as this component is only addressed programmatically under Alternative D.</p>
C-104	<p><b>Concern Statement (Clarification and Suggestions on Programmatic Component):</b> One commenting agency requested clarification on the programmatic portion of the public access component in which the southern perimeter trail would be potentially extended to Inverness Park in the future through a collaborative project with the County of Marin. The agency requested more details on this portion, including whether or not another environmental document would be required before implementation. Another commenting agency suggested that the agencies include a fully accessible, raised viewing platform at White House Pool County park as part of the southern perimeter trail.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Under Alternatives A-C, the DEIS/EIR incorporates a programmatic component for potential future extension of the southern perimeter trail to Inverness Park through a collaborative project with the County of Marin. This component is included in this document, because it is a possible future action, however, there remain a number of factors that need to be addressed before a decision on whether or how to go forward can be made. These factors include resolving the problem of severe erosion of the creek bank adjacent to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard at White House Pool. The DEIS/EIR notes that this extension would follow one of two possible alignments – construction of a path on the road shoulder of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard all the way from White House Pool to Inverness Park or using a portion of the shoulder with the other portion being routed on a low-elevation boardwalk in the West Pasture (Figures 7, 12, and 15 in the DEIS/EIR). Included in this component is a proposal to construct an ADA-accessible viewing area in the future at White House Pool County park under Alternatives A-C. Because this element is only being addressed programmatically, there are no specific details on exact alignments, construction approaches, or conceptual cross-sections included. These details would be included in a subsequent environmental document.</p>
C-105	<p><b>Concern Statement (Suggestions to County Parks on Maintenance and Operation):</b> One commenting organization made several suggestions to the County of Marin Parks and Open Space District with regards to management of its White House Pool and Green Bridge County parks, including: 1) use the same type of trail surfacing materials as being considered by the agencies; 2) designate official trails either vegetatively or with split-rail fencing as proposed by agencies; and 3) restore remaining social trails.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies cannot address comments or suggestions to other agencies.</p>
C-106	<p>The DEIS/EIR identifies a crosswalk along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to connect the bridge crossing to Bear Valley Creek trail. It does not provide details on whether crosswalk is warranted nor analyzed any traffic or pedestrian hazards from such a crosswalk. Prior to construction of such a crosswalk, additional traffic and safety analysis would need to be provided to the County.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> At this time, the proposed crosswalk has been removed from the document. Based on a safety analysis by DMJM/Korve, a crosswalk is not warranted, given the current number of trail users and the projected number of trail users under each of the alternatives (DMJM/Korve 2007). Should a crosswalk be considered necessary in the future, additional traffic and safety analysis would be performed and provided to the County of Marin Department of Public Works.</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
<b>Construction</b>	
C-107	Construction methods, traffic control, and accessibility compliance are not completely described in the document and will be required with the encroachment permit application. Provide information on proposed traffic control measures, and indicate if any lane closures are desired.
	<b>Response:</b> Construction methods are described in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR. Additional details, including details regarding traffic delays and road closures that were discussed in other sections of the DEIS/EIR (Public Services – Traffic and Transportation), have also been incorporated into Chapter 2 of the FEIS/EIR. Traffic control measures would be developed more fully during the final design phase of the proposed project, and information on proposed traffic control, road closures, and accessibility compliance would be provided on the encroachment permit submitted to the County.
C-108	<b>Concern Statement (Construction Traffic and Routing):</b> One commenting agency asked for clarification on whether construction would generate traffic on public roads from import or export of construction and fill materials and which streets would be used as construction routes, particularly those in Point Reyes Station. One commenter requested that all truck traffic be routed onto the ranch road near the Giacomini Hunt Lodge rather than on 3rd Street in Point Reyes Station.
	<b>Response:</b> As was discussed in the DEIS/EIR under Public Services – Traffic and Transportation, the proposed project would generate traffic on public roads from trailoring of construction equipment, commuting of construction personnel, and hauling of excavated sediments and other non-soil materials to disposal areas. These impacts are discussed in Chapter 4. Construction routes in Point Reyes Station, Inverness Park, and on roads to the local disposal sites for excavated sediments are discussed both in Chapter 2 and Chapter 4. During construction of the East Pasture, it is anticipated that most of the hauling would be conducted using the ranch road near the Giacomini Hunt Lodge, but construction activities near the southern bank of the East Pasture and demolition of barns would probably generate truck traffic from the access point at Third and C Streets. To minimize noise, contractors would be asked to route trucks on streets that are primarily not residential such as Fourth Street rather than Third Street.
C-109	<b>Concern Statement (Construction Hours and Staging Areas):</b> One commenter requested that construction activities near residences start no earlier than 8 a.m. and that construction staging areas be fenced to ensure public safety.
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies have responded to this comment by amending the construction start time in sensitive construction zones or construction areas directly adjacent to residences to 8 a.m. in the FEIS/EIR. Most construction staging areas would not be located in areas readily accessible to the public. Efforts would also be made to locate staging areas away from residential areas. Construction and construction staging areas would be posted with signage. In certain areas (near Inverness Park, near Giacomini Hunt Lodge, and near the Giacomini Ranch dairy facility), staging areas could be fenced with construction fencing that would deter access by the public, but this fencing would not completely eliminate the ability of the public, including children, to access construction areas.
C-110	<b>Concern Statement (Public Notification of Construction Schedules):</b> A few commenters requested that the agencies provide or publish construction schedules so that local residents can better be apprised of project progress and better anticipate impacts from construction equipment.
	<b>Response:</b> A preliminary construction schedule would be mailed out to all people on the mailing list for the proposed project at least two (2) to four (4) weeks prior to implementation. As with all construction projects, this schedule would be subject to change depending on scheduling of construction activities, equipment availability, constraints imposed by mitigation measures, biological and special status species constraints, and other factors. An up-to-date schedule would be maintained on the Seashore’s webpage for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project and would be amended on an as-needed basis.
C-111	<b>Concern Statement (Construction and Creation of Breeding Areas for Mosquitoes):</b> One commenting agency stated that impoundment of water during construction should be avoided, because it will create breeding conditions for mosquitoes. It noted that surveillance of the

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	<p>construction area might be necessary in order to address any issues that arise.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> As discussed in the DEIS/EIR, construction contractors may need to install coffer dams or other water types of water control structures in order to adequately dewater construction areas. These structures could impound water. They would be installed for the minimum amount of time necessary to complete the construction task, but they could provide even temporary breeding grounds for mosquitoes. As discussed under C-17, while mosquitoes are native and elements of natural systems, the Park Service is responsible for control efforts when these organisms pose a threat of a human health hazard as determined by the U.S. Public Health Service. Because stagnant water present during the mosquito breeding seasons could provide habitat for mosquitoes, including those documented to carry West Nile virus, mitigation will include monitoring of pooled water for mosquito larvae as well as the potential use of the mosquito larvicide, <i>Bacillus thuringensis</i>(Bti), a biological pesticide which specifically targets mosquito larvae, is biodegradable and does not have measurable effects on other species.</p>
C-112	<p>During project construction, some existing public access trails should remain accessible and protected from construction traffic.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Some of the impacts to public access during construction would be alleviated by the fact that the restoration and public access components may not necessarily be constructed during the same years. During construction of the restoration component, only one existing public access trail would potentially be temporarily closed under Alternatives A-D – the informal existing path along the south bank of the East Pasture. The Olema Marsh trail would temporarily be closed during construction of Adaptive Restoration Component #1. Should Levee Road culverts eventually be replaced as part of the adaptive restoration of Olema Marsh, there would also be a temporary closure of the very eastern end of the White House Pool County park trail under Alternatives C-D. Under the No Action Alternative and Alternative A, the existing informal path on north levee would not be affected. When public access components are constructed, the informal path on the south bank of the East Pasture would be closed during construction of the Southern Perimeter through-trail and spur trail components. Under Alternatives C-D, the entrance to the Green Bridge County park would temporarily be closed to improve the trailhead entrance. Under Alternative D, some portion of the White House Pool County park trail system would be temporarily closed for construction of an ADA-compliant trail facility. In general, as discussed in Chapter 4 of the DEIS/EIR of Visitor and Resident Experience – Public Access Resources, impacts to existing public access during construction were characterized as no more than minor, but the effect of traffic delays and potential road closures and effects on other visitor resources in the Seashore’s North District would potentially increase impacts to moderate under Alternatives C and D.</p>
C-113	<p>The USEPA recommends that some additional measures be included in the Spill Prevention and Response Plan, such as 1) a spill kit with boom and sorbent materials should be on site at all times during construction and 2) no vehicles will be fueled, lubricated, or otherwise serviced within 100 feet of the normal high-water area of any surface water body.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> This recommendation has been incorporated into the Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Measures that would be implemented during construction for all alternatives in Chapter 2 of the FEIS/EIR.</p>
<b>Invasives</b>	
C-114	<p>The DEIS/R fails to disclose potential impacts from feral dogs and cats. The Project should mitigate adverse effects from these animals. These actions could include signage to discourage animal dumping and active trapping.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The agencies have addressed the potential impacts from feral dogs and cats in the FEIS/EIR under Fish and Wildlife Resources/Invasive Wildlife Species. To summarize, feral cats have a documented and adverse effect on birds, amphibians and small mammals in native ecosystems (Winter and Wallace 2006, Patronek 1998). Monitoring throughout the Seashore for impacts of feral cats and dogs is ongoing (N. Gates, wildlife biologist, Seashore, pers. comm.). However, there are no data to suggest that the Project Area will attract the release of unwanted dogs and cats any more than any other road-accessible area of the park. Release of pets on Park</p>



TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES

Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	Service lands is illegal (36CFR 2.1 (a) 2). Should illegal dumping of pets become a serious issue, signage informing the public of these regulations will be posted. Should impacts in the project area be detected, removal of feral animals will be implemented as mandated by Park Service Management Policies (Section 4.4.2.1).
C-115	<p><b>Concern Statement (Removal of Eucalyptus from Tomasini Creek and Adjacent Private Lands):</b> Several commenters felt that the Park Service should support a federal/private cooperative to expedite removal of eucalyptus trees from Tomasini Creek and the surrounding privately owned portions of the Point Reyes Mesa bluff. Commenters felt that this partnership would be beneficial, because the trees could be felled across property boundaries; trees could be hauled away on existing ranch roads within the Project Area, reducing impacts to residents; and the cooperative parties could work together to control resprouting trees and implement revegetation. They note that there is support for removal of these trees in the Seashore's Exotic Management Plan, as well as the Local Coastal Plan and the Point Reyes Community Plan. They believe that removal would benefit natural hydrological and ecological processes and conditions, including conditions for the federally threatened tidewater goby, and viewsheds in the Project Area.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The Park Service agrees that there would be potential hydrologic and ecological benefits to removing the eucalyptus stands that have been planted on the Point Reyes Mesa bluff and would be interested in working cooperatively with private landowners in the future on removal of these stands as a separate project. The agencies have expanded invasive removal efforts to include the moderate number of eucalyptus trees that grow on the berm of Tomasini Creek as described in Chapter 2 of the DEIS/EIR under Actions Common to All Alternatives. Because the historic railroad grade no longer functions as a road, the feasibility of removing trees from the Giacomini Ranch-side of the Mesa is low under the No Action Alternative and Alternatives C-D and would be very difficult even with the tree clearing and eastern perimeter through-trail construction proposed under Alternatives A-B. Trees would have to be moved across Tomasini Creek to the East Pasture, and the ground surface in this area is extremely soft from long-term inundation such that it is likely that most appropriately sized trucks could become repeatedly mired in the mud. Removal of the relative few juvenile and adult eucalyptus trees growing on Tomasini Creek would be achieved by hauling out the cut-up material by foot to one of the north-south running ranch roads in this area.</p>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
C-116	The Park Service should assume management of the California State Lands parcels immediately north of the Project Area in order to better integrate management of those lands with management of the Project Area.
	<p><b>Response:</b> This lease issue is beyond the scope of the proposed project. The Park Service is not currently pursuing a lease for these lands. However, depending on the interest of CSLC, the Park Service may be interested in pursuing a lease of these lands in the future.</p>
C-117	<p><b>Sub-Topic (Hunting on Adjacent State Lands):</b> A few commenters urged the Park Service work with other agencies to prohibit hunting on California State Lands Commission (CSLC) lands to the north of the Giacomini Ranch. One commenter suggested that the hunting area be shifted northwards towards Inverness or even as far as Walker Creek to provide a reasonable buffer.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> This hunting issue is beyond the scope of the proposed project. However, in the future, the Park Service will discuss the issue with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), which has management authority over this CSLC property.</p>
C-118	The DEIS/R is inadequate because it does not provide estimated costs of the proposed alternatives and does not provide a cost/benefit analysis.
	<p><b>Response:</b> Inclusion of estimated costs and cost/benefit analysis is not a requirement of NEPA or CEQA. Reasonable alternatives" warranting detailed study are described in the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance as "those that are practical or feasible from the technical and economic standpoint and using common sense." Costs and economic viability are considered along with other factors in determining the reasonableness of alternatives. However, they are not necessarily used as factors to evaluate the potential impacts of proposed projects on</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	the "human environment." Impact topics chosen for evaluation are typically ones related to the physical and natural environment, although, under CEQA, social or socioeconomic topics are often incorporated, as well, if the proposed project would have some effect on the physical environment.
C-119	<p><b>Sub-Topic (Inclusion of Land Exchange in DEIS/EIR):</b> Several commenters commented upon the proposed land exchange between the Park Service and the Giacomini family. One commenter felt that the DEIS/EIR was inadequate, because it did not address the proposed property exchange. Another commenter felt that all the agriculturally zoned property in the Project Area should be in public ownership and that all infrastructure should be removed. One person questioned how the acquisition of the parcels along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard would impact Alternatives C or D.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The proposed land exchange was addressed in the DEIS/EIR as a separate project from the one proposed by the Park Service and CSLC and was listed in the table at the beginning of Chapter 4 that lists actions included in cumulative effects analysis. The project was titled Residential Home Development, C Street, even though a specific project has not been proposed, because the lands are zoned for residential development, and the reasonably foreseeable outcome of an exchange of Park Service C Street Lands for the remaining pastureland parcels still owned by the Giacomini is that homes would be developed along C Street. Inclusion of this reasonably foreseeable action in the cumulative effects analyses means that the potential impacts of each alternative (including Alternatives C and D) are considered in combination with those of the Residential Home Development for all of the impact topics addressed in the environmental document. To better clarify this in the FEIS/EIR, the proposed land exchange is now included as a separate project from Residential Home Development, C Street, and its cumulative impacts are analyzed separately from those of the reasonably foreseeable development of homes along C Street. Because of public comment, the Park Service and the Giacomini restructured the proposed land exchange agreement such that the Park Service would retain all agriculturally zoned parcels and tear down all of the buildings on Park Service lands proposed for exchange to the Giacomini family.</p>
C-120	<p><b>Sub-Topic (Inclusion of Park Service Property in Exchange Project in Restoration Project):</b> One commenter felt that the DEIS/EIR did not adequately explain why the Park Service property along C Street that is proposed for exchange for lands currently owned by the Giacomini family was excluded from the Giacomini purchase and why it was not considered integral to -- and included in -- the restoration project. This commenter felt that the Park Service should seek funding from a variety of federal and private funding sources to retain possession of the parcels west of C Street to be incorporated into the Project Area.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> As discussed under C-1 and C-55, the Park Service's MOU with CalTrans calls for a restoration of a significant portion of the Giacomini Ranch. However, it does not call for restoration of the entire ranch. In the purchase and in developing the proposed project, the planning team focused its efforts on where it felt that the limited dollars available for purchase and restoration could yield the most ecological benefit. For the most part, these were areas in the low-lying pastures or former historic coastal marsh areas that are not directly adjacent to existing residential, commercial, and agricultural development and areas that have not been subject to intensive historic impacts such as repeated fill events that would require extensive excavation and rehabilitation before they could be considered "restored." For this reason, the agencies elected not to focus their restoration efforts on the dairy facility parcels along C Street in Point Reyes Station that have been subject to repeated fill activities, disturbance from dairy activities, and are directly adjacent to the town of Point Reyes Station, which would increase the likelihood of wildlife disturbance from people and domestic and feral animals. These were some of the reasons that the Park Service elected to enter discussions with the Giacomini family to exchange some of these parcels for low-lying pasturelands that were considered to have more existing ecological value as part of a separate project that is discussed in the DEIS/EIR under Cumulative Impacts in Chapter 4.</p>
C-121	<p>We would encourage the Park Service to continue to fund ongoing monitoring at a high level in order to track progress of the restoration actions and to allow for ongoing adaptations as needed.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> The Park Service has developed a long-term monitoring program for the proposed project. As part of this monitoring project, the Park Service has been conducting pre-restoration</p>

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	monitoring to establish baseline conditions and is proposing to continue monitoring after restoration is completed. Monitoring would be conducted frequently during the first 5- to 7 years post-implementation to document what is expected to be a fairly rapid evolution of the managed pasturelands into natural wetlands shaped by natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions. Between Year 7 and Year 20, monitoring is proposed for Year 10, Year 15, and Year 20 to document changes in processes and functions that are expected to take longer to evolve. Monies have been secured to fund at least the first few years of monitoring of changes in wildlife and water quality and other variables directly or indirectly related to hydrology such as invertebrates, algae, and sediment deposition, but additional funding would be needed to fund other variables and the later years of monitoring.
C-122	Who is responsible for maintenance and law enforcement on any trails established within the Project Area?
	<b>Response:</b> The Park Service's Law Enforcement Division is responsible law enforcement on Park Service-owned lands within the Project Area, with backup, when needed, from the Marin County Sheriff's Office. Law enforcement on lands not owned by the Park Service would fall to the Marin County Sheriff's Office. Maintenance of trails on Park Service-owned lands would fall to the Park Service's Roads and Trails Division. Maintenance of trails that are not on Park Service-owned lands would fall either to the land owner or lessee: in the case of White House Pool and Green Bridge County parks, it would be the County of Marin Parks and Open Space District.
C-123	The Park Service should bury existing overhead utility lines between Point Reyes Station and Inverness Park.
	<b>Response:</b> The utility lines do not fall on Park Service lands. Most of the utility lines have been placed in the right-of-way for County of Marin roads. Burying of overhead power lines would be under the jurisdiction of the utility and the County of Marin.
C-124	Change the name of the site from "Waldo Giacomini Wetland" to "Tomales Bay Wetland."
	<b>Response:</b> As a condition of the purchase agreement with the Giacomini family, the Park Service agreed to name the restored wetland after Waldo Giacomini, the founder of the Giacomini Ranch dairy.
C-125	Disposal of dredged materials within PRNS may impact rare plants and introduce invasive plants. Mitigation measures should be implemented.
	<b>Response:</b> The Park Service is handling restoration of the quarries with imported materials as a separate project. It is listed in Chapter 4 as one of the Actions Included in the Cumulative Effects Analysis. Hauling of excavated sediments to the quarry is incorporated into this FEIS/EIR. The Seashore has prepared extensive maps showing the locations of rare plants with respect to the quarries and is in the process of refining the wetland delineations. Most of the potential impact would occur with hauling to the McClure DG quarry. The impact analysis for Vegetation Resources addresses potential impacts to wetlands and special status plant species, including proposed mitigation measures to either avoid or minimize those impacts. In terms of introducing invasive plants, the preliminary restoration plan involves disposal of imported materials at the bottom of the quarry, with grading of adjacent surface soils used to provide a "cover" or topsoil layer of sufficient depth to bury seeds and vegetative propagules of non-native invasive plant species and thereby preclude their establishment.
<b>Permitting</b>	
C-126	<b>Concern Statement (Additional Permits or Consultations That May Be Required):</b> Several commenting agencies suggested that the agencies would need to seek additional permits or consultations other than those noted in the DEIS/EIR: These included: 1) consultation with Bay Area Air Quality Management District; 2) Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary; 3) State National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES); 4) California Endangered Species Act; and 5) Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. The CESA would require CEQA documentation, including specified impacts, mitigation measures, and a mitigation and monitoring reporting program.
	<b>Response:</b> The agencies have incorporated the need for these permits or consultations into the

TABLE 103. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT AND RESPONSE FROM LEAD AGENCIES	
Comment Number	Description of Concern Statement or Comment
	planning process, as is now reflected in the revised Chapter 5 of the FEIS/EIR. A mitigation and monitoring program has been developed and included as an appendix in the FEIS/EIR.
C-127	The State Department of Conservation cannot concur with a finding that a conversion of the East and West Pastures to non-agricultural uses would be less than significant unless additional clarifying detail is provided. Also, the DEIS/EIR indicates that there may be additional acquisitions that would expand the Wildlife Area in the future, but does not elaborate. Any future acquisition would require additional environmental documentation, and we ask that we receive a copy of the documents for our review and comment.
	<b>Response:</b> After further discussion with the State Department of Conservation officials, the agencies have incorporated a separate memorandum detailing the results of the LESA as an appendix in the FEIS/EIR. This appendix should provide the necessary information which the State Department of Conservation can use to conclude that the impacts to non-agricultural uses would be less than significant. There would be no further acquisitions as a part of the proposed project.
C-128	Does the Park Service have an estimated date for when California Coastal Commission consistency determination submittal will occur?
	<b>Response:</b> The Coastal Commission consistency determination submittal would occur concurrently with production of the FEIS/EIR.

## **Section 2**

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### ***Directory of Responses to Comments***





DIRECTORY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Letter Number	Organization	Comments
<b>Agency Correspondance</b>		
1.	California Coastal Commission	128
2.	California Regional Water Quality Control Board	34 121 126
3.	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	16 37 38 45 46 47 121 126
4.	North Marin Water District	8 20 40 48 49 50 51 52 53 54
5.	Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District	17 111
6.	County of Marin Department of Public Works	18 33 34 89 91 93 100 101 104 106 107 108
7.	County of Marin Department of Parks and Open Space	21 29 88 91 101 102 104
8.	State Department of Conservation	10 34 127
9.	State California Department of Fish and Game	126
10.	United States Environmental Protection Agency	11 113 126
<b>Organization Correspondance</b>		
11.	California Native Plant Society	2 14 55 125
12.	Environmental Action Committee of Marin	2 4 9 15 82 94 124
13.	Marin County Bicycle Coalition; Sierra Club, Marin Chapter; Community Pathways Committee; Access 4 Bikes	5 88 89 91 92
14.	Point Reyes Lodging Association	5 89
15.	Point Reyes Village Association	14 18 22 27 43 44 64 82 93 94 96 103
16.	Sierra Club, Marin Chapter	12 15 20 21 59 64 65 66 68 91 93 96 103 105 117
17.	Tomales Bay Association	5 66 72 75 83 85 89 92 94 102
<b>Individual Correspondance</b>		
18.	Adler-Ivanbrook, Leslie	11 12 31 32 60 77 78 88 94 95 102 109 110 112
19.	Akers, Ellery	4 23 96

DIRECTORY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Letter Number	Organization	Comments
20.	Allen, Doris	4 96 122
21.	Anderson, Sonja	60 82
22.	Barlow, Harriet	2 4 96
23.	Barry, Coelyn	2 4
24.	Barry, Kai	2 4 18
25.	Barry, Hathaway	4 14 18 93 96
26.	Barry, Hathaway, and other Point Reyes Mesa Residents	4 93 96 122
27.	Bartlett, Julia	60 96
28.	Baty, Thomas	60 94 117
29.	Beatty, Elizabeth	86
30.	Becker, Elsie	4
31.	Becker, John	2
32.	Benzinger, Lee	2 4 95
33.	Black, Winston	94
34.	Blake, Tupper	4 95
35.	Bochte, Bruce	2 4
36.	Brayton, Susan	34 95
37.	Brostrom, Margaret	4
38.	Buquen, Sharon	96
39.	Carlitz, Barbara	60
40.	Caufield, Catherine	2 27
41.	Chisholm, Graham and Cash, Kelly	79 80 155
42.	Chernin, Kim	2 4 22
43.	Clements, Kay	18 88 101
44.	Coles, Gerry	6 7 19 35 36 41 81 91 97 101 118
45.	de Laszio, Kathryn	94
46.	Deutsch, Barbara	2 14
47.	Deutch, Barry	2 8

DIRECTORY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Letter Number	Organization	Comments
48.	Dickenson, Ann	2 4
49.	Durrant, Cornelia	14 101 103
50.	Durrie, Mike	2 4
51.	Eastman, Don and Barbara	2 4
52.	Eckhart, Alice	2 14 94 96
53.	Eckhart, Chuck	66
54.	Eichstaedt, Amanda	5 42 82 83 92 97
55.	Eisenberg, Bart	2 4 14
56.	Enquist, Gayanne	4 119
57.	Evens, Jules	2 64 124
58.	Faulk, Tom	94
59.	Felix, Jeff and Bonnie	96
60.	Fleming, Randall	18 26 73 96
61.	Forester, Lynne and Phil	14 94
62.	Fox, Kenneth	72 83 87 92 94 97 102
63.	Fradkin, Phillip	61 94 117
64.	Franklin, Louise	2 4 95
65.	Freidman, Carol	5
66.	Gaman, Tom	18
67.	Gessert, Ann	2 82
68.	Gilliam, Aaron	5 10
69.	Goldfield, Joyce	60 94
70.	Gouldthorpe, John	60
71.	Greenbaum, Ann	2 123
72.	Greenlees, Gail	60 85 94 101
73.	Griffin, Anthony	2
74.	Haner, Doug	18 94
75.	Healy, Patricia	2 14

DIRECTORY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Letter Number	Organization	Comments
76.	Henderson, Susanna	95
77.	Hildreth, Bob	57 82 83
78.	Holland, Wade	60
79.	Hope, Madeline	5 110
80.	Jaffe, Louis	60 115
81.	Johnson, Rick	2 3 14 15 34 51 61 67 74 86 93 95
82.	Kaufman, Nathan	30
83.	Killion, Tom	61
84.	Kirshman, Richard	5
85.	Kriss, Jane	2 95
86.	Kutter, Rhonda	90 93 94 103
87.	Larkin, Donna	28 87 90 94 95 119
88.	Lawson, Kevin	82
89.	Leeds, Vicki	60 94
90.	Lesli, Ellen	2 14
91.	Levin, Ken	2 4 22 94
92.	Levy, Diane	2 4 60
93.	Linder, Linda	60
94.	Linville, Michael	60
95.	Linville, Ruth	60
96.	Livingston, Dewey	22 65 87 90 94 97
97.	Long, John	103
98.	Lopez, John	60
99.	Lopez, Ruth	60
100.	Luzzi, Lisa	4 60
101.	Masonson, Melanie	2 60
102.	Mayer, Kathleen	60 103
103.	McClaskey, Michael	27 39 87 93 94 95 114



DIRECTORY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Letter Number	Organization	Comments
104.	McEneaney, Trish	83 89 123
105.	McKee, Phillip	95
106.	Meicher, Nell	60
107.	Mery, Connie	94
108.	Mery, Michael	2 64 94 102 103 116 119
109.	Mitchell, Bridger	89 115
110.	Monson, Jim	60
111.	Mooney, Sharon	2 64 94 102 103 116 119
112.	Morgan, Charlie	60
113.	Morgenstern, Marjorie	2
114.	Moser, Mary	14 122
115.	Nordbye, Terry	2 4 18 22 94 96
116.	Plant, Richard	5
117.	Prince, Susan	14 15 94
118.	Quinn, Tom and Jeri	13 15 26 69 74 75 108
119.	Reding, Chris	18
120.	Ridge, Lisa	60
121.	Ridge, Russell and Margaret	2
122.	Rodoni, Dennis and Judy	2
123.	Roe, Kenn	23
124.	Ropers, Mary	2 22 94
125.	Ross, Pamela and Gay, Charles	2 60 103
126.	Rowe, Jonathan	4 19 90 96 98
127.	Hanson, Nancy	5 70 84
128.	Sakellar, John	4 15 96
129.	Sakellar, Marianne	2 96 122
130.	Sakellar, Nancy	3 23 88
131.	Schwartz, Wendy	2

DIRECTORY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

Letter Number	Organization	Comments
132.	Schweig, Rishi	60 71 89 94 96
133.	Selchie, Moreva	60 96
134.	Severitti, Marie	22 27 86 94 96 103
135.	Seymore, Susan and Graham, Lawrence	2 4
136.	Stein, Nancy	5 56 94 102 103
137.	Strauss, Emilie	2 4 14 64 94 95 114 124
138.	Strauss, George	4 60
139.	Wallop, Hunter and Willow	62 63
140.	Walters, Tanis	56 63 94 115
141.	Weisenberg, Linda	90
142.	Wheelwright, Betty	2 4 10 34 96 102 103
143.	White, Geoff and Dorothy	60
144.	Whitman, Kitty	4 60 115
145.	Whitt, Michael and Barbara	2 4 14
146.	Wilson, Maria	10 96
147.	Wright, Douglas and Hames-Wright, Lillian	1 22 24 26 75 102 119 120
148.	Anonymous 1	82
149.	Anonymous 2	60 88
150.	Anonymous 3	6 15 94
151.	Anonymous 4	6 10 18
152.	Anonymous 5	4 93

## **Section 3**

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*Original Comments*



## **Public Agency Comments**

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**Don Neubacher**

01/09/2007 09:13 AM PST

To: Lorraine Parsons/PORE/NPS@NPS, Brannon Ketcham/PORE/NPS@NPS  
cc: Ann Nelson/PORE/NPS@NPS  
Subject: Fw: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

FYI

---

Don Neubacher  
Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

415-464-5101 (office)  
415-233-0303 (cell)  
415-663-8132 (fax)

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

----- Forwarded by Don Neubacher/PORE/NPS on 01/09/2007 09:13 AM -----



**"Larry Simon"**

[lsimon@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:lsimon@coastal.ca.gov)

01/09/2007 09:04 AM PST

To: <[John\\_A\\_Dell'Osso@nps.gov](mailto:John_A_Dell'Osso@nps.gov)>  
cc: <[Don\\_neubacher@nps.gov](mailto:Don_neubacher@nps.gov)>  
Subject: RE: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Don - That plan sounds good. Thanks for the quick reply and confirmation. We'll get comments to you by 14 Feb in order to alert you on any issues/concerns we might have on the project. Best regards,

Larry

-----Original Message-----

From: Don\_Neubacher@nps.gov [mailto:[Don\\_Neubacher@nps.gov](mailto:Don_Neubacher@nps.gov)] On Behalf Of John\_A\_Dell'Osso@nps.gov  
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2007 4:11 PM  
To: Larry Simon  
Cc: Lorraine\_Parsons@nps.gov; Brannon\_Ketcham@nps.gov; don\_neubacher@nps.gov  
Subject: Re: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Larry, depending on amount of public comments, due in to us by mid-February, we will prepared the consistency determination this spring/early summer. Based on our informal conversation during the meeting we had with you in our Regional Office, you prefer some indication of public concerns before the Federal Consistency determination is prepared; we will include it in the Final EIS/EIR. Is this okay with you?

Don


**John A Dell'Osso**

Sent by: Don Neubacher

01/08/2007 04:10 PM PST

To: lsimon@coastal.ca.gov

cc: Lorraine Parsons/PORE/NPS@NPS, Brannon Ketcham/PORE/NPS@NPS,  
don\_neubacher@nps.gov

Subject: Re: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan 

Larry, depending on amount of public comments, due in to us by mid-February, we will prepared the consistency determination this spring/early summer. Based on our informal conversation during the meeting we had with you in our Regional Office, you prefer some indication of public concerns before the Federal Consistency determination is prepared; we will include it in the Final EIS/EIR. Is this okay with you?

Don

lsimon@coastal.ca.gov



**lsimon@coastal.ca.gov**

01/08/2007 03:08 PM EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov

cc:

Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

The California Coastal Commission received on December 19, 2006, a copy of the electronic version of the November 2006 Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project DEIS/EIR. Commission staff comments on the document will be submitted to the NPS prior to the February 14, 2007, comment deadline. Comments will focus on relevant Coastal Act policies and jurisdictional issues (given the statement on Page 17 of the document that "... as this is a joint federal and state project, it must comply with all applicable state and local legislation on state- and county-owned lands.").

The purpose of this e-mail is to obtain confirmation from the NPS that a federal consistency determination is not contained within the Draft EIS/EIR. The Draft EIS/EIR states on Page 16 that submittal of a consistency determination to the Commission would occur "subsequent to preparation of the environmental document." Does the NPS have an estimated date for when this submittal will occur?

Sincerely,

Larry Simon Federal Consistency Coordinator California Coastal Commission 45 Fremont St.,  
Suite 2000 San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 904-5288 Fax: (415) 904-5400

lsimon@coastal.ca.gov www.coastal.ca.gov

lsimon@coastal.ca

.gov To:  
pore\_planning@nps.gov

cc:

01/08/2007 03:08 Subject: From NPS.gov:  
Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan  
PM EST

Email submitted from:  
/pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

The California Coastal Commission received on December 19, 2006, a copy of the electronic version of the November 2006 Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project DEIS/EIR. Commission staff comments on the document will be submitted to the NPS prior to the February 14, 2007, comment deadline. Comments will focus on relevant Coastal Act policies and jurisdictional issues (given the statement on Page 17 of the document that "... as this is a joint federal and state project, it must comply with all applicable state and local legislation on state- and county-owned lands.").

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Sincerely,

Larry Simon Federal Consistency Coordinator California Coastal  
Commission  
45 Fremont St., Suite 2000 San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 904-5288 Fax:  
(415) 904-5400 lsimon@coastal.ca.gov www.coastal.ca.gov



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Francisco Bay Region



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612  
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

February 14, 2007  
File No. 2158.04 (drh)

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Re: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft EIS/EIR for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project. We believe this is an extremely valuable and important project that would restore a significant wetland ecosystem and restore natural hydrologic processes to Lagunitas Creek. Although alternative D proposes somewhat more total restoration acreage, we are willing to endorse the preferred alternative C as having high water quality and ecological value while maintaining some amenities for public access and education, which are a key part of this restoration project. This alternative would fully restore the Giacomini East and West Pastures as well as restoration of Olema Marsh. We support restoration of Olema Marsh as part of the overall project; in spite of some initial adverse impacts of increased nutrients and lowered water quality, we agree that the long-term result would be beneficial.

We would like to compliment the Park Service on doing a very thorough and well-researched job of analyzing the potential impacts of the project actions and using scientific studies to anticipate the potential impacts, as well as to define proposed mitigation actions. We are confident that the Park Service's proposed ongoing adaptive management actions can ensure a successful project.

It would be very helpful for the DEIS/EIR to include a table comparing the acreages restored, feet of levee removed, and other restoration parameters among the different proposed alternatives, as this is difficult to pull out from all of the information provided.

We would encourage the Park Service to continue to fund ongoing monitoring at a high level in order to track progress of the restoration actions and to allow for ongoing adaptations as needed. It would also be helpful to have the monitoring plan included as part of the DEIR/EIS.



In general, it should be noted that the Regional Water Quality Control Board has the following authorities relevant to the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project:

Water Quality Certification/WDRs: Under Clean Water Act section 404, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issues permits to regulate discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the United States. CWA section 401 allows states to deny or grant water quality certification for any activity that may result in a discharge to waters of the United States and that requires a Federal permit or license. Certification requires a finding by the Regional Board that, over the term of the permit, there is reasonable assurance that the proposed discharge will not violate water quality standards. Water quality standards include the designated beneficial uses of the receiving water, water quality criteria for those waters, and an anti-degradation policy. Certification must be consistent with the requirements of the Federal CWA, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), and the Regional Board's mandate to protect beneficial uses of waters of the State under Porter-Cologne. The Board may also issue Waste Discharge Requirements under its Porter-Cologne authority in conjunction with 401 Certification.

Storm Water Construction General Permit: Projects disturbing 1 or more acres of land during construction must be covered under the State National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (General Permit). This can be accomplished by filing a Notice of Intent with the State Water Resources Control Board. The project sponsor must propose and implement control measures both during and following construction that are consistent with the General Permit and with the recommendations and policies of the local agency and the Regional Board.

If you have any questions, please contact Dale Hopkins at (510) 622-2362, or via e-mail at [dhopkins@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dhopkins@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Wil K. Bruhns, Chief  
North Bay Watershed Division

Cc: Marla Lafer, RWQCB  
Andree Breaux, RWQCB



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Mailing: Fort Mason Bldg. 201 San Francisco, CA 94123  
Phone: (415) 561-6622 FAX: (415) 561-6616

RECEIVED  
Point Reyes

FEB 1 2007

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SUPT.
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEC. PK. USES
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAW ENFORC.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAT. RES.
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE CONS.
<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRE MGT.
<input type="checkbox"/>	INTERP.
<input type="checkbox"/>	CULT. RES.
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTRACTING
<input type="checkbox"/>	PERSONNEL
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUDGET
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CENTRAL FILES

February 12, 2007

ATTN: Don Neubacher  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/DEIR  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Rd.  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

**RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Report (DEIS/EIR) for the  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project**

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Report (DEIS/EIR) for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project (Proposed Project), dated November 2006. GFNMS, in coordination with other federal, state and local agencies and governments manages the waters and submerged lands of Tomales Bay to the mean high tide, including the tidal waters and submerged lands currently

All comments provided herein discuss GFNMS' analysis of the alternatives, focus on the impacts from this project to GFNMS, and examine the need for the inclusion and clarification of GFNMS jurisdiction and regulations throughout the DEIS/EIR.

The DEIS/EIR has identified Alternative C as the preferred alternative. GFNMS recognizes that Alternative C meets the Proposed Project purpose of restoring natural hydrologic processes within a significant portion of the area, and it meets the three project objectives. If Alternative C is selected as the preferred alternative for the Final EIS/EIR, the Proposed Project will result in overall positive benefits to water quality, benthic habitat and wildlife resources within Tomales Bay and the boundaries of GFNMS. This includes a positive change in sedimentation patterns in the southern portion of Tomales Bay and benefits to salmonid species by increasing access to potential habitat for feeding and shelter. GFNMS further recognizes that Park Service Management Policies aim to provide opportunities for appropriate public enjoyment and allow for educational, recreational, scientific, and similar purposes that do not disrupt wetland functions. Alternative C seems to provide several points of public access within the Proposed Project area, including the possible future construction of a trail that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Although Alternative C meets the proposed goal and objectives of the DEIS/EIR, GFNMS believes that Alternative D – Extensive Restoration of the Giacomini Ranch East



Pasture, Full Restoration of the West Pasture, and Restoration of Olema Marsh with Limited Public Access -- will more fully meet the project purpose and main goal of restoring natural hydrological processes in several distinctive ways.

First, the southern end of the East Pasture would be excavated to bring elevations down to tidal elevations. This will result in an increased area of tidal exchange equaling almost six acres, which over the long-term could cause an increase in the potential extent of area inundated by tides, particularly in the East Pasture as stated in the analysis of Alternative D in Chapter 4. The increase in the extent of the area can result in a greater restoration opportunity for historic aquatic habitat in Tomales Bay, especially in light of the fact that sedimentation throughout Tomales Bay has increased over time causing loss of key tidal mudflat habitat. In addition, there would be excavation of even more new tidal channels in the East Pasture, and these increases in total area of tidal exchange could increase the area of aquatic edge and rearing habitat more than Alternative C.

Second, Tomasini Creek would be fully realigned into one of its historic channel alignments and the undersized culverts at Mesa Road would be replaced. These actions could result in the creation of additional passage potential beyond Alternative C for steelhead and coho salmon through Tomasini Creek; could have some additional beneficial effects on water quality in Tomasini Creek by replacing the existing culvert; and according to the analysis in Chapter 4, the realignment could eliminate potential contributions of nutrients and pathogens from the worker housing adjacent to Tomasini Creek.

REVISED DRAFT SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC REVIEW IN OCTOBER 2006. One of the five proposed issue-based action plans calls for the prevention, detection, management, and where feasible, eradication of new and established introduced species in the Sanctuary. The action plan also noted that introduced species have been identified in and around Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary waters and have the potential to cause ecological and economic degradation to the affected coastal areas. If detection, prevention, and eradication efforts are not taken, further introduction and spread of introduced species will continue in and adjacent to the Sanctuary and potentially impact Sanctuary resources. In addition, GFNMS has proposed new regulations that would prohibit the introduction of introduced species. Alternative D is the most consistent with the proposed changes to the GFNMS Management Plan and the proposed new regulations, and would have the greatest positive impact in the removal and control of invasive species.

Forth, under Alternative D, the analysis in Chapter 4 concludes that there would be no installation or construction of infrastructure that would impede hydrologic processes. Since GFNMS regulations prohibit or otherwise regulate activities that involve constructing any structure, drilling through the seabed, and dredging or otherwise altering the seabed in any way (15 CFR, Chapter IX, Subpart H), Alternative D is most consistent with GFNMS regulations.

Finally, Alternative D is also consistent with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). GFNMS was designated pursuant to the NMSA, the purposes and policies of which include maintaining the natural biological communities, and protecting and where appropriate, restoring and enhancing natural habitats, populations, and ecological processes (16 U.S.C. §1431 et seq.).

Through regulation, GFNMS prohibits certain activities that are inconsistent with the goals, objectives, mandates and policies of the NMSA.

The DEIS/EIR identifies GFNMS as an agency that has been consulted with and collaborated on the Proposed Project. We believe the DEIS/EIR environmental review process should also consider and include the jurisdiction, boundaries, policies and regulations of GFNMS. GFNMS should be described in the Final EIS/EIR as one of the entities that is charged with protecting the tidal wetlands, including the tidal waters of the Proposed Project area, which, once inundated, would also be waters and submerged lands of GFNMS.

GFNMS jurisdiction, boundaries, policies and regulations must be considered in evaluation of future adaptive management options within the tidal waters of the Proposed Project area, and in the full implementation of the restoration project. Adaptive management measures must consider activities prohibited, permitted or otherwise regulated by GFNMS. These activities include discharging or depositing any material or matter, constructing structures, drilling through the seabed, dredging or altering the seabed, or removing or damaging any historical or cultural resource (15 CFR, Chapter IX, Subpart H).

Tomales Bay is a significant diverse biological community that includes subtidal channels and eelgrass beds, mudflat intertidal substrates, salt marsh and upland marsh. It is clear from the description of the affected environment in the DEIS/EIR that Tomales Bay is one of the most ecologically significant estuarine areas in the State of California, that it provides critical habitat for numerous species, and that the Project Area provides both tidal and freshwater hydrologic <sup>The text below provides comments on specific additions and deletions to the DEIS/EIR as proposed by GFNMS. Strikethrough text is proposed for deletion. Text in [brackets] is proposed for addition.</sup>

### **Executive Summary**

**Introduction, Page i** – Add the following sentences to the end of paragraph 4: New tidal waters within the project area will also provide the added protection as the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS). GFNMS manages the waters of Tomales Bay to the mean high tide. As the natural hydrologic processes are restored to the project area, GFNMS regulations will apply to all waters within the mean high tide.

- This information should be noted throughout the DEIS/EIR. It is important for the public to understand that any project alternative adopted other than the “No Action” alternative would result in the added protection of the mandates of the NMSA and GFNMS regulations.

**Need for Action, Tomales Bay Degraded by Pollution and Other Impacts, Page v** – Move the following sentences with proposed changes to the beginning of the section below titled, “Restoring Wetlands Can Improve Health of the Bay”: Because of its importance to wildlife, Tomales Bay is not only part of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, [the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary], and a California Critical Coastal Area. ~~but~~ [I]n [September] 2002, it was ~~nominated as~~ [designated] a “Wetland of International Importance” under an international



treaty called the Convention on Wetlands (commonly known as the Ramsar Convention). Tomales Bay is also....(Kelly 2001).

- These last sentences of this section should be changed and moved because this information is more closely related to the need for restoration to improve the health of Tomales Bay. The section before discusses pollution and other impacts, whereas the designation of Tomales Bay as important for biological reasons can be better linked to the need for restoration.

**Special Status Species, Central California Coast Steelhead, Coastal California Chinook Salmon, and Central California Coast Coho Salmon, Page xxxv** – Check the accuracy of the following sentences in paragraph 4: Over the short-term, restoration actions would result in negligible (3 percent; No Action Alternative) to moderate increases (31 percent; Alternatives C and D) in the amount of tidal channel perimeter or total aquatic edge available for salmonids. However, as restored marshes and created tidal channels mature, benefits to salmonids would increase over the long-term, with moderate beneficial effects expected under Alternatives A and B and major beneficial effects, under Alternatives C and D.

- The analysis of Alternative D in Chapter 4 on Page 428 states that there will be excavation of even more new tidal channels in the East Pasture. In addition, on Page 543, the analysis states that the additional tidal channel creation in the East Pasture could increase rearing habitat. Since Alternative D calls for the excavation of the Southwestern Portion of the East Pasture to tidal elevations and the excavation of even more new tidal concludes that both Alternative C and D show a 31% increase in aquatic edge habitat. However, the details of the analysis seem to be inconsistent with this conclusion in the Executive Summary. This inconsistency needs to be clarified in the Final EIS/EIR.

**Consultation and Coordination, Value Analysis, Page xvii** - Change the following sentence: Value Analysis attendees included a broad range of technical experts from both within the Seashore and the GGNRA, as well as from other parks and agencies, including CSLC, [and] Marin County Department of Public Works, and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

- In August 2005, the Park Service and CSLC held a Value Analysis process to ensure that it had developed a reasonable range of alternatives that met the screening criteria identified above and were cost-effective and to select a preliminary preferred alternative (Alternative C) for analysis in the environmental document. The Park Service Ocean Superintendent who is also the liaison to the National Marine Sanctuary program was in attendance. However, GFNMS staff were not present at this meeting and did not choose Alternative C as the preferred alternative. GFNMS staff were involved in securing some of the initial funding, and worked in coordination and consultation with Park Service staff and the Ocean Superintendent during the scoping process and the workshop. GFNMS reviewed the range of alternatives at several meetings in 2005, but staff were not involved in the selection of Alternative C as the preferred alternative. As explained above, GFNMS supports the selection of Alternative D as the preferred alternative.

## **CHAPTER 1. Purpose and Need for Action**

**Introduction, Page 1** – Change and add the following to the last sentence in paragraph 4: The Park Service and CLSL have also been working collaboratively [on the development of the range of alternatives] with the County of Marin Public Works Department and the County of Marin Parks and Open Space District, as well as the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, whose jurisdiction extends into the southern portion of Tomales Bay [and whose boundary is defined by the mean high tide].

- The first addition to this sentence clarifies that GFNMS helped develop the range of alternatives, but did not provide the Park with advice on selection of the preferred alternative. The second addition clarifies the extent of GFNMS jurisdiction.

### **Project Purpose and Relationship to Park Service Mission and Policies, Background, Page 8-9**

- The entire background section only discusses the Park's intent to preserve, conserve and restore the project area. This background is directly connected to the project purpose and the first two project objectives identified in the plan. The background does not discuss the Park Service Mission to provide opportunities for appropriate public enjoyment or the relevant Park Service Management Policies that seek to enhance natural wetland values by using them for educational, recreational, scientific, and similar purposes. Without this added information, the background seems inconsistent with the third objective to objective three which sites policies that were adopted in 2006, after project scoping and after the Value Analysis team selected an alternative. Without additional justification in the background, objective three can be interpreted as a secondary objective. If this is the case, then the selection of the preferred alternative should consider the ranking of each objective.

**Legislative and Policy Guidance and Other Considerations Used in Developing Purpose and Alternatives, Other Considerations, Page 18** – Add a new section titled "Adaptive Management Considerations," and add the following text to that section: The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary will become an active management agency in the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project if tidal wetlands are restored to the project area. The waters and submerged lands of the Project area would also be part of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary shoreward boundary follows the mean high tide line of Tomales Bay and its jurisdiction overlaps with the CSLC and NPS. The Sanctuary prohibits or otherwise regulates activities related to discharging or depositing any material or matter, constructing structures, drilling through the seabed, dredging or altering the seabed, or removing or damaging any historical or cultural resource (15 CFR, Chapter IX, Subpart H).

- Although it is clear that the National Marine Sanctuary Act and GFNMS regulations were not considered "instrumental to developing the project purpose, alternative framework, and design of restoration and public access actions," this language helps the public



understand that GFNMS will have overlapping management authority with the tidal portions of the proposed project. Furthermore, additional impacts through adaptive management can come from the construction of future facilities, including construction of a bridge or pedestrian trail system. GFNMS regulations must be considered and the appropriate consultations must be made with GFNMS once the implementation process expands the tidal waters of Tomales Bay into the Proposed Project area. Consideration of all GFNMS regulations, including regulatory changes currently proposed through the GFNMS management plan review process, must be clarified in the Final EIS/EIR.

## **CHAPTER 2. Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative**

**The Preferred Alternative, Page 96** – Change the second sentence in the paragraph: The preferred alternative was selected during the Value Analysis process by the Value Analysis team, which was comprised of Park Service and staff from other lead or partner agencies such as the CSLC, [and] the County of Marin, ~~and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.~~

- As stated in previous comments GFNMS staff were not involved in the selection of Alternative C as the preferred alternative.

## **CHAPTER 3. Affected Environment**

~~the boundary of the Sanctuary will extend into the Proposed Project area. Based on this assumption, there are two places within this section that should include GFNMS Regulations:~~

- 1) Page 165 – Add a new section titled “Regulatory and Policy Setting” under the Soil Resources and Wetland Functionality section. This section should discuss GFNMS prohibitions and regulatory authority related to construction or alteration of the seabed.
- 2) Page 206 – Add current GFNMS prohibitions and regulatory authority related discharges into Sanctuary waters to the “Regulatory and Policy Setting” Section.

**Project Setting, Regional and Park Context, Page 128** - Change the second sentence in the last paragraph: Adjacent to the park are areas managed by Audubon Canyon Ranch, Marin Municipal Water District, Tomales Bay and Samuel P. Taylor State Parks, and Marin County Open Space District lands. Marine boundaries are shared with the Gulf of the Farallones ~~and the Cordell Banks National Marine [Sanctuary] Sanctuaries~~ and Tomales Bay State Park.

- Cordell Bank Sanctuary does not share any marine boundaries with the Park.

**Land Use and Planning, Park Management and Zoning, Page 132** – Add the following to the last paragraph: The boundary for the [Gulf of the] Farallones National Marine Sanctuary extends into the southern portion of Tomales Bay [and is defined as the mean high tide of Tomales Bay. The boundary of the Sanctuary will extend into the Proposed Project area if the adopted

alternative results in additional tidal exchange.]

- This addition clarifies the jurisdiction of the Sanctuary.

#### **CHAPTER 4. Environmental Consequences**

**Land Use Planning, Laws Regulations, Policies and Criteria Guiding Impact Analysis, Page 340** – Add the following to the first sentence of the first paragraph: Tomales Bay and the Point Reyes region falls within a complex, multi-jurisdictional region, with lands in a variety of ownership, including private, County, local water districts, state agencies (State Land[s] Commission, s[S]tate p[P]arks, ~~Wildlife Conservation Board~~, CalTrans), and federal agencies such as the Park Service, [Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary] and the U.S. Coast Guard.

- The state agencies listed in parenthesis include an entity that is not a state agency. In addition, there are several small typos related to the names of the agencies. The federal agencies list excludes GFNMS.

**Fish and Wildlife Resources, Alternative D, Central California coast steelhead, coastal California Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) Chinook salmon, and central California coast coho ESU salmon, Page 543** – Clarify how the last sentence in Paragraph 2 would or would not result in the same percentage of aquatic edge habitat in Giacomini Ranch in

- As stated above in the discussion of salmonid section of the Executive Summary, the analysis of Alternative C in Chapter 4 concludes on Page 533 that Alternative C shows a 31% increase in aquatic edge habitat. This conclusion is repeated in the Executive Summary, but also states that Alternative D draws the same conclusion. However, the details of the analysis seem to be inconsistent with this conclusion. There is clearly an increase in tidal channel habitat and “rearing” habitat in Alternative D. A logical conclusion should be that the total percentage of aquatic edge habitat should also increase. If the total aquatic edge habitat does not increase, the analysis of Alternative D falls short of informing the reader why or how this is possible. This inconsistency needs to be clarified in the Final EIS/EIR.

#### **CHAPTER 5. Consultation and Coordination**

**Project Planning and Scoping, Identification of Lead and Other Interested Agencies, Page 641** – Change the second sentence in the paragraph: The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, whose jurisdiction includes Tomales Bay, [and whose jurisdiction will also include the tidal range on the proposed project to the mean high tide if a restoration alternative is chosen,] actively participated in the negotiations with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) that eventually led to the agreement for CalTrans to transfer mitigation obligations to the Park Service in exchange for

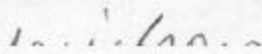
providing monies for acquisition and restoration of the Giacomini Ranch.

- This addition will clarify GFNMS interest in the proposed project.

**Additional Information Gathering Efforts, Value Analysis, Page 644**, - Change the third sentence in the paragraph: Value Analysis attendees included a broad range of technical experts from both within the Seashore and the GGNRA, as well as from other parks and agencies, including CSLC, [and] Marin County Department of Public Works, ~~and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.~~

GFNMS commends the National Park Service and California State Lands Commission in providing an adequate range of alternatives with a clear goal, and specific objectives that were developed through the public process and looks forward to working with you as an active partner when implementation of the Proposed Project begins. GFNMS appreciates this opportunity to comment on the DEIS/EIR and can provide additional information as needed for the issuance of the Final EIS/EIR. Please contact Karen Reyna at 415-561-6622 x208 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Sanctuary Superintendent

cc: Superintendent Brian O'Neil



# NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

999 RUSH CREEK PLACE • POST OFFICE BOX 146 • NOVATO, CALIFORNIA 94948 • (415) 897-4133

February 7, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project DEIS/DEIR  
File No. 731.9.02

Point Reyes National Seashore	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEC. PK. USES
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<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE CONS.
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<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTRACTING
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<input type="checkbox"/>	CENTRAL FILES

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS/DEIR) for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project. The District has had an opportunity to review the DEIS/DEIR and offers the following comments:

### General Comment

North Marin Water District (North Marin or NMWD) provides domestic water service to Point Reyes Station, Olema, Bear Valley, Inverness Park, Paradise Ranch Estates and Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters. All water supplied to these areas meets Safe Drinking Water Standards as regulated by California Department of Health Services and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The community water supply is from shallow wells adjacent to Lagunitas Creek on the U.S. Coast Guard property (Coast Guard wells).

In 1995, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued Water Right Order No. 95-17 which determined that no water would ordinarily be available for diversion by North Marin under its then existing junior water right permits during July through October of a dry year, and directed NMWD to acquire an alternative source of water to be used during July through October of dry years. By definition, a "dry year" is one in which the total precipitation that occurs from October 1 through April 1 is less than 28" as measured at the Marin Municipal Water District Kent Lake rain gauge. In response to that order, NMWD and Giacomini and Sons, Inc. (Giacomini) entered into an agreement for raw water irrigation supply dated July 1, 1998 and amended on July 15, 2003 (Attachment 1). That agreement extends through July 1, 2008 and provides that North Marin will deliver 1.23 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flow from the North Marin Downey Well facilities to the Giacomini Ranch for pasture irrigation in exchange for transfer to NMWD of 0.67 cfs of Giacomini's then current 2.67 cfs appropriative water right under License 4324. The SWRCB approved the split of License 4324 in October 2000: issuing License 4324A to Giacomini, in the amount of 2cfs from May 1 to November 1 of each year; and issuing License 4324B to NMWD in the amount of 0.67 cfs to be diverted from May 1 to November of each year. It is NMWD's intent to rely on this senior water right license during dry year summer periods when NMWD's junior appropriative water rights may not be used pursuant to WR 95-17.

Since 1995 no dry years have occurred in the Lagunitas watershed. Historically, however, NMWD has experienced salinity intrusion into the Coast Guard wells, and since 1995, even with off-



tide pumping which decreases the frequency of these events, NMWD has experienced salinity intrusion exceeding 100 milligrams per liter chlorides in the water supply (Attachments 2). Once introduced into the ground water used for a community water supply, the salinity is slow to dissipate, even under normal year conditions, resulting in increased disinfection by-products (DBP) concentrations. Specifically, as a result of the combination of (increased salts) with sodium hypochlorite (used for drinking water disinfection), DBP concentrations have approached maximum contaminant levels in the community water supply (Attachment 3). The DEIR/DEIS states that even though there has been considerable amount of study into the salinity intrusion problem, the exact cause or mechanism by which salinity has become elevated is still not totally understood. Additionally, the DEIR/DEIS states that average salinity during spring or high tide and normal stream flow conditions will actually increase as much as 15% in upstream portions of Lagunitas Creek under Alternatives C & D. The DEIR/DEIS is silent on the recent experience of salinity intrusion's effect on drinking water quality delivered to NMWD customers. Those effects during dry year periods, when flows in Lagunitas Creek during summer periods expect to be 25% lower than recent experience should be evaluated.

Possible mitigation measures identified under Alternatives C & D currently address only monitoring of salinity adjacent to the Coast Guard wells and collaboration and support of NMWD's pursuit of water supply reliability through development of the Gallagher Well to provide a dependable water supply to NMWD's West Marin service area. NMWD urges the National Park Service to strengthen its commitment and fund extension of a pipeline from the Point Reyes Water Treatment Plant to the Gallagher well for use during periods when the Coast Guard wells may be affected by salinity intrusion.

### **Detailed Comments**

1. **Executive Summary, Page xl, paragraph 1:** "Located upstream of the Coast Guard wells, the Downey wells are no longer used for municipal water supply although 2 cfs water is pumped from this well during the summer to the Giacomini Ranch for irrigation purposes as part of the NMWD's agreement with the Giacomini family."

**Comment:** The NMWD agreement with the Giacomini family commits 1.23 cfs irrigation water delivery from the Downey well. Actual experience has shown that the irrigation pump and delivery system is inefficient and delivers on average 1 cfs to the Giacomini Ranch.

2. **Executive Summary, Page xl, paragraph 6:** "Average salinities during spring or high tide and normal streamflow conditions would actually increase by as much as 15 percent in upstream portions of Lagunitas Creek under Alternatives C-D... Because the frequency would not change, the impacts of these alternatives to municipal water supply would be moderate."

**Comment:** See General Comment. The DEIR/DEIS did not address drinking water quality impacts under dry year streamflow conditions and NMWD suspects that the impacts of these alternatives to municipal water supply would be more than moderate.

3. **Chapter 1, page 12:** "Constraint: Saltwater intrusion conditions into groundwater wells in Point Reyes Station would not exceed current levels or any increase caused by the proposed project would be mitigated by the project proponents."

**Comment:** It is not clear that saltwater intrusion conditions into the NMWD community water supply wells would not exceed current levels under the project alternatives, nor is it clear that NPS will fully mitigate any increase caused by the proposed project.

**4. Chapter 2, Alternatives, Including The Preferred Alternative, page 35, paragraph 2:** "However, historically the Giacomini family which maintains 2.0 cfs appropriative water rights on Lagunitas Creek, installed a temporary gravel dam in the creek each summer across from the White House Pool County Park to create a large freshwater pool from which irrigation waters were drawn through pumping. The Giacomini family was forced to discontinue this practice in 1997 by the SWRCB."

**Comment:** In Water Right Order No. 95-17, the SWRCB directed Giacomini to no longer install the summer dam at its present location after 1997, but did not prohibit installation of a summer dam upstream of the Green Bridge. The Giacomini family, in cooperation with NMWD, chose not to install the summer dam after 1997 and to rely on limited irrigation supply from the Downey Well pursuant to the agreement between NMWD and Giacomini.

**5. Chapter 2, Alternatives Including The Preferred Alternative, page 35, paragraph 2:** "The west pasture is not irrigated; however, the Giacomini family does have a 0.5 cfs appropriative water right on Fish Hatchery Creek that can be used for cattle watering and other purposes."

**Comment:** I am not aware of any appropriative water right on Fish Hatchery Creek.

**6. Chapter 2, Alternatives Including The Preferred Alternative, page 37, Bullet 3, Water Supply Agreement with North Marin Water District:** "This agreement would expire with the close of the dairy in 2007."

**Comment:** The agreement terminates on July 1, 2008.

**7. Chapter 2, Alternatives Including The Preferred Alternative, page 38, Bullet 2: Dedication of Lagunitas Creek Appropriative Water Right to In-stream Flow Uses**

**Comment:** Is this DEIR/DEIS intended to serve as the environmental review for the prospective in-stream flow dedication?

**8. Table 2, page 121**

**Comment:** Revise Alternative C. Impact, to reflect adverse change which may be more than moderate since the evaluation has not been conducted to address salinity intrusion effect on drinking water quality constituents during dry year streamflow conditions.

**9. Chapter 3, Affected Environment, page 180, Table 7, Mainstem Bear Valley Creek, Item 3, Water Diversion:** NMWD right, but no use.

**Comment:** NMWD holds no permanent water right on Bear Valley Creek. NMWD acquired a Temporary Permit (No. 16903, Application No. 25339) in 1977 to divert up to 0.4 cfs for municipal use and prevention of salt water intrusion during the drought year period of June 24, 1977 to November 1, 1977.

**10. Chapter 3, Affected Environment, page 184, paragraph 4:** "The Giacomini's now receive irrigation water (approximately 2 cfs during the May 1 through November 1 period) from the NMWD "Downey" well located approximated 0.9 miles upstream of Green Bridge, (Table 7)."

**Comment:** Irrigation deliveries from the Downey well are at maximum 1.23 cfs pursuant to the agreement between NMWD and Giacomini.

**11. Chapter 3, Affected Environment, page 186, paragraph 2:** "NMWD currently has a water right on bear Valley creek for a diversion of 0.401 cfs between January 1 and December 31, but it is



not currently used for water supply (C. DeGabriele, NMWD *pers. comm.*)."

**Comment:** See Comment No. 9.

**12. Chapter 3, Affected Environment, page 188, paragraph 3:** "NMWD currently has a water right for 0.666 cfs between January 1 and December 1 and the Giacomini family has a water right for 0.5 cfs between April 1 and December 1."

**Comment:** I'm unaware of any appropriative water right for diversion from Fish Hatchery Creek held by either NMWD or Giacomini.

**13. Chapter 3, Affected Environment, page 203, paragraph 1:** "This gauge is far enough upstream that it is not subject to tidal influence except during extreme events, (G. Kamman, KHE, *pers. comm.*). For example in 2001, stream discharge dropped from 12 cfs to 6.75 cfs within approximately 9 days followed by a sharp temporary increase from 7 cfs to ~ 9.4cfs over the period of 1 to 2 days, (Figure 29). In summer 2002, stream discharge dropped from 13 cfs to 9.5 cfs over 1 to 2 days, followed later by a sharp increase approximately 2 cfs over another 1 to 2 days (Figure 29). Whether natural or unnatural, fluctuation in freshwater inflow particularly sharp ones as shown in Figure 29, would have substantial effects on salinity patterns, both within stratified and mixed portions of the creek. (Parsons, *in prep*). Modeling results for Lagunitas Creek suggest that changes in stream discharge of 2 cfs can result in increases in doubling or 100% increases in maximum water salinities. (KHE 2006a)."

**Comment:** The period referred to in this paragraph and in Figure 29 reflect the change in flows maintained by Marin Municipal Water District pursuant to WR Order 95-17. From May 1 through June 15, Lagunitas Creek flows in normal years are prescribed at 12 cfs. From June 16 to November 1/15, Lagunitas Creek flows are to be maintained at 8 cfs. The variation is attributed to MMWD adjusting releases from Kent Lake to maintain the flows upstream at the park gauge while the reported data referenced here is collected at the Gallagher gauge.

**14. Chapter 3, Affected Environment, page 301, paragraph 5:** "The Downey well is no longer used for municipal water supply, although approximately 2 cfs of water is pumped from this well during the summer to the Giacomini Ranch for irrigation purposes as part of NMWD's agreement with the Giacomini family."

**Comment:** Correct the stated irrigation delivery to the Giacomini Ranch to 1.23 cfs.

**15. Chapter 3, Affected Environment, page 305, paragraph 5:** "Concerned about the loss of the gravel dam and the potential of the ranch to be restored to tidal wetlands, NMWD contracted with Soldati Engineering to analyze all water quality and other data collected to date to assess the potential for future salinity intrusion events and to identify ways to provide adequate, good quality water to the West Marin area given the coming changes. The NMWD study (1997) recommended implementation of off-tide pumping practices."

**Comment:** The 1997 Lagunitas Salinity Intrusion Study for the Point Reyes Service Area recommendations did not include implementation of off-tide pumping practices. *Rather* the report recommendations stated: "Based on the alternatives presented, it is recommended that the District construct a pipeline to the existing Gallagher well to allow immediate use of the well capacity for additional supply or for blending and pursue development of an additional redundant water supply for the Point Reyes Station area by constructing an additional water supply well (or two, if necessary) either at the Gallagher well site or on a site yet to be determined between the existing Gallagher well and the Downey well."



Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
National Park Service  
February 7, 2007  
Page 5

To date off-tide pumping practices have enabled the District customers to avoid the substantial cost burden of extending a pipeline to the Gallagher well. However, it is likely that Alternative C or D will increase the salinity intrusion to the Coast Guard wells triggering need for development of the Gallagher pipeline, and the National Parks Service should pay for same.

Sincerely,



Chris DeGabriele  
General Manager

CD/rr

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AMENDMENT  
TO  
AGREEMENT FOR  
RAW WATER IRRIGATION SUPPLY  
BETWEEN  
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
AND  
GIACOMINI & SONS, INC.

THAT CERTAIN "Agreement for Raw Water Irrigation Supply Between North Marin Water District and Giacomini & Sons, Inc.," dated July 1, 1998, by and between NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT, herein called "District," and GIACOMINI & SONS, INC., is hereby amended as follows:

Section 11 as set forth on Page 6 shall be revised and shall read as set forth on replacement Page 6A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this amendment to their agreement on the 15th day of July, 2003.

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
"District"

Barbara B. Munden  
Barbara B. Munden, President

ATTEST:

Joyce S. Arnold  
Joyce S. Arnold, Secretary

GIACOMINI & SONS, INCORPORATED

Richard Giacomini  
Richard Giacomini

Robert Giacomini  
Robert Giacomini

July  
~~June~~ 1, 1998

AGREEMENT  
FOR  
RAW WATER IRRIGATION SUPPLY  
BETWEEN  
NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
AND  
GIACOMINI & SONS, INC.

1 prevent saltwater intrusion and to divert irrigation water. The SWRCB's Order directs that  
2 after November 1, 1997, no such method of diversion of water from Lagunitas Creek can be  
3 installed downstream of the Highway 1 Bridge in Point Reyes Station as shown on Exhibit A.  
4

5 (h) The SWRCB has approved a change in point of diversion for Giacomini's license  
6 including: the North Marin's Coast Guard well site, North Marin's Downey well site and a  
7 "yet to be determined point of diversion related to the report referred to in Condition 1 of the  
8 Army Corps of Engineers Permit (No. 18843N83)," commonly known as the Coast Guard site  
9 as shown on Exhibit A.

## 10 DEFINITIONS

### 11 2. Definition of terms used herein are:

12  
13 (a) "annually," "per annum," or "fiscal year" mean a twelve month period  
14 commencing July 1 and ending the following June 30.  
15

16 (b) "af" means acre feet, a volume of water.  
17

18 (c) "cfs" means cubic feet per second, a rate of water flow.  
19

20 (d) "Intertie Agreement" means Intertie Agreement between North Marin and Marin  
21 Municipal Water District dated March 11, 1993.  
22

23 (e) "Point of diversion" means any location within the Lagunitas Creek watershed  
24 which is authorized by the SWRCB for removing water from the creek for the specific  
25 purpose(s) and place(s) of use designated in the authorizing permit or license.  
26  
27

## 28 GENERAL

29  
30 3. North Marin and Giacomini both agree that the most efficient way for both parties to  
31 comply with the SWRCB Order WR 95-17 is to cooperate in construction of improvements to  
32 and operation of an irrigation diversion facility on Lagunitas Creek located upstream of the  
33 Highway 1 Bridge at the Downey well site, hereinafter called the Downey well facilities. This  
34 cooperation consists of North Marin delivering 1.23 cfs of flow from Downey well facilities to  
35 the Giacomini Ranch for pasture irrigation in exchange for transfer of 0.67 cfs of Giacomini's  
36 current 2.67 cfs appropriative water right under License 4324 to North Marin.  
37

## 38 CONSTRUCTION

39  
40 4. Subject to all permitting requirements, Downey well facilities to be improved shall  
41 include:  
42

43 (a) Repair of the existing Downey well head.  
44

45 (b) Removing existing pump facilities and installation of a vertical turbine pump and  
46 30 horsepower motor mounted on the Downey well head together with electric power and  
47 controls intended to deliver an approximate flow of 550 gpm (1.23 cfs) to the Giacomini  
48 Ranch for pasture irrigation purposes.  
49

50

1 the 2.67 cfs which may be diverted from Lagunitas Creek pursuant to License No. 4324.  
2 As soon as practicable after execution of this Agreement, Giacomini shall send a statement  
3 of change of ownership of a portion of the License to the SWRCB in accordance with 14  
4 California Administrative Code Section 831, and Giacomini and North Marin shall  
5 simultaneously file a joint petition with the SWRCB under Water Code Section 1700 et seq.  
6 and 14 California Administrative Code Section 791 et seq. seeking the following changes:  
7 (1) change in the purpose of use, from irrigation and stock watering use to irrigation, stock  
8 watering, municipal and industrial use, for 0.67 cfs of the 2.67 cfs which may be diverted;  
9 (2) addition of North Marin's Point Reyes and Paradise Ranch service area to the place of  
10 use for 0.67 cfs of the 2.67 cfs which may be diverted; and (3) split the currently  
11 authorized diversion of 2.67 cfs pursuant to license No. 4324 into two separate licenses,  
12 allocating the diversions as follows: up to 0.67 cfs to be diverted to by North Marin, and  
13 up to 2.0 cfs to be diverted by Giacomini.

14  
15 (b) The parties agree that once said changes are approved, they will not object if the  
16 SWRCB determines that North Marin and Giacomini should be identified as co-owners of  
17 License No. 4324, or that it will issue separate licenses covering the respective interest of  
18 North Marin and Giacomini in License No. 4324. The parties also agree that under no  
19 circumstances shall the rate of season of diversion provided for in License No. 4324 be in  
20 any way altered as a result of this transfer of a portion of the License.

21  
22 (c) In the event that the SWRCB does not approve changes in License No. 4324  
23 described as (1) or (2) in Subsection 9 (a) above, North Marin may, by written notice to  
24 Giacomini, immediately terminate this Agreement. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of such  
25 notice, Giacomini will pay to North Marin any actual initial cost advanced by North Marin  
26 pursuant to Section 10 (a) hereof, and the cost of any raw water delivered by North Marin to  
27 the Giacomini Ranch pursuant to Section 10 (c), all including interest at the rate of seven per  
28 cent (7%) from the date any such payment was made until the date of Giacomini's receipt of  
29 the notice of termination.

### 30 31 10. Charges, Billing and Payment.

32  
33 (a) Initial costs. Pursuant to Section 6 of this Agreement North Marin shall fund all  
34 initial costs estimated to be \$12,025.


35  
36 (b) Ongoing Annual Costs. North Marin shall fund annual installation and  
37 maintenance of facilities at the Downey well head as necessary and the operation and  
38 maintenance costs of all diversion facilities, pump and pipeline maintenance costs and energy  
39 costs.

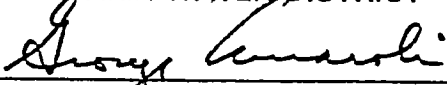
40  
41 (c) Raw Water Charge: Raw water delivered to the Giacomini Ranch by North Marin  
42 under this Agreement shall be metered and billed at the rate established in North Marin's  
43 Regulation 54 from time to time in effect. Said rate shall be based upon North Marin's cost  
44 of operation (including electrical energy), maintenance and reserve for replacement. The  
45 current rate for raw water from Lagunitas Creek is \$45.00 per acre-foot.

46  
47 (d) Price for Purchase and Sale of a Portion of Water Right License No. 4324: In  
48 consideration for the sale by Giacomini to North Marin of the right to divert 0.67 cfs of the  
49 2.67 cfs which may be diverted under License No. 4324, as described in Section 9 hereof,  
50 Giacomini shall receive raw water from North Marin pursuant to Section 8 at no cost to

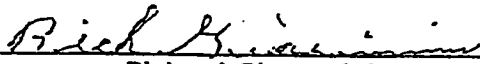
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NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

Attest:   
Secretary

  
President  
Board of Directors

GIACOMINI & SONS, INCORPORATED

  
Richard Giacomini

  
Robert Giacomini

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(2015.5 CCP)

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Stamp:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
County of Marin

Proof of Publication

I am a citizen of the United State and a resident of the county aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the in the above-entitled matter. I am the publisher of The Point Reyes Light, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the town of Point Reyes Station, county of Marin and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Marin. State of California, under the date of April 26, 1949, Case Number 18307; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates to wit:

Aug 12, 2004

**PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE**

Salinity intrusion into the Point Reyes well supply serving the West Marin communities of Point Reyes, Olema, Inverness Park, and Paradise Ranch Estates has occurred beginning on Monday, August 2, 2004 and has caused sodium concentrations to increase from background levels of 30 parts per million (ppm) to a current level of 68 ppm. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has published a Drinking Water Advisory recommending sodium concentrations in drinking water between 30 and 60 ppm. Sodium concentration of 120 ppm is a health benchmark representing a 10% dietary contribution.

Additionally, chloride ion concentrations have increased from background levels of 20 ppm to a current level of 205 ppm. California Department of Health Services has set an upper aesthetic standard of 250 ppm for chlorides in drinking.

Most persons will not be affected by the higher sodium concentration but to be safe, persons with cardiac problems or kidney problems or persons on a salt-free or low-salt diet are advised to check with their doctor about drinking the water supply.

Actions the District have taken to correct the problem are:

- 1) Continue off-tide pumping practice at the Pt. Reyes wells.
- 2) Continue sampling and monitoring of the sodium levels. Additional public notices will be issued should the sodium levels remain above 50 ppm.
- 3) Should sodium levels continue to exceed 60 ppm, steps will be undertaken to install a salinity intrusion barrier upstream of the State Route Highway 1 Bridge crossing Lagunitas Creek at Point Reyes Station, California.

We trust the salt levels will return to normal but the time this will take is unknown. In the meantime we will run weekly notices in the Point Reyes Light containing current sodium and chloride ion concentrations.

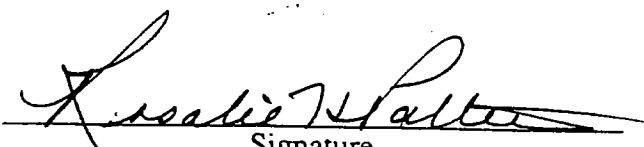
Thank you for your forbearance with this problem.

Chris DeGabriele,  
General Manager  
North Marin Water District  
Published in The Point Reyes Light, Aug. 12, 12, 2004.

R.M.P.

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

  
Signature



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County of Marin

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NOTICE	
Sodium and chloride ion concentrations in the West Marin Water Supply:	
Date	Sodium Chloride
Week of 8/02/04	69 209 mg/l*
Week of 8/16/04	58 122 mg/l*
Week of 8/16/04	50 105 mg/l*
*milligrams per liter	
Chris DeGabriele, General Manager North Marin Water District	
Published in the Point Reyes Light, August 19, 2004.	

*Aug 19, 2004*

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California, this  
19<sup>th</sup> day of August,  
2004.

*Leslie Patterson*  
Signature

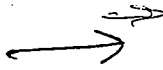
last week

**NOTICE**

Sodium and chloride ion concentrations in the West Marin Water Supply:

Date	Sodium	Chloride	
Week of 8/02/04	69 <del>8/6</del>	209	mg/l*
Week of 8/16/04	58	122	mg/l*
Week of 8/16/04	50	105	mg/l*

should have been



\*milligrams per liter

Chris DeGabriele, General Manager  
North Marin Water District

don't correct

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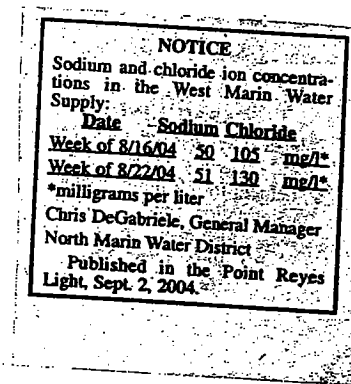
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
County of Marin

SEP 07 2004

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

Proof of Publication

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*Sept 2, 2004*

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California, this 2nd day of September, 2004.

*Kosalie N. Patterson*  
Signature

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(2015.5 CCP)

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County of Marin

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**NOTICE**

Salinity intrusion into the Point Reyes well supply serving the West Marin communities of Point Reyes, Olema, Inverness Park, and Paradise Ranch Estates has occurred beginning on August 2, 2004 and has caused sodium levels to increase from background levels of 30 parts per million (ppm) to a current level of 62 ppm. The table below lists most recent concentrations for sodium and chloride in the West Marin water supply:

Date	Sodium Chloride
Week of 9/6/04	74 - 192 mg/l*
Week of 9/13/04	62 - 174 mg/l*

\*milligrams per liter  
Chris DeGabriele, General Manager  
North Marin Water District  
Published in the Point Reyes Light, Sept. 16, 2004.

*Sept 16, 2004*

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2004.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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SEP 21 2004

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

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County of Marin

SEP 27 2004

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

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**NOTICE**

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Date	Sodium	Chloride
Week of 9/13/04	62	174 mg/l*
Week of 9/20/04	62	162 mg/l*

\*milligrams per liter  
Chris DeGabriele, General Manager  
North Marin Water District  
Published in the Point Reyes Light, Sept. 23, 2004.

Sept 23, 2004

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California; this 23rd day of September, 2004.

Rosalie H. Pallen  
Signature

**NOTICE**

Salinity intrusion into the Point Reyes well supply serving the West Marin communities of Point Reyes, Olema, Inverness Park, and Paradise Ranch Estates has occurred beginning on August 2, 2004 and has caused sodium levels to increase from background levels of 30 parts per million (ppm) to a current level of 62 pp. The table below lists most recent concentrations for sodium and chloride in the West Marin water supply:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sodium Chloride</u>	
<u>Week of 9/20/04</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>162 mg/l*</u>
<u>Week of 9/27/04</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>147 mg/l*</u>

\*milligrams per liter

Chris DeGabelle, General Manager  
North Marin Water District

Published in the Point Reyes

~~Light~~ Sept 30, 2004



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**NOTICE**  
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Date	Sodium Chloride
Week of 9/27/04	61 - 147 mg/l*
Week of 10/4/04	58 - 106 mg/l*

\*milligrams per liter  
Chris DeGabriele, General Manager  
North Marin Water District  
Published in the Point Reyes Light, Sept. 30, 2004.

*Oct 7, 2004*

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California, this 7th day of October, 2004.

*Rosalie N. Patterson*  
Signature

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OCT 11 2004

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

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**NOTICE**

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Date	Sodium Chloride
Week of 10/4/04	58 106 mg/l*
Week of 10/11/04	53 107 mg/l*

\*milligrams per liter  
Chris DeGabriele, General Manager  
North Marin Water District  
Published in the Point Reyes Light, Oct. 14, 2004.

*Oct 14, 2004*

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2004.

*Kristie H. Patterson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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GCT 19 2004

NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

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County of Marin

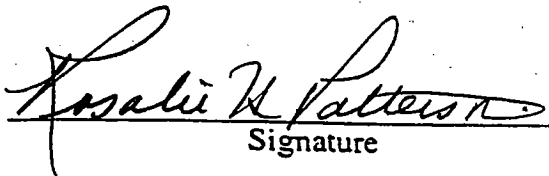
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*Nov 10, 2004*

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date at Pt. Reyes Station, California, this 10th day of November, 2004.

  
Signature

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE**

Salinity intrusion into the Point Reyes well supply serving the West Marin communities of Point Reyes, Olema, Inverness Park, and Paradise Ranch Estates has occurred beginning on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 and has caused sodium concentrations to increase from recent levels of below 50 parts per million (ppm) to a current level of 63 ppm. The United States Environmental Protection Agency has published a Drinking Water Advisory recommending sodium concentrations in drinking water between 30 and 60 ppm. Sodium concentration of 120 ppm is a health benchmark representing a 10% dietary contribution.

Additionally, chloride ion concentrations have increased from background levels of 20 ppm to a current level of 76 ppm. California Department of Health Services has set an upper aesthetic standard of 500 ppm for chlorides in drinking water.

Most persons will not be affected by the higher sodium concentration but to be safe, persons with cardiac problems or kidney problems or persons on a salt-free or low-salt diet are advised to check with their doctor about drinking the water supply.

Actions the District have taken to correct the problem are:

- 1) Continue off-tide pumping practice at the Pt. Reyes wells.
- 2) Continue sampling and monitoring of the sodium levels. Additional public notices will be issued should the sodium levels remain above 50 ppm.
- 3) Should sodium levels continue to exceed 60 ppm, steps will be undertaken to install a salinity intrusion barrier upstream of the State Route Highway 1 Bridge crossing Lagunitas Creek at Point Reyes Station, California.

We trust the salt levels will return to normal but the time this will take is unknown. In the meantime we will run weekly notices in the Point Reyes Light containing current sodium and chloride ion concentrations.

Thank you for your forbearance with this problem.

Chris DeGabriele  
General Manager  
North Marin Water District

Published in The Point Reyes Light, Nov. 10, 2004.

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NOV 17 2004


NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT

Quarterly TTHM Report for Disinfection Byproducts Compliance (in µg/L or ppb)

System Name: Point Reyes System No.: 2110006 Year: 2006 Quarter: 3rd

Year:	2002				2003				2004				2005				2006			
	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.
Sample Date (month/date):									5/4	8/10			5/10	8/9			5/9	8/8		
Site 1									20.0	35.0			33.0	27.0			32.0	14.0		
Site 2									34.0	81.0			44.0	45.0			43.0	56.0		
Site 3																				
Site 4																				
Site 5																				
Site 6																				
Site 7																				
Site 8																				
Site 9																				
Site 10																				
Site 11																				
Site 12																				
Quarterly Average																				
Running Annual Average									27.0	58.0			38.5	36.0			37.5	35.0		
Meets Standard?*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
(check box)	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Number of Samples Taken									2	2			2	2			2	2		

Comments:

Signature: 

Date: 10/9/2006

Identify the sample locations in the table below.

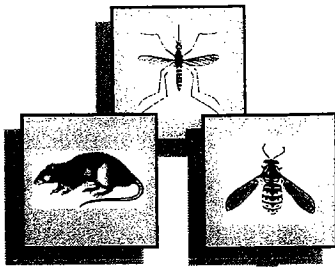
Site	Sample Location
1	Red Barn
2	PRE #4 Sample Station
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

# MARIN / SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

First Organized District in California  
595 HELMAN LANE, COTATI, CALIFORNIA 94956  
TELEPHONE (707) 285-2200 FAX (707) 285-2211

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Point Reyes  
National Seashore  
FEB 14 '07

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SUPT.
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEC. PK. USES
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAW ENFORC.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAT. RES.
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE CONS.
<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRE MGT.
<input type="checkbox"/>	INTERP.
<input type="checkbox"/>	CULT. RES.
<input type="checkbox"/>	MAINT.
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTRACTING
<input type="checkbox"/>	PERSONNEL
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUDGET
<input type="checkbox"/>	CENTRAL FILES



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SONOMA COUNTY AT LARGE
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- PAUL LIBEU  
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PETALUMA
- JOHN "JACK" HEALY  
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WINDSOR
- KATHARINA SANDIZELL-SMITH  
MARIN COUNTY AT LARGE
- ED SCHULZE  
MARIN COUNTY AT LARGE
- NANCY BARNARD  
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- FRANK EGGER  
FAIRFAX
- TOM BRADNER  
LARKSPUR
- CARRIE SHERRIFF-ROSENBERG  
MILL VALLEY
- HERMAN ZWART  
NOVATO
- WENDY McPHEE  
ROSS
- JIM LAMMERS  
SAN ANSELMO
- LILA McCARTHY  
SAN RAFAEL
- SAUSALITO
- ROGER SMITH  
TIBURON

February 13, 2007

ATTN: Superintendent  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project  
DEIS/EIR, Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Mr. Neubacher,

In our review of the proposals for Giacomini Ranch restoration project that we are in agreement with the park services' selection of alternatives C or D. Tidal recirculation is a preferred method to minimize mosquito production thereby reducing the amount of pesticide necessary to control mosquito populations. While both alternatives provide the greatest wetland value they are not completely without potential problems with regard to Culicidae production.

During the construction phase of the project, impounded water should be avoided. Surveillance of the construction site and surrounding area will be required to address any situation that would produce disease vectors as well as salt marsh species. While projects of this magnitude take years to stabilize, the interim period will require close monitoring. As previous experience has demonstrated with tidal recirculation in the Petaluma marsh, occasional populations of Culicidae need to be controlled due to the dynamic nature of the ecosystem. Access for surveillance utilizing battery-powered traps will be necessary to determine the presence or absence of mosquito populations. In addition, larval surveillance will be necessary to determine species and extent of production on site.

The fresh water component for the enhancement and preservation of red legged frog has the highest potential of supporting disease vector mosquito, specifically *Culex tarsalis*, *Culex erythrothorax*, *Culex stigmatosoma*, and *Culex pipiens pipiens*. Previous experience at a number of fresh water restoration habitats has been problematic with regard to mosquito production. To mitigate requires a comprehensive maintenance and management plan to address excessive and invasive vegetation, nutrient

**ADMINISTRATION**

- MANAGER  
JAMES A. WANDERSCHIED
- ASST. MANAGER/VECTOR  
ECOLOGIST  
RON KEITH

input reduction, and access for control efforts, if needed. Surveillance in the fresh water wetland component will be essential to determine the presence or absence of vector Culicidae.

We applaud the Pt. Reyes staff for the extensive documentation and selection of a plan that will return the Giacomini Ranch property to historical wetland for the benefit of wildlife and the community.

Thank you, for the opportunity to comment on the project and we look forward to seeing the completion of the project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Ronald D. Keith and Chuck Krause. The signature of Ronald D. Keith is on the left, and the signature of Chuck Krause is on the right.

Ronald D. Keith, Assistant Manager/Vector Ecologist  
Chuck Krause, District Superintendent



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P. O. Box 4186, San Rafael, CA 94913-4186 • 415/499-6528 • FAX 415/499-3799 • TTY 415/499-3232

COUNTY OF MARIN  
www.co.marin.ca.us/pw

ADMINISTRATION  
499-6528

ACCOUNTING  
499-6576 • FAX 507-2899

AIRPORT  
451-A AIRPORT ROAD  
NOVATO, CA 94945  
897-1754 • FAX 897-1264

BUILDING MAINTENANCE  
499-6576 • FAX 499-3250

CAPITAL PROJECTS  
499-7877 • FAX 499-3724

COMMUNICATION  
MAINTENANCE  
499-7313 • FAX 499-3738

DISABILITY ACCESS  
499-6528 (VOICE)  
499-3232 (TTY)

ENGINEERING & SURVEY  
499-7877 • FAX 499-3724

FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT  
499-6528

COUNTY GARAGE  
499-7380 • FAX 499-7190

LAND DEVELOPMENT  
499-6549

PRINTING  
499-6377 • FAX 499-6617

PURCHASING AGENT  
499-6371

REAL ESTATE  
499-6578 • FAX 446-7373

ROAD MAINTENANCE  
499-7388 • FAX 499-3656

STORMWATER PROGRAM  
499-6528

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING  
499-6528

TRANSIT DISTRICT  
499-6099 • FAX 499-6939

WASTE MANAGEMENT  
499-6647 • FAX 446-7373

ALL AREA CODES ARE 415

February 14, 2007

Mr. Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS/DEIR)  
Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

The Marin County Department of Public Works (DPW) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the subject DEIS/DEIR. Our specific comments and concern are as follows:

- 1) The DEIS/DEIR identified a southern perimeter trail from a proposed bridge across Lagunitas Creek to White House County Park. No specifics were provided on the exact alignment and whether the pathway is proposed to be inside or outside of the county right of way. Please provide details in the environmental document. Any potential traffic impacts from the trail construction and use were also specifically not addressed.
- 2) The DEIS/DEIR identified a future public access trail extension from White House Pool County Park northward towards Inverness Park that would be constructed in collaboration with the County of Marin. The roadway is narrow and abuts wetlands or watercourses. Please provide more details on this proposed project segment. Please clarify whether a subsequent environmental document would be required prior to this extension being constructed.
- 3) The County's General Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan both identify a Class I pathway linking the village of Pt. Reyes Station with Inverness Park and Inverness. The Preferred Alternative (Alternative C), as well as Alternatives A and B, have the ability to provide this linkage (noted as the 'Southern Perimeter Trail') while the Environmentally Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) does not, as Alternative D does not feature the necessary bridge.

A concern raised by many residents of the area is that Sir Francis Drake Blvd in this area is undesirable for bicyclists and pedestrians, especially children. Therefore, parents drive their children to school instead of the children walking or biking. Residents also drive between the two villages when many mentioned that biking would be preferable. Further, visitors to the area will be forced to drive

l:\eric steger\correspondence\giacomini\deir\comments.doc

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Point Reyes
SUPT.
SCIENCE
SPEC. PK. USES
LAW ENFORC.
MAINT. RES.
RANGE CONS.
FIRE MGT.
INTERP.
CULT. RES.
MAINT.
DEIS/DEIR
PERSONNEL
BUDGET
CENTRAL FILES

Richard Mansourian, RCE  
Director

from trailhead to trailhead under Alternative D as there would be no means to through-hike.

The attendant increase in vehicle trips because of these concerns negatively affects air quality through additional unnecessary vehicle miles traveled, increased noise levels, and a degraded visitor experience. The geometric constraints of Sir Francis Drake Blvd, including several homes located immediately adjacent to it near Shoreline Highway, preclude a pathway immediately adjacent to the roadway. Provision of a pathway connection as outlined in Alternatives A, B, and C would address a critical need of the communities in the area as well as provide a continuous link around the restoration area and a connection with other walking trails within the Seashore for an improved visitor experience.

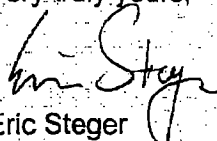
Per Caltrans design standards, a Class I pathway has a minimum paved width of 8 feet, with firm shoulders on either side. It is our recommendation that under Alternatives A, B, or C a paved Class I pathway be provided on the Southern Perimeter Trail between the trailhead in Pt. Reyes Station at 3rd and C Streets and the White House Pool property, and to extend this pathway at a minimum to the intersection of Sir Francis Drake Blvd and Bear Valley Road. Additionally, are the trails intended to be multimodal, for use by pedestrian, bicyclist or equestrian? Will all trails be accessible, and if so, to what standards (sidewalk, pathway or trails, to regulations or guidelines?). We also could not find a typical cross section, minimum width, standard surfacing, etc. in the environmental document.

- 4) The proposed project identifies a crosswalk along Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to connect the bridge crossing to Bear Valley Creek Trail. The DEIS/DEIR did not provide details on whether crosswalk is warranted nor analyzed any traffic or pedestrian hazards from such a crosswalk. Prior to construction of such a crosswalk, additional traffic and safety analysis would need to be provided to the County.
- 5) The proposed project shall comply with the County's local ordinance requiring encroachment permits for any work or facility that are constructed in the right-of-way, and the project must comply with the time, place, and manner restrictions established in the permit. In addition, construction methods, traffic control and accessibility compliance are not completely described in the document and will be required with the encroachment permit application. Provide information on proposed traffic control measures, and indicate if any lane closures are desired.
- 6) Various culverts are proposed to be replaced along county maintained right of ways. Before the County will approve the work, we will require that detailed hydrology and hydraulic analysis be provided to ensure that the project will not result in any increased risk of flooding. We are also concerned that the project design incorporates the County's need to maintain county roads and culverts, including clearance for equipment and personnel.
- 7) Please clarify whether there will be traffic generated on public roads from the import or export of needed construction materials, such as fill material, and the expected routes, especially if the Point Reyes Station village streets are used.

Lastly, there is no agreement on division of maintenance responsibility for trails that may exist or be built in the right of way, and the county has not budgeted for any potential

capital improvements. We encourage the National Park Service to work with the County on any needed agreements as the project components are being developed.

Very truly yours,



Eric Steger  
Senior Civil Engineer

C: Farhad Mansourian  
Craig Tackabery  
Tim Haddad, CDA  
Ed Hume, P&OS



"McNamee, Sharon"  
<SMcNamee@co.marin  
.ca.us>

02/14/2007 04:55 PM  
PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc: "Crosse, Liza" <LCrosse@co.marin.ca.us>, "Steger, Eric"  
<ESteger@co.marin.ca.us>, "Lewis, Liz" <LizLewis@co.marin.ca.us>,  
"Hulme, Ed" <EHulme@co.marin.ca.us>  
Subject: ATTN: Final draft NPS - Giacommini Ranch Restoration Project EIR  
Comments

February 14, 2007

Don Neubacher,  
Superintendent Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
Submitted by E-mail: February 14, 2007

**Subject: NPS - Giacommini Ranch Restoration Project EIR Comments**

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Superintendent Neubacher-

We respectfully submit the following comments regarding the NPS - Giacommini Ranch Restoration Project EIR.

We are excited about the restoration project and the overall positive impacts for the region and Tomales Bay. The Parks and Open Space Department is primarily focusing our comments on the areas we manage known in your document as the White House Pool Park and the Green Bridge Park.

The Whitehouse Pool Park parking lot is heavily used and is one of the main access points for viewing the southern portion of the preserve; therefore, we feel the following improvements and issues should be included in analysis of the project:

- Allow access from C Street to the Southern Spur Trail and to the new bridge across the creek. We feel that this is a safer route than Highway 1 and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for most users, including children and equestrians. It also reduces the potential environmental impact that would result from changes to the Green Bridge wetlands area
- Increase the elevation of the White House Pool parking lot to reduce flooding and provide year-round access
- Provide for trail repair if the restoration work/improvements causes erosion or damages the existing trail network through the County park.
- Construct an elevated boardwalk for multi-use purposes, if the current trail system through the Whitehouse Pool Park is not functional after restoration work
- Include a fully accessible, raised viewing platform at the Whitehouse Pool Park site. We acknowledge that we could reduce the number of viewing points currently in place along the creek edge.
- Address drainage/flow issues in and adjacent to the parking lot
- Consider protection of the existing wooden bridge near the Whitehouse Pool parking lot as a part of the trail system
- Address needed maintenance and improvements of drainage facilities throughout the area with specific attention paid to flooding in the area of White House Pool and the Tomasini Creek – Mesa Road area
- Consider multi-model transportation needs to include sufficient space and all weather access in and around the project area, recognizing possible conflicts may occur with multiple users such as bikes, children, horses and dogs
- Replace the current portable toilets at the White House Pool parking lot with a permanent fully accessible, full-service restroom recognizing there will be an increase in usage

- Coordinate agencies regulations and signage for public viewing and access for the entire project site

We look forward to continuing to work with you and interested parties to make this a successful project.

Sincerely,

Sharon McNamee  
Director and General Manager Marin County Parks and Open Space

CC: Supervisor Steve Kinsey  
Eric Steger, DPW  
Liz Lewis, DPW  
Gordon Bennett, Sierra Club  
Ed Hulme, Marin County Parks

Email Disclaimer: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/nav/misc/EmailDisclaimer.cfm>



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

801 K STREET • MS 18-01 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE: 916 / 324-0850 • FAX 916 / 327-3430 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE [www.dnr.ca.gov](http://www.dnr.ca.gov)

RECEIVED  
Point Reyes  
National Seashore

FEB 13 2007

February 13, 2007

Mr. Eric L. Gillies  
California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Ste 100 South  
Sacramento CA 95825

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

Subject: SCH# 2002114002 - Draft Environmental Impact Report Statement for the  
Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project, Marin County

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Dear Mr. Gillies and Superintendent Neubacher:

The Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act, California Farmland Conservancy Program, and other agricultural land conservation programs.

The California State Lands Commission and the National Park Service are acting as lead agencies in preparation of the document cited above. The proposed project involves wetland restoration of the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh. The Giacomini Ranch is located at the southern end of Tomales Bay; a 6,800 acre, 12 mile long mile wide estuarine embayment that runs along Point Reyes National Seashore's north perimeter. Together, the ranch and the marsh comprise the project area. The ranch has historically supported dairy operations. The Park Service currently owns approximately 550 acres of the ranch. The State Lands Commission owns a portion of Lagunitas Creek between the ranch's east and west pastures. The Park Service owns approximately 50 percent of Olema marsh. A non-profit organization, the Audubon Canyon Ranch owns the East and West Pastures of the Ranch.

### Williamson Act

Some of the land that may be converted to non-agricultural uses is under Williamson Act contract. The California Land Conservation Act (Government Code §51200 et seq.) of 1965, commonly known as the Williamson Act. The document correctly reflects that

*The Department of Conservation's mission is to protect Californians and their environment by:  
Protecting lives and property from earthquakes and landslides; Ensuring safe mining and oil and gas drilling;  
Conserving California's farmland; and Saving energy and resources through recycling.*

Mr. Eric L. Gillies and Superintendent Don Neubacher  
February 13, 2007  
Page 2 of 3

the Act provides a tax incentive for the voluntary enrollment of agricultural and open space lands in contracts between local government and private landowners. The contract enforceably restricts the land to agricultural and open space uses, and compatible uses defined in state law and local ordinances. An agricultural preserve, which is established by local government, defines the boundary of an area within which a city or county will enter into contracts with landowners. Local governments calculate the property tax assessment based on the actual use of the land instead of the potential land value assuming full development.

Williamson Act contracts are for 10 years and longer. The contract is automatically renewed each year, maintaining a constant, ten-year contract, unless the landowner or local government files to initiate non-renewal. Should that occur, the Williamson Act would terminate 10 years after the filing of a notice of non-renewal. Only a landowner can petition for a contract cancellation. Tentative contract cancellations can only be approved after a local government makes specific findings and determines the cancellation fee to be paid by the landowner. The County and Coastal Zone LLP have identified maintenance of agricultural resources as a priority. The document indicates that the East and West Pastures (currently under contract) will have no agricultural land management involved with any of the project alternatives. We suggest that the landowner and local government rescind the Williamson Act contract and re-enter into an Open-Space contract as long as the acreage is privately owned.

#### Public Acquisition

The document indicates that there may be additional acquisitions that would expand the Wildlife Area in the future, but does not elaborate. Any future acquisition would require additional environmental documentation, and we ask that we receive a copy of the documents for our review and comment. As is required by Government Code section 51291©, we request that the Director of the Department of Conservation receive notification of any proposed acquisition within 10 days of its occurrence, as the subject land may be under Williamson Act contract. Government Code section 51291 specifies the notification provisions of the Williamson Act when there is a possible acquisition of Williamson Act lands. We suggest that sections 51290 – 51295 be reviewed in detail. Please do not hesitate to contact the Division for assistance, and we would be pleased to meet with you when an acquisition is planned to discuss statutory requirements for such an action.

#### Land Evaluation and Site Assessment and Impact Analysis

The document provides a discussion regarding the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment model. Its use is required under the Code of Federal Regulations, and is a tool that is encouraged under California Environmental Quality Act. The final EIS/EIR should include the computation and provide an explanation of the resultant finding. The document also indicates that an expanded range of impact thresholds has been developed based on the LESA guidelines for evaluation of intensity of impacts (page 419). The FEIS/EIR should contain this "expanded range of thresholds", and provide



Mr. Eric L. Gillies and Superintendent Don Neubacher

February 13, 2007

Page 3 of 3

rationale for how these thresholds apply to the proposed project. As the state agency charged with monitoring statewide agricultural land conversion, and charged under CEQA as the agency responsible for reviewing such impacts, we can not concur with a finding that conversion of the east and west pastures to non-agricultural uses would be less than significant unless additional clarifying detail is provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this EIS/EIR. We look forward to receiving your response. Please contact Jeannie Blakeslee at (916) 323-4943 should you have any questions regarding these comments. Hard copy delivered via US Mail.

Sincerely,



Brian Leahy  
Assistant Director

cc: VIA EMAIL [www.Park\\_Planning@nps.org](mailto:www.Park_Planning@nps.org)



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

POST OFFICE BOX 47  
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599  
(707) 944-5500

RECEIVED  
Point Reyes  
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

FEB 9 - '07



February 7, 2007

Mr. Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

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The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) supports the proposed Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project in an effort to restore hydrologic and ecological process and functions to the project area and, in a larger context, restoration of the Tomales Bay watershed. The lead agency, the National Park Service, has selected Alternative C as the preferred alternative which includes full restoration of the Giacomini Ranch East and West Pastures and restoration of Olema Marsh, with moderate development of public access paths within the project area.

Alternative C involves the complete removal of several levees in the East and West Pastures, grading, revegetation and integration of the Olema Marsh into the restored wetland complex. Other important elements of this project include dedication of project areas' appropriative water rights to in-stream flow uses, removal of the "Main Dairy" from upland areas, removal of high priority invasive plants, removal of worker housing along Tomasini Creek, and other restoration management actions.

During implementation of this project there is the potential for short term and/or long term impacts to several special status State/Federal species and their habitat including: California clapper rail, central coast coho salmon, California brown pelican, Least Bell's vireo, California red-legged frog, as well as other species. Please be advised that a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit must be obtained if the project has the potential to result in take of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. Issuance of a CESA Permit is subject to CEQA documentation; therefore, the CEQA document has specified impacts, mitigation measures, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program.

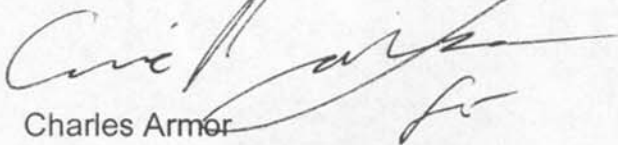


Mr. Don Neubacher  
February 7, 2007  
Page 2

For any activity (such as levee removal or stream channel re-alignment), that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river or stream, or use material from a streambed, DFG may require a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA), pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code, with the applicant. Issuance of SAAs is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DFG, as a responsible agency under CEQA, will consider the CEQA document for the project. To obtain information about the SAA notification process, please access our website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/1600](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/1600); or to request a notification package, contact the Streambed Alteration Program at (707) 944-5520.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Jeremy Sarrow, Environmental Scientist, at (707) 944-5573; or Mr. Greg Martinelli, Water Conservation Supervisor, at (707) 944-5570.

Sincerely,



Charles Armor  
Acting Regional Manager  
Bay Delta Region

cc: Mr. Ryan Olaf  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W 2605  
Sacramento, CA 95829



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 REGION IX  
 75 Hawthorne Street  
 San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

RECEIVED  
 Point Reyes  
 National Seashore

FEB 14 2007

February 14, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes, CA 94956

Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

Subject: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) [CEQ #200605]

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Dear Mr. Neubacher:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA supports the objectives of this project and believes the proposed project will significantly improve the hydrologic and ecological processes and functions in the Tomales Bay watershed. We have, therefore, rated this Draft EIS/EIR as LO - Lack of Objections (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions"). We recommend additional mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts from spills during construction/restoration activities in this highly sensitive project area. We also recommend that the Final EIS/EIR provide more specific information regarding the project's estimated nitrogen dioxide emissions and conformity to the State Implementation Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft EIS/EIR and request a copy of the Final EIS/EIR when it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C., office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3846, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

Nova Blazej, Manager  
 Environmental Review Office

Printed on Recycled Paper

GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT DRAFT EIS/EIR  
EPA COMMENTS – FEBRUARY, 2007

Spill Prevention and Response Plan

The Draft EIS/EIR specifies several effective measures that will be required during construction to avoid contaminant spills. In this sensitive project area, we strongly encourage stringent best management practices and recommend additional measures be included in these requirements.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the following additional measures to minimize the impact of potential spills.

- A spill kit with boom and sorbent materials should be on site at all times during construction;
- No vehicles will be fueled, lubricated, or otherwise serviced within 100 feet of the normal high-water area of any surface water body.

**Recommendation:** We also recommend you contact Peter Reich in EPA Region 9's Oil Program at 415-972-3052 to discuss the project's intended operations to ensure compliance with any oil spill regulations that may apply to the project.

Air Emissions

The Draft EIS/EIR indicates that, under the proposed project, earth moving equipment during restoration activities would potentially generate major or substantial amounts of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub>). For purposes of this EIS/EIR, "major or substantial emissions" are emissions greater than 80 pounds per day. The Bay Area is a non-attainment area for ozone. The General Conformity requirement of the Clean Air Act (CAA) mandates that the Federal Government not license, permit, or approve any activity not conforming to an approved CAA implementation plan. However, the Draft EIS/EIR does not include the projected NO<sub>x</sub> emissions for the proposed project or indicate whether the project conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Additional information is needed in the Final EIS/EIR to demonstrate that the project conforms to the SIP.

**Recommendation:** The Final EIS/EIR should provide NO<sub>x</sub> emissions estimates for the proposed project and discuss how the project conforms to the SIP. The National Park Service should work with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to ensure that anticipated emissions from the proposed project are consistent with the applicable SIP.

## **Organization Comments**

---





# California Native Plant Society

February 9, 2007

Don L. Neubacher, Superintendent  
Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

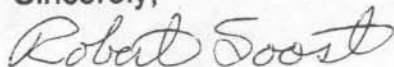
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Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

The Board of Directors, Marin Chapter, California Native Plant Society (CNPS), strongly supports the adoption of Alternative D. We do so because it provides the basis for the most complete restoration and continued protection of the area included within the proposed project. Alternative C also provides almost equal recovery, but the inclusion of a possible transportation corridor from Inverness Park to Point Reyes Station could result in unwanted intrusion into sensitive areas. Alternatives, A and B as well as the No Action alternative do not provide adequate recovery. If the preferred Alternative C is adopted, measures should be taken to protect the area from off trail public intrusion.

We note that under Alternative C and D considerable quantities (160,000 cubic yards for Alternative D) of surplus soil are scheduled to be deposited in old quarries located on Tomales Point within Point Reyes National Seashore. Some of these quarries have CNPS listed plant species on their immediate borders. Protection of these species during soil disposal and subsequent monitoring for invasive plant species should be provided.

Sincerely,



Robert Soost  
Board of Directors  
Marin Chapter, CNPS



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora



**Brannon Ketcham**

01/25/2007 11:20 AM PST

To: Lorraine Parsons PORE/NPS@NPS

cc:

Subject: Fw: EAC Announcement: Giacomini Restoration Plan - Public meeting tomorrow night.

Brannon Ketcham  
Hydrologist,  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
(415) 464-5192

----- Forwarded by Brannon Ketcham PORE/NPS on 01-25-2007 11:19 AM -----



**"Frederick Smith, Jr.,  
Environmental Action  
Committee of West  
Marin" <eac@svn.net>**

01/24/2007 03:21 PM PST

To: brannon\_ketcham@nps.gov

cc: kabk@comcast.net

Subject: EAC Announcement: Giacomini Restoration Plan - Public meeting tomorrow night.

Dear Brannon and Kathleen,

Happy 2007 to all of you.

First let me say how happy I am to be your new Executive Director at the EAC of West Marin. I only started my new position a few weeks ago but I already feel comfortable thanks in part to all of the support I have received from the EAC membership. In particular, I'd like to thank our board members who put their heart and energy into helping to protect the best of West Marin for ourselves and future generations to enjoy.

In this light, the National Seashore's Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project proposal is out for public review and the EAC is excited to see Point Reyes National Seashore's support for extensive restoration of the wetlands at the south end of Tomales Bay for the benefit of wildlife, including Coho salmon that spawn in Lagunitas and Olema Creeks.

The EAC supports Alternative D with one modification, because it is the alternative that provides for the most extensive restoration potential. We support modifying Alternative D to include a bridge over Lagunitas Creek, which would connect the existing levees paths on either side. This will create a continuous, low-impact trail between the White House Pool parking lot and the Green Bridge.

Please attend the Seashore's public meeting tomorrow evening, Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Headquarters' Red Barn Classroom to inform the public and get input on the plan.

The EAC believes that the Seashore's preferred Alternative C, while a great step in the right direction, is not the best option for a full restoration of the wetlands. Alternative D, with the addition of the bridge over Lagunitas Creek, is the best plan to fully restore the wetlands and improve public access.

For more information on the plan, go to:  
[http://www.nps.gov/pore/parkmgmt/planning\\_giacomini\\_wrp\\_eiseir\\_draft\\_2006.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pore/parkmgmt/planning_giacomini_wrp_eiseir_draft_2006.htm)

The Park is accepting written letters on this proposal until February  
14. Please consider sending a letter or e-mail to:

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956  
Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project  
E-mail: [parkplanning@nps.gov](mailto:parkplanning@nps.gov)

Thank you all for your support of the EAC of West Marin.

For Truth, Justice and the Riparian Way.

Fred

--  
Frederick Smith, Jr.  
Executive Director

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin  
Protecting West Marin since 1971  
Box 609  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
tel: 415-663-9312  
fax: 415-663-8014  
email: [cac@svn.net](mailto:cac@svn.net)  
<http://www.eacmarin.org>



"Frederick Smith, Jr."  
 <eac@svn.net>  
 02/14/2007 04:18 PM  
 PST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Attn: EAC's Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Comments

Hello,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin. Our comments are attached and pasted below.

Sincerely,

Frederick Smith



07.doc

February 14, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 1 Bear Valley Road  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

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Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR). The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) wholeheartedly supports Point Reyes National Seashore's (PRNS) effort to restore much of the Giacomini Ranch property and Olema Marsh (herein known as Tomales Bay Wetlands) to their natural state. PRNS staff and financial contributors should be commended for the amount of time and effort put into making this restoration project a reality.

After careful thought and consideration, the EAC supports Alternative D because it is the best alternative to ensure the largest restoration potential for the Tomales Bay wetlands and the watershed. Alternative D is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative in the DEIS/DEIR for the reason that it 1) provides the most extensive restoration of the system and 2) minimizes future adverse effects to birds, salmon and other wildlife species from the baseline of natural habitat

February 14, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR). The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) wholeheartedly supports Point Reyes National Seashore's (PRNS) effort to restore much of the Giacomini Ranch property and Olema Marsh (herein known as Tomales Bay Wetlands) to their natural state. PRNS staff and financial contributors should be commended for the amount of time and effort put into making this restoration project a reality.

After careful thought and consideration, the EAC supports Alternative D because it is the best alternative to ensure the largest restoration potential for the Tomales Bay wetlands and the watershed. Alternative D is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative in the DEIS/DEIR for the reason that it 1) provides the most extensive restoration of the system and 2) minimizes future adverse effects to birds, salmon and other wildlife species from the baseline of natural habitat conditions, not the present, altered state off the land.

The EAC *opposes* the pre-fabricated bridge over Lagunitas Creek advocated for in Alternative C and, thus, the southern Perimeter Trail as proposed in the DEIS/DEIR. While this public access component initially made sense on a conceptual level, more careful study reveals that the sheer size of the bridge that would be required, trail maintenance/construction requirements and increased human use in this area could have negative effects upon wildlife use and the restoration potential of the area. Perhaps there will be opportunities in the future to build a trail connection between the Green Bridge and White House Pool via the levee road corridor. The Lagunitas Creek watershed has already incurred serious damage upstream due to intense human development inside the stream buffer. We believe that future incursions to the streamside setbacks should be minimized and, if possible, completely avoided.

While Alternative C provides many of the ecological benefits in Alternative D, large potential increases in human use adjacent to Tomocini and Lagunitas Creeks, could negatively affect habitat use and quality. The fact is there are already abundant human access points in Point Reyes National Seashore and within a few miles of the project area. While improved access in the project area should be an important consideration, it should not intrude upon the natural restoration of the Tomales Bay wetlands and Olema Marsh.

One thing that is missing from the DEIS/DEIR analysis is the potential effects of public access to wildlife and ecological resources from a baseline of naturally occurring habitat conditions, rather than its current altered state. Utilizing the DEIS/DEIR's analysis alone, it is difficult to assess the real, continuous impacts of increased human use and trail intrusion into what could eventually be a naturally restored wetland system free from intense human presence. Please consider including an analysis in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report that looks at baseline conditions for these habitat types and assesses the effects of increased human use upon wildlife and maintenance funding concerns. This will help the public understand how PRNS' support of Alternative C ensures that future human activities in the project area are in harmony with the area's irreplaceable wildlife, scenic and other natural resources.

Also, please consider changing the name from the Giacomini wetlands to the Tomales Bay wetlands, as the ranch itself is the impediment to recovery, not its solution. Considering that this project stands to restore up to 50% of Tomales Bay's wetlands, it doesn't sound unreasonable that it should be named after the bay. The new name is also supported by a wide cross section of the local populace.

In conclusion, thanks you for your dedication to making this restoration process a reality. It is truly one of the biggest legacies of your time as PRNS Superintendent. It both excites and gives me hope that natural resource management in the United States is on the right track. This restoration project is a role model to the United States and the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Smith".

Frederick M.R. Smith, Jr.  
Executive Director

**Collaborative Comments by the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, the Community Pathways Committee, the Sierra Club, Access4Bikes, and Transportation Alternatives for Marin on the Giacomini Ranch Wetlands Restoration Project DEIR**

February 14, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

(This letter is also being postmarked and mailed today)

Attention: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Subject: DEIR comments

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

The Marin County Bicycle Coalition, in partnership with the Sierra Club, the Community Pathways Committee, Access 4 Bikes, and Transportation Alternatives for Marin have reviewed the DEIR for the Giacomini Ranch Wetlands Restoration Project and respectively request that the National Park Service (NPS) choose the following as its plan for the restoration: :

**We recommend Alternative D with the addition of the Southern Perimeter Path as noted in Alternative C and with the following additional considerations:**

1. The multi-use pathway should extend all the way from Point Reyes Station to Inverness Park and on to the North Levee.
2. The pathway should provide a safe, stable, permeable surface for bicycle and pedestrian use, such as is provided by decomposed granite with a pine resin binder.
3. Funding for the public access portion of the project should be secured concurrently with the restoration funds, and should be installed simultaneously.
4. Design, funding and maintenance of non-NPS-owned land should be agreed to in advance through a Memorandum of Understanding between the NPS and the County of Marin (on whose lands the path will occur).

Throughout the past three years of public comment on this issue, NPS has seen tremendous support for the Southern Perimeter Path from local residents. The idea of a path in this area has a long history in West Marin, dating back more than 30 years to the formation of the West Marin Paths group in the late 1970's.



This new path will link residences with schools and public services such as the post office and library, and with local businesses, making it possible for people to travel safely between Point Reyes Station and Inverness Park without walking or riding along narrow country roads.

Environmental stewardship, walking and bicycling go hand-in-hand. The more opportunities people have to walk and bike rather than drive, the more we reduce air pollution, water pollution and runoff from parking lots and roads in our fragile local ecology

The Southern Perimeter Path will allow bike/ped access along the wetland's perimeter, as well as provide viewpoints for birding and observation of the newly restored wetland. In this way, the path will expand NPS's ability to provide public access to the publicly-owned wetlands.

The Marin County Bicycle Coalition and its partners respectfully ask the NPS to make intermodal transportation between Point Reyes Station and north of Inverness Park a reality by including the Southern Perimeter Trail in the Final EIR, along with a pledge to secure the funding for the project, and to work concurrently with the County of Marin on an MOU. This collaborative agreement will improve public safety, help reduce motor vehicle trips (which degrade wetlands,) and help fulfill an NPS mission of providing public access to its lands.

Signed:

Kim Baenisch  
Executive Director  
Marin County Bicycle Coalition  
P.O. Box 1115  
Fairfax, CA 94978

Gordon Bennett  
Chair, Marin Group  
The Sierra Club

Dona Larkin  
Community Pathways Committee  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA  
94956

Alex Burnham  
President  
Access 4 Bikes  
P.O. Box 526  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA  
94956

Patrick Seidler  
President  
Transportation Alternatives for Marin  
187 E. Blithedale Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Cc: Steve Kinsey, Marin County Fourth District Supervisor  
Farhad Mansourian, County of Marin Public Works Director  
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Assemblyman Jared Huffman  
Senator Carole Migden

# Point Reyes Lodging Association

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2/13/07

ATTN: Superintendent: re. Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR

Point Reyes Lodging is a group of seventeen professional lodging properties in the Point Reyes area. As residents of the area and hosts to visitors year round to the Point Reyes National Seashore area we would like to provide input on the selection of a preferred option for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project.

Because many of our guests are interested in visiting and experiencing the natural beauty of the area we support an option that would provide the most access for viewing and interacting with the wetland area. Options A & B provide the most public access. Option C, while not including the Eastern Perimeter trail on the railroad right of way does include the connection bridge at White House Pool and the option for extending the Southern path to Inverness Park.

Point Reyes Lodging urges the park to include public access that includes both viewing the wetland area and helping to create a network of paths off-road between our communities and urges the park to take into consideration the environmental benefits of providing an alternative to driving motor vehicles around the wetland area and between communities.

Thank you for consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Point Reyes Lodging  
PO Box 878  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
415-663-1872

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Point Reyes National Seashore	
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RECEIVED  
Point Reyes  
National Seashore

FEB 13 2007

Point Reyes Station Village Association  
P.O. Box 476  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

February 12, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan- Comments on Draft EIS/EIR

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

The Point Reyes Station Village Association is a community forum for considering land use proposals in the Point Reyes Station area. Through our Design Review Committee, we regularly provide comments on local development matters to the County of Marin and other agencies. Our comments are guided by the Point Reyes Station Community Plan of 2001.

We agree with the references and interpretations of the Community Plan made in the draft EIS/EIR. One goal of the Community Plan that is particularly relevant for the project deserves repetition here. It is the goal of protecting the residential uses, next to commercial and public uses, in the historic downtown area of Point Reyes Station. If residential use is driven out by increased traffic, parking, noise and litter, the unique character of our town will be lost. We appreciate the attention shown to this issue in the draft EIS/EIR, but much of the detailed planning of the park-town interface must await the outcome of the proposed land exchange of parcels along C Street.

Two minor corrections should be made: In some places, the year of the Community Plan is given as 2000. It should be 2001. The reference to the zoning designation of the parcels on C Street (for instance, in the text on page 615), is incorrect. The zoning C-R-A:B-2 translates into Coastal Residential, Agricultural (10,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size), not into "Commercial/Residential", as stated.

We have followed this project from its inception and have previously commented on various aspects of it. Information contained in the draft EIS/EIR has caused us to rethink some of our earlier comments, and to confirm others.

As a result of our review, **we support Alternative D**, the environmentally preferred alternative. Our specific comments on the proposals in the Draft EIS/EIR are as follows:

1. **Restoration Measures.** We support the restoration measures described in Alternative D. The two main differences between C and D are (a) excavation to inter-tidal elevations in the southern portion of the east pasture, and (b) improvement of creek flow from Tomasini Creek by various measures. Taking the

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long view, we find that the 20% increase in excavation volume (from 200,000 cubic yards in Alternative C to 251,000 cubic yards in Alternative D) is acceptable. The advantages of Alternative D by better integrating Tomasini Creek into the restoration are stated in the letter from Jules Evens, which we incorporate in our letter.

2. **Public Access.** We support the limited public access resources provided in Alternative D, i.e., no bridge connection between the existing southern perimeter footpath and the County's White House Pool trail, and no Mesa Spur Trail. Our specific comments on public access resources are as follows:

*Southern Perimeter Trail (contemplated in Alternative C).* As a concept, a safe trail connection between Point Reyes Station and Inverness Park is popular and reasonable. Upon closer examination of the surrounding facts, however, we are unable to support the actual trail being proposed. Our opposition to the trail is based on the following considerations (listed not necessarily in the order of priority):

- Length and height of bridge and its estimated cost are excessive in relation to the proposed use.
- Introduction of man-made structure into area currently open and devoid of man-made structures (other than the levee berms which are to be removed).
- Impacts on scenic views from White House Pool and other points.
- Potential for future changes in natural channel of Lagunitas Creek and consequent need to regulate creek flow to fit the bridge instead of encouraging natural creek flow.
- Question whether the proposed trail would significantly contribute to reduced automobile use, given that it is less than one mile long and that there are few potential users that live close to the trailhead at either end.
- View that money and other resources necessary for the bridge and path would be better spent on improving Levee Road which would benefit more people. (The reasons given on page 88 of the EIS/EIR for eliminating the alternative of "Routing the Proposed Southern Perimeter Through-Trail over the Green Bridge" strike us as unpersuasive, because even if the concerns stated were raised by local residents, they are inherently not logical. Widening the shoulder of Levee Road would increase, not decrease public safety along that road, and would not generate additional traffic and noise in Point Reyes Station.)

- If the trail improvement and construction of the bridge were proposed on private property or on state or County-owned land, it would violate the County's policies on streamside conservation areas, because there is the reasonable alternative of using Levee Road. While technically exempt from these rules, the Park Service should be held to the same standard.

It seems clear that improving the existing bridge and road would have fewer impacts on the environment than the proposed through-trail and would benefit more people. We intend to initiate a broadly based, community-wide effort, working with county and state agencies, to bring about improvements to the Green Bridge and Levee Road that make them safe for non-motorized transportation.

***Mesa Spur Trail (contemplated in Alternative C).*** As mentioned above, we do not support the Mesa spur trail and overlook (near the duck club) proposed in Alternative C. The Mesa spur is an out-of-the-way location the use of which would be difficult if not impossible to police. If opened to public access, this location could easily turn into an attractive nuisance generating trash and unsanitary conditions, as well as noise and other conflicts with the residential uses above the trail. Vehicular access to the existing road to the duck club should be blocked with a simple gate to prevent illegal dumping of trash etc. The use of the existing utility parking area by local landscaping businesses could be continued under lease if this use is compatible with the wetland restoration in this location. Alternative sites for ADA access are mentioned below.

***Trailhead at Green Bridge.*** We support the proposal to create improved trail access at the Green Bridge. We hope to be included in the planning process for the details of this proposal. We support the blocking off of direct access from the wetland trail to Third Street.

***Dairy Overlook; ADA Access.*** It occurs to us that ADA access to the dairy overlook may be possible via a direct path from C Street (from a point between Fourth and Sixth Streets) if the Park Service retains ownership of its land along C Street or retains a road easement connecting C Street to the park land below. This more direct access from downtown would increase the enjoyment of the overlook by local residents and visitors and, if properly planned, including signage, would avoid the overloading of Third Street which is our major concern. In addition, ADA access could be created at the White House Pool County Park parking lot.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Respectfully submitted by

*Wiebke Buxbaum*  
Wiebke Buxbaum,

Chairperson of the Design Review Committee



# SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

COASTAL SECTION C/O GORDON BENNETT

Box 3058 San Rafael CA 94912 40 Sunnyside Dr Inverness CA94937  
sanfranciscobay.sierraclub.org/marin 415-663-1881 gbatmuirb@aol.com

February 12, 2007

**Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore**  
1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

Re: Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS)  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project (Project)  
Environmental Impact Statement / Report (EIS/R)

**The Sierra Club, on behalf of its 7,000 Marin County members, wishes to support Project Alternative D, which the EIS/R identifies as the "Environmentally Preferred Alternative" but modified as follows:**

SW corner of East pasture

We suggest that Alternative D might be modified to excavate the SW corner of the East pasture only to the extent that it may enhance the adaptively managed restoration of the Olema Marsh. We acknowledge that returning the entire area to historic conditions is both impractical and futile due to upstream land uses. So we do not support the full excavation as proposed in Alternative D, since it seems that the cost/benefit ratio is high and we believe that the money could be used to more effective purposes (perhaps to purchase adjacent properties for restoration).

Nevertheless, the adaptively managed restoration of Olema Marsh does pose a conundrum since it has high value yet it may be negatively impacted if this SW corner of the East pasture is only "scraped" as Alternative C suggests rather than excavated as in Alternative D. However, the Giacomini Marsh Restoration is due to flood the area before the Olema Marsh project is completed. If there is any chance that a fuller excavation of this area in the SW corner could enhance restoration of Olema Marsh, then the only reasonable time to excavate would be as part of the earlier Giacomini Marsh Restoration.

Thus our request that this area be analyzed for its potential to contribute to the Olema Marsh Restoration and excavated in advance on the expectation that a full restoration of Olema Marsh will be possible and to the extent that such excavation would materially contribute to the Olema Marsh Restoration.

## Tomasini Creek

We also support the full restoration of Tomasini Creek as proposed in Alternative D but again we question the cost/benefit ratio of moving a creek into its historic channel when that is likely to happen on its own. This money might be better spent on more wetland restoration rather than historic channel restoration.

Furthermore, another major expense in the larger culvert. In all other cases, we would likely support a larger culvert that would allow a more natural and fuller connection between flows upstream of the culvert and those downstream. In this case, however, we have upstream the former West Marin Landfill, whose inevitable failure will discharge leachate into Tomasini Creek. From this perspective, a smaller culvert may trap some of the high flows behind the culvert where they may drop out instead of being conveyed directly to the Giacomini Marsh with high flows that a large culvert might enable.

In summary, the former landfill strongly suggests the benefit of as much wetland as possible in the Tomasini "Triangle" and upstream, where more extensive Tomasini wetlands can filter out toxics as much as possible before they enter the Giacomini wetlands or are conveyed directly into Tomales Bay.

## Access Points

The Sierra Club supports Alternative D's elimination of the Mesa spur trail / viewing area (near the hunting lodge) as proposed in Alternative C. We believe this would create an attractive nuisance that would conflict with nearby residences above the trail, as well as needlessly impact wildlife. We support Alternative D's proposed Dairy Overlook (modified to be ADA compliant) via a direct path from C Street, which we believe could avoid both wildlife impacts and traffic impact to Third Street.

We also suggest that Alternative D be modified to eliminate the proposed spur trail extending from Railroad Point south on the Right of Way (RoW). In the opinion of the Sierra Club, by a pathway on the RoW, which runs through sensitive riparian/ wetland areas, would clearly impact restoration values. The Sierra Club has previously defended this Mesa buffer from incursion by the Writers Refuge Cabins. However, we acknowledge the desirability of pathway access from the town of Point Reyes Station to the Martinelli tract without having to walk along Highway One. Per our 2/23/04 scoping letter, we request the PRNS send a letter to property owners along the south boundary of the NPS tract and ask if there might be any willing to sell an access easement. We also ask PRNS to construct a gate at the SE corner of the NPs tract that would halve the distance now required to walk next to Highway One.



## Hunting

While we support the public's opportunities to hunt, we are concerned about the hunting currently allowed on State Lands Commission property immediately to the north of the Project Boundary. Once the north levee is removed, there will be no easy way for hunters to determine the boundary between State Lands (where hunting is allowed) and NPS lands (where hunting on or firing into is prohibited). Furthermore, we suggest that allowing hunting adjacent to the residences of Inverness is increasingly inappropriate. We would suggest instead that the hunting area be moved north of the town of Inverness, perhaps as far as Walker Creek, to provide a reasonable buffer.

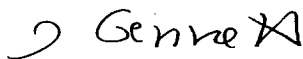
## Small Tributaries

The Restoration emphasizes enhancing the connectivity of the major tributaries (Tomasini, Olema, Bear Valley) but numerous smaller creeks also flow into the restoration area. Many of these creeks, particularly those on the west side of the Restoration that pass under Sir Francis Drake, are culverted. The Sierra Club urges that the scope of the Project be expanded and funds set aside for opportunistic replacement of these culverts to enhance biological and hydrological connectivity.

## Summary

The Sierra Club congratulates PRNS on an overall well designed Project. With few exceptions, as noted in our four comment letters, we concur regarding the importance of the Restoration and look forward to its completion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Giacomini Marsh Project and please also see our three associated Project letters.

 Gordon Bennett

Gordon Bennett, Sierra Club Marin Group Conservation Chair



# SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

COASTAL SECTION C/O GORDON BENNETT

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February 12, 2007

Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

**Marin County Parks and Open Space District (MCP&OSD)**

Attn: Sharon McNamee  
3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

Wildlife Conservation Board,  
Attn: John P. Donnelly  
1807 13<sup>th</sup> St Suite 103  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS)  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project (Project)  
Environmental Impact Statement / Report (EIS/R)

**The Sierra Club, on behalf of its 7,000 Marin County members urges PRNS, MCP&OSD and the California Wildlife Conservation Board to establish a more cooperative plan to benefit the public, the wildlife and the Project.**

Olema Marsh

The DEIR/S page 86 notes that the construction of a causeway across the mouth of Olema Marsh to increase hydrological connectivity with the Giacomini Marsh was considered infeasible because the MCP&OSD *"had concerns about losing some of the values of the existing park."* However, there is no indication that the Wildlife Conservation Board, the owner of this property, was involved in the planning. We would assume that if the causeway would contribute to wildlife conservation, as the Sierra Club believes, then the Wildlife Conservation Board should be willing to allow its land, currently a filled wetland, to be restored. We believe that restoration could be accomplished without losing any value or use of the existing park. PRNS has indicated that the causeway would not impact the parking area, so it would seem that the primary park element that would change if

a causeway were constructed would be a new pathway over a restored wetland replacing the existing pathway over the filled wetland. Furthermore, this decision by the MCOSD appears to have had a material impact on the design of the Project yet, to our knowledge, was never discussed in any public venue. The public should have an opportunity to weigh in on this important matter. In summary, we urge that the causeway and the Wildlife Conservation Board land remain in play as viable options if the adaptively managed restoration of Olema Marsh determines that they would increase or facilitate the Project's restoration goals.

### Viewing Areas

The Sierra Club also desires to keep cumulative impacts from existing and proposed County and NPS viewing sites to no more than exist now along the southern edge of the Project. We have no problem with the two viewing areas proposed by PRNS at the east and west corners of the north end of the Restoration (Drakes View Drive and Railroad Grade). However, the existing MCP&OSD parks on the south side of the Restoration already contain approximately eight viewing areas. In addition along this southern edge, PRNS proposes and we support the viewing area at C Street in Point Reyes Station.

The Sierra Club urges that the southern perimeter trail be routed across the Green Bridge instead of across a new bridge at the site of the former dam, but regardless of which route is ultimately chosen, this trail will result in increased impacts from existing viewing sites. If the new bridge is installed (which we urge it not be), then the bridge itself will become a de-facto new viewing area with significant adverse impacts on wildlife. We also believe that new nationally advertised NPS viewing sites/trail will get significantly more use than the existing county sites. Thus even if PRNS does not add any new "viewing sites", we believe the increased impact of the existing County Park sites will be an unacceptable impact on wildlife. These potentially adverse cumulative impacts were inadequately studied by the DEIS/R.

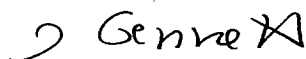
Thus we call on MCP&OSD to recognize the increased impacts from their viewing areas as a result of the PRNS Project and to work with PRNS to establish a coherent set of viewing areas along the southern edge of the Project. We further suggest that a reasonable outcome may be that the number of County viewing areas should be halved. The four County sites to be removed would be restored and the four County sites remaining would be improved so that viewing areas' signage and amenities would be generally consistent along this southern perimeter path regardless of agency jurisdiction and regardless of the ultimate routing of the perimeter trail

## Trails

Regardless of where the perimeter trail is ultimately routed, existing trail segments in the County Parks are roughly 4 feet wide and unimproved. We would urge that this width not be increased in this sensitive area, but we do request that the County consider adding decomposed granite (with pine resin binder) on its segments so that they are consistent with PRNS trail segments in the same area. Likewise we request that the County and PRNS cooperate to make signage, maintenance and rules (e.g. dogs on leash) along all trail segments generally consistent along this southern edge. We urge that the County designate its official trails either vegetatively or with split-rail type fencing (as PRNS proposes to do on its portions) to encourage users to stay on trails through areas that the PRNS Restoration will make significantly more sensitive. We ask the County to then close off and restore the remaining social trails on Wildlife Board land so that these areas become an integral part of the wildlife restoration by channeling human and dog use onto officially designated trails. Again, we find this DIES/R deficient in assessing the cumulative impacts from the Project on existing County trail segments. Lastly, the Sierra Club supports the PRNS proposal to create improved access to the eastern County trail segment from the Green Bridge rather than from Third Street in Point Reyes Station.

In summary, the Sierra Club believes that the DIES/R does not study nor encourage better coordination between PRNS, MCP&OSD and the California Wildlife Conservation Board and we thus urge that cooperative planning take place as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Giacomini Marsh Project and please also see our three associated Project letters

 Gordon Bennett

Gordon Bennett, Sierra Club Marin Group Conservation Chair



Don Neubacher  
02/14/2007 03:27 PM  
PST

To: Ann Nelson/PORE/NPS@NPS  
CC:  
Subject: Sierra Club Giacomini comments

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Don Neubacher  
Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

415-464-5101 (office)  
415-233-0303 (cell)  
415-663-8132 (fax)

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

----- Forwarded by Don Neubacher/PORE/NPS on 02/14/2007 03:27 PM -----



gbatmuirb@aol.com  
02/14/2007 05:53 PM  
EST

To: don\_neubacher@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: Sierra Club Giacomini comments

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## SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

COASTAL SECTION C/O GORDON BENNETT

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February 12, 2007

Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

**Marin County Department of Public Works Attn: Farhad Mansourian**  
3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS)  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project (Project)  
Environmental Impact Statement / Report (EIS/R)

**The Sierra Club, on behalf of its 7,000 Marin County members, opposes locating the Project's perimeter path through the SE corner of the Project.**

We do however continue to support the concept of a proposed perimeter pathway as described by the Dona Larkin of Community Pathways Committee: *"a non-motorized off-street path running parallel to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. along the perimeter of the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project to its northern border near Drakes View Drive. We also believe that the County of Marin can assist in providing the roadside portions of the path for public safety and safe routes to school. We envision a perimeter path, six feet wide where possible, constructed of a durable erosion-resistant, permeable surface such as decomposed granite with pine resin binder. We understand that there are significant challenges to constructing such a path. It would at times have to run on the Giacomini property, and at times along the roadway which would then of course require a safe yet aesthetically pleasing barrier between users and passing cars."*

We also have co-signed a letter with the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, the Community Pathways Committee, Access4Bikes, and Transportation Alternative for Marin that calls for prioritization of funding for this pathway and a memorandum of understanding between PRNS and the County of Marin for its design, construction and maintenance. However, we believe the proposed location at the site of the former dam resulted from a lack of coordination between PRNS and the County, rather than being the best transportation / restoration solution. We continue to urge, per our prior scoping letter, that the perimeter path be routed across the Green Bridge and then along Levee Road. However, the DEIR/S (pg 88) notes *"this alignment raised substantial concerns from local residents regarding public safety along Levee Road, which is one of the main County*

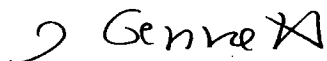
*thoroughfares in this area, and impacts from noise and traffic to landowners on Levee Road and in the town of Point Reyes Station.”* Contradicting these concerns, however, is the certainty that Levee Road (and Sir Francis Drake through to Drakes View Drive) will be redesigned to include bike paths and safely improvements on both sides as are currently proposed for Sir Francis Drake through SP Taylor Park. While these improvements to the Levee Road/ Drakes View Drive section will not be easy, they will be significantly more so than those planned through SP Taylor Park. Thus the issues of public safety, noise and traffic along Levee Road must and will be successfully addressed regardless of whether or not the perimeter path proposed is routed across the former dam site.

In fact, the Alternative C proposal will ultimately result in noise and traffic on both sides of the landowners on Levee Road, as local pedestrians will use the Alternative C path and road bikers will use bike lanes on Levee Road. Also, people leaving or visiting these properties will still have to travel along Levee Road. Users of the proposed perimeter path will also have to use Levee Road when the path through the Restoration is flooded, as the DEIS/R notes will regularly occur.

The cost to the taxpayer of the proposed bridge at the dam site through the corner of the Project is significant. Yet, as noted above, this proposed location would become duplicative when the Levee Road bicycle improvements occur. As noted in our concurrent comment letter to Marin County Open Space District, the Sierra Club would not support widening the path through the MCP&OSD Park beyond the roughly 4 feet that exist now due to impacts to the sensitive adjacent habitat. Thus the Alternative C path constructed with the bridge across the former dam site will be suitable as a “community path” but cannot (and should not) be part of the non-motorized transportation network, as would paved bike paths along Levee Road.

We believe these two projects (the PRNS perimeter path and Levee Road bike paths) should be planned together and sited together rather than separately. The bridge proposed at the former dam site seems like a costly substitute for cooperative planning between PRNS and DPW. The public should not bear the burden of additionally paying for (nor should the marsh bear the burden of being additionally impacted by) this bridge simply because two responsible agencies (PRNS and DPW) have not been able to coordinate their project and funding schedules. In summary, PRNS should move its proposed bridge funding to improve the Green Bridge bike and pedestrian access as part of a cooperative planning with DPW. Both agencies should work to create a multi-use pathway that connects Point Reyes with Inverness Park largely along the existing road right-of-way as proposed in the West Marin Pathways plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Giacomini Marsh Project and please also see our three associated Project letters.



Gordon Bennett, Sierra Club Marin Group Conservation Chair



## SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

COASTAL SECTION C/O GORDON BENNETT

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February 12, 2007

Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station CA 94956

**North Marin Water District (NMWD)**

Attn: Chris DeGabriele, NMWD Board  
PO Box 146 Novato, CA 94948-0146

Re: Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS)  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project (Project)  
Environmental Impact Statement / Report (EIS/R)

**The Sierra Club, on behalf of its 7,000 Marin County members, urges NMWD to adopt the Department of Health Services (DHS) recommended "maximum contaminant level"(MCL) for chlorine as 250 mg/L as the constraint for the PRNS proposed adaptive management of the Olema Marsh Restoration.**

The DEIS/R notes that a key constraint for restoration of Olema Marsh is the potential that it may result in increased chlorine in the NMWD water that supplies PRNS as well as the communities of Point Reyes Station, Olema, and Inverness Park. This chlorine comes from high tides whose access to the well site may be facilitated by the Olema Marsh Restoration. The Sierra Club certainly does not want to trade off the health of these human communities for the health of the Restoration. However, the DEIS/R (pg 304) notes that DHS has set the recommended MCL of 250mg/L "*primarily for aesthetic reasons*"; the upper MCL is 500 mg/L. Regardless, NMWD has established a limit of only 100 mg/L of chlorine as its taste and odor threshold.

We have no problem with NMWD establishing whatsoever limit it cares to for chlorine. If NMWD chooses a lower chlorine limit in excess of caution and as a result incurs additional operational costs to maintain that lower limit, then that is an issue for its ratepayers. However, when that lower limit triggers adverse environmental impacts, then it does become the concern of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club and NMWD had had this same discussion once before in negotiations regarding the transfer of location and use of the Giacomini water



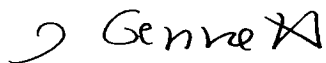
rights. In that discussion, we expressed concern that MMWD's 100 mg/L limit might trigger the apparent need for NMWD to protect its water supply from saline intrusion by erecting a dam across Lagunitas Creek. The State Water Board's WR-95-17 ruling specified the adverse impacts on endangered species (shrimp, salmon) of such a dam. Nevertheless, NMWD insisted during those negotiations of its right to protect its water supplies by installing a dam based on its 100mg/L chlorine threshold.

It was, and remains, the Sierra Club's position that a "need" with such negative environmental consequences must be based on a commensurate and scientifically demonstrated human "need." In the opinion of the Sierra Club, such a low 100 mg/L chlorine threshold does not threaten human health. NMWD's 100 mg/L is an extreme aesthetic taste and odor threshold that only some individuals can perceive. Thus NMWD's 100 mg/L chlorine threshold should not mandate actions that have an asymmetric impact on ecosystem health, including both the possible dam across Lagunitas or as a possible constraint on the Olema Marsh Restoration.

If the salt concern at any threshold level becomes an issue in the Olema Marsh Restoration, then PRNS should weigh the value of contributing funds to NMWD's Gallagher well project which would substantially reduce the tidal threat to the water supply and thus mitigate for the adverse impacts of the Restoration.

In summary, the Sierra Club urges that NMWD agree that the appropriate threshold constraint for the Olema Marsh Restoration should be the DHS recommended 250 mg/L for chlorine, not NMWD's current 100 mg/L threshold. To hold back further restoration of Olema Marsh for any lower threshold would be, in our opinion, an asymmetrical and scientifically unjustified constraint.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Giacomini Marsh Project and please also see our three associated Project letters.



Gordon Bennett, Sierra Club Marin Group Conservation Chair

# Tomales Bay Association

P.O. Box 369



Pt. Reyes Station, California 94956

14 February 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
Park\_Planning@nps.gov

## Comments on the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.

Dear Don:

You and your staff have done an excellent overview of options on the proposed wetland restoration plan. As TBA was perhaps the first group out here to strongly encourage the buying and restoration of the former Giacomini Ranch, dedicating an entire issue of our *Tomales Bay Watershed* as a digest of the initial review by Phil Williams and Associates in order to help inform the public, we look forward to the restoration both as it's benefit to species habitat and for educational value for the public.

We strongly urge the Park to implement Alternative C, which we believe is actually the better "preferred environmental alternative" than the stated "environmental alternative" as it calls for somewhat less extensive manipulation of natural processes while giving natural hydrology the opportunity to self-restore, and it also includes the potential for educational viewing areas and allows basic low impact transportation opportunities for non-motorized transportation.

With or without public access, there will clearly be a major increase in habitat for many special status species in the restoration area. Including a fair-weather off road path along the western perimeter of the western pasture will offer the best of all possible worlds, allowing people to view the area in a more controlled way than without a designated path, and make a real alternative to the automobile-dependent Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The health of the bay and our ecosystem will benefit by decreasing local car trips and increasing the public appreciation of the restoration project.

Considering that the Giacomini's will retain the old duck clubhouse and road to it for at least another 25 year, it makes good sense to have that be an area that the public can feel free to use and monitor activities around the old clubhouse.

We urge implementing Alternative C, with the following emphasis:

1. Make elimination of the northern transecting dike of the western pasture the greatest importance and first activity. (We recognize that lowering the levee near the mouth of Lagunitas Creek at the same may be efficacious, but the transecting dike and destination-flocking by humans is most disruptive for wildlife and we wish to emphasize the importance for its complete removal as a top priority)
2. Build the channel-spanning bridge over Lagunitas Creek as soon as monies become available. We note that those monies will come from a different source than the restoration monies, and encourage you to seek such funding so as to undertake the restoration and development of the trail concomitantly.

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3. Emphasize for educational purposes the five major feeder streams into the marsh: Lagunitas, Bear Valley, Olema, Tomasini, and Fish Hatchery Creeks. Encourage limited public access, allowing for the greatest possible vegetation and associated habitat improvement and minimize informal tramping. Extend western perimeter trail to northern end of property, in conjunction with the County of Marin, to allow basic transportation and promote education regarding the importance of transitional wetlands. (We note that a great number of exiting trails in the park pass over or are within wetland areas. E.g. Muddy Hollow trail, Bear Valley trail, the Estero trails.)
4. Maximize opportunities for having an off-road separation of the trail along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard where feasible, include sections with boardwalks such as found in the Everglades to allow drainage, and continue trail toward Inverness along edge of property, where necessary in cooperation with the County of Marin along the SFD easement, per the recommendations of the 1988 West Marin Pathway Feasibility Study.
5. Consider in the future raising Mesa Road on a causeway rather than digging new alignment for Tomasini Creek. In other words, allow nature to restore itself by removing the obstructions that are currently preventing it, as a modification of option in Alternative D. We have no objections to maintaining the spur trail in that area, as there is an existing road anyway. The spur from Mesa Road will probably be visited most by local residents, although there is no need to advertise it. (We note there have been very few nuisance problems with the remote parking at former Bear Valley Stables site, which allows viewing of the Bear Valley Marsh, AKA Olema Marsh and has a connecting trail to the levee road),
6. Utilize the filled land at corner of B-Street and Hiway One as a parking lot if it becomes available and route the trail to avoid 3<sup>rd</sup> Street as a main destination. This will help relieve traffic and parking congestion in Point Reyes Station that will get worse regardless of the restoration or trails.
- 7 We encourage acquiring also the lands on the western pasture that ought to have been included in the original purchase.

The Preferred Alternative has many of the aspects of Alternative D, but in a stronger public educational and pedestrian-friendly form. This alternative meets all the goals of the park service's mission.

We appreciate your diligent work to procure funding to bring this important project to fruition, and your commitment to working with the local population in order to bring about a more healthy, integrated community and ecosystem.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Fox, President

## **Individual Comments**

---





nancy adess  
<naedit@horizoncable.com>

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: John\_Jarvis@nps.gov  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

02/12/2007 10:37 AM  
PST

Dear People,  
I support the Park Service's evaluation of the best alternative for the Wetlands Restoration at Giacomini Marsh: Plan C.

Nancy Adess  
Point Reyes Station

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"Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook"  
<leslieai@horizoncable.com>

02/14/2007 11:06 PM  
PST

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook  
12340 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to comment on the proposed project alternatives for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration described in the DEIS. I would first like to commend the efforts of the Park Service in the preparation of the document, the comprehensive treatment of issues related to benefits and impacts of the project, and of the consideration of community concerns represented in the different Alternatives. Though my preference from an ecological perspective is Alternative D, I would advocate the inclusion of the bridge to connect the north and south trails along Lagunitas Creek, and the same provision for potential trail extension up to Inverness Park as shown in Alternative C. Additional, more specific comments are detailed below.

The current public use of the existing trails at the southern perimeter includes walkers, dog walkers, bikers, and occasional equestrian riders. Of particular concern to me as a dog owner is that those trails are one of the very few places in this locality that owners can take their dogs for a walk off leash, where the dog can run free, meet other dogs, exercise and be happy. I am concerned that as a formal, public pathway operated by the NPS, dogs will no longer be allowed to walk and run off leash. This is a huge quality of life issue for me, and I'm sure, many other dog owners that have been using these paths for years. I also really enjoy the current un-improved character of those pathways. I would advocate allowing the existing trails to continue, but without formal improvement, except for the bridge to connect the N and S paths. My hope is that without formal improvement (interpretive signs, surface preparation, etc.) dog walking routines will be allowed to continue as they have been for many years on this property. I feel this way, the current use and enjoyment of this site by residents with dogs will be protected. If the plan is to continue to allow the current use of the paths, then trail improvement would be acceptable, as long as it is not widened beyond the existing boundaries, and grassy open areas and existing vegetation along the western portion of the path remain intact.

The trail on the north side of Lagunitas Creek connects to town at the current public access site near the Green Bridge. I understand the purpose of this access point is to protect the residents near 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic. However, there is no safe and easy walkway on Rt. 1 to the public access site from town. There is currently no sidewalk which leads from Main Street or B Street along Rt. 1 to the access point. This is dangerous for pedestrians and bikers, especially for kids and walkers with dogs. Also, it is further from the center of town, which makes the path less accessible for some, particularly the seniors who currently use the trail. I suggest making trail access at 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and have that be part of the negotiations for the future of the parcel along C Street.

Additionally, I am concerned about the proposed fence along the north side of the trail for two reasons. I believe a fence along a wetland, which is intended to be part of an integrated tidal system, will impede wildlife access across the trail to Lagunitas Creek. Additionally, it could act as a debris trap during flood events, and could impede hydrologic movement. On a personal note, walking along a wetland beside a fence detracts from one's sense of open space and enjoyment of the location. I suggest the installation of a vegetative barrier of native shrubs in place of a fence. Dense but low-lying native shrubs and vegetation will act to deter human and canine crossing and will provide wildlife with protection from disturbance.

Also, I have a question: Will the existing public access trails will be closed during construction, or is there some way to provide some trail access that is safely protected from truck traffic and construction impacts, since construction activities will continue for many months per year, for 2 years or more?

In regards to flooding and changes in hydrologic processes, one concern I have is that the tidal inundation of the west pasture in combination with regular smaller scale storm events, will affect the groundwater elevation and in turn, may reduce the effectiveness of the septic system on the Gradjansky property where I am currently living. What is your assessment of this situation. The leach field backs up to the freshwater wetland at the east side of the property.

In regards to construction impacts on air quality and noise levels at the Gradjansky property, I fear that the BMPs listed will not reduce the impact to the less-than-significant level. Living right next to an access point for construction vehicles, it is the vehicular traffic passing through the access path which also affects air quality. Having experienced a short-term earth-moving project on the Giacomini property this fall, with vehicles passing by regularly for a week or two, I can tell you that it was noisy – particularly the effect of the rumbling vibrations literally felt in the house, and triggering my dog to bark throughout the day as they passed by. And this impact will last for months at a time as construction progresses. To address this, I would like to see construction schedules with the expected number of large-size vehicular trips planned for the access path next to and in back of the property. I also would like to request that construction activities at this location start at 8 am rather than 7 am which is a bit early. To hear rumbling and barking at 7:00 am on a daily basis for extended periods of time will definitely affect our quality of life. Also, a concern that I haven't seen addressed in the DEIS is the potential for air quality impacts related to dust created during dry months by trucks travelling over sandy pathways next to the Gradjansky property. Though the trees will create somewhat of a barrier, suspension of dust in the air can travel toward the house and yard. Would spraying the pathway with water be possible if particulates from the accessway become a problem?

I am also concerned that my and my neighbor's young children and our dog sometimes play on/near the pile of sand north of Fish Hatchery Creek adjacent to the Gradjansky property. I would like construction fencing to be installed securely along the path planned for construction vehicles all the way past the property line to prevent children and dog from entering a potentially dangerous situation.

In terms of the success of the marsh restoration, I advocate as much planting as possible be done to revegetate the marsh after excavation, and also after existing vegetation die-off occurs if new tidally adapted vegetation does not establish itself quickly enough. Restoration projects are most successful at minimizing invasives if native species are planted before non-native varieties have a chance to colonize.



Thank you for considering these comments. (I might have had more if I had time to get through the whole document.) I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook



"Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook"  
<leslieai@horizoncable.com>

02/15/2007 02:24 PM  
PST

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetland Restoration comments

Dear Superintendent,

This is an addendum to my email I sent in last night. Here are a couple of points I forgot to include:

In the Alternatives B-D, the potential for the construction of a low berm in the west portion of the West Pasture was noted to protect the private properties. This idea was not noted in the maps, so I am curious as to what would trigger the implementation of this idea. Is funding included in the plan for that and what would the berm look like (ie location, elevation, will there be outlet possibilities for drainage from the ridge, etc). If it would help to protect the existing freshwater marsh vegetation and trees on site, it might be worth looking at. The trees provide perching areas for many birds (predatory, vultures of course, song birds and I have also seen great blue herons occasionally using the trees for a perch). They also act as a bit of a wind break for the property.

Also, on the map for Alternative D, in the west, what is the purpose of installing a "fence to limit cattle access" extending west-east to the creek if cattle will no longer be grazing on the pastures with this alternative? Is that a typo?

Thank you again, for your consideration of these and prior comments.

Sincerely,

Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook  
12340 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
415-663-8669

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

As a tenant in the Gradjensky house, could we get truck schedules for when they access the wetland along the property, and could there be a plan for temporary fencing on the north side of the pile of sand since my kids like to dig there. Safety issue. Thanks!

Feb.8,2007

Superintendent,  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Dear Superintendent:

I'm both a resident of Point Reyes Station and an environmentalist. On both counts I would ask you to support Plan D, and not Plan C, in the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration project.

I feel Plan C will increase noise, traffic and congestion in residential areas; I'm particularly concerned about the proposed parking lot site on Mesa Road. This site could be a marvelous "transition" zone for wildlife, and encourage Black Rails, Tidewater Gobies, and Red-legged Frogs to make a comeback. Coho salmon would also benefit; this site is the mouth of Tomasini Creek, and a transition zone here would enrich the wetlands immensely. Please continue your wonderful support for wildlife, and reject Plan C.

In my view, there are already access points available: White House Pool and Tomales Bay Trail are existing sites with parking lots, and Olema Marsh could easily be made ADA compliant.

I feel we need maximum restoration, more salmon, and less parking lots.

Sincerely,

*Ellery Akers*  
Ellery Akers  
P.O. Box 1267  
Pt. Reyes Station  
Ca. 94956

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Point Reyes Station  
Jan. 15, 2007

Dear Don and Lorraine,

I would like to say that I concur completely with Hathaway Barry's letter being sent to you regarding the Wetlands. That being said, I have other concerns to which I would like response, and I understand there will be no public input on the 25th. That may be just as well, considering the strong feelings in the community and the rift it has generated.

Is there a difference in the missions of a public park and wetlands? I thought that preservation and restoration for the future was the main aim of wetlands, and public access and public good was the main aim of a park. As Hathaway Barry notes in her letter, there are 72,000 acres nearby for public use.

My understanding is that the "Lodge" will remain in Giacomini custody for 25 years. If that is the case, and a public path goes right by it, who is responsible for law enforcement? Until now, the occupancy of the trailers would have discouraged strangers. Will the Park Service have regular inspections and checks? Will there be assurance of funding for this security until the "lodge" is no longer there? Who will be responsible for liability insurance for what takes place in the deserted lodge and its surroundings? Many years ago my niece, with our permission, camped on our property. She started to walk up the path and was chased off by Giacomini. She wasn't even making noise, and surely noise affects creatures as it affects humans. There is a current book in fact about effects of noise in our modern environment. Did Giacomini care for his cows? Does the Park Service care for the wetlands wildlife as part of its preservation?

Sincerely

*Doris Allen*

Doris Allen  
P.O. Box 610  
Point Reyes Station  
California 94956custer@svn.net

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Doris Allen  
 <cust101@gmail.com>  
 >

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands

01/26/2007 04:37 PM  
 PST

Dear Don or Lorraine,

Thank you for the meeting last night. I found it informative and was relieved that it was not as unpleasant as one of our prior meetings. I had been sort of dreading it. I think all of you helped to set the tone.

As you know, I am firmly for Alternative D, DDDD! -- the environmentally preferred alternative. I see no reason to go against park tradition in not preferring the environmentally preferred alternative, and I certainly felt the sense of the group gathered at the meeting last night felt the same way. I was impressed by the knowledgeable questions and comments, also.

I feel that the difference between access (immediate gratification) and preservation/restoration (a legacy for the future) is striking.

"And this, our life, exempt from public haunt, finds  
 tongues in trees, books  
 in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in  
 everything"

--Wm.

Shakespeare.

Because public input is important to the decision, I will correspond as I think of new input. Thanks again.

Doris Allen

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Point Reyes Station  
Feb. 7, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Giacomini Wetlands Restoration DEIS/EIR  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Re: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Don and Lorraine,

I am writing once more to support Alternative D. It occurred to me that some of the opponents are familiar with the public paths through private property in England ("that happy isle"), but this is very different. There is a long culture there of sharing the private lands for hikers, and one doesn't hear of that tradition being abused. This land, however, is public land which is being restored as a natural wetland for posterity.

I do not anticipate hiking on many trails. At this point the earthquake trail is about my capacity. I do care very much, however, about posterity and the little bit of wildness available for future generations of man and beast, as well as the health of the bay.

In Walden, Thoreau said

"A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone".

I think we can let these small wetlands be wetlands.

Sincerely

*Doris Allen*

Doris Allen  
P.O. Box 610  
Point Reyes Station, California  
94956

custe@svn.net

*cc Jon Jarvis*

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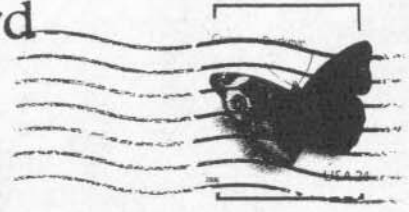
Superintendent Newbacher,

Please support the  
Environmentally Preferred  
Alternative D.

Postcard

FEB 7  
2007

"I never saw a moor  
I never saw the sea  
Yet I know how the heather  
looks  
And what a wave must be."  
- Emily Dickinson



Mankind does not need  
to experience everything  
Poets and scientists  
can do that for me.

Preserve  
Reserve  
Restore

Thank you all

*Doris Allen*  
Box 610  
Pt. Reyes Sta. Ct  
94956

Superintendent Newbacher  
Pt. Reyes Natl Seashore  
Pt. Reyes Ct  
94956



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National Seashore

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Superintendent Neubacher 2/12 Postcard

Congratulations on your \$1 million grant from the National Coastal Wetlands Program.

I hope the restoration dollars will help make a decision to choose Alternative D.

"Only by keeping our distance from wilderness - some wilderness, at least, can we keep from fouling the wellspring of our own life" - Evan ~~the~~ Eisenberg, The Ecology of Eden.

Thanks for all you have done!



Doris Allen  
Box 610  
Pt. Reyes Sta. CA  
94956



Superintendent Neubacher  
Pt. Reyes National Seashore  
Pt. Reyes CA  
94956



Francine Allen  
<fa@horizoncable.com  
>

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

02/11/2007 09:27 PM  
PST

I urge the Park to implement Alternative D.  
Thank you for considering my endorsement.  
Francine Allen

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"Sonja Anderson"  
<SonjaAnderson@iscw  
eb.com>

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Restoration

02/11/2007 02:35 PM  
PST

Superintendent Don Neubacher,  
I am a resident of Inverness and I would like the Park to implement Plan D rather than C. I would like to include the bridge and trail between Green Bridge and White House Pool but not the other public access that is included on alternative C. At a later time access from the Bay trail and the railroad bed should be discussed and considered, not at this time

Thank you,  
Sonja Anderson

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Map notes in for  
 District the  
 bridge!

Ann Asbury  
 POB 463  
 Pt. Reyes Sta.

February 12, 2007

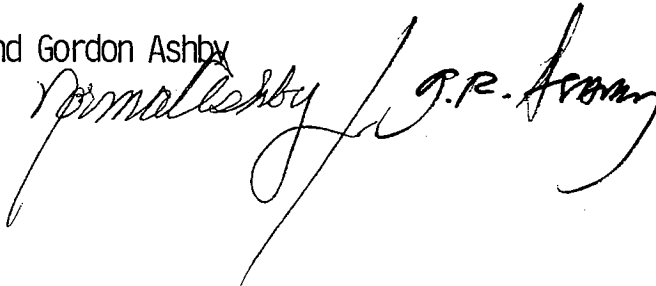
Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, California

Dear Don,

With this letter we again want to express our opinion relative to the Giacomini Restoration Plan. We feel that "Alternative D" provides the best 'beginning' for the wetlands. The natural processes will take some time to get established. Access for people seems a bit premature. Lets wait a few years, then look at this issue again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Norma and Gordon Ashby



Ashby, Box 550  
Inverness, CA 94937

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Harriet Barlow  
 <hbarlow@earthlink.net  
 >

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Tomales Bay restoration and access

02/12/2007 06:07 PM  
 PST

Dear excellent public servants at the Park Service,

May I say first that I am deeply grateful for the work you do in service to the Commons and to the present and future health of the parks and environs in this region and nationally.

I am a home owner in Pt Reyes (Los Reyes Drive). Full disclosure re: self-interest requires that I admit that my own life-style will be disadvantaged by your plans for "access" to the Bay. I walk, as do hundreds of my neighbors, from and to town on Mesa Rd. As you are aware, there is no side-walk to protect me or other walkers, their children and their pets, from the dangers of increased traffic if the parking lot is installed. As you realize, but I must include it here, there is already access at Martinelli Open Space, Olema Marsh and White House pool, away from town and residential areas.

But aside from my personal concerns, I believe that the determination that the Park Service made to restore the hydrologic and ecologic functions of the Bay were entirely legitimate and DID NOT include increasing human interaction with the Bay. We certainly don't want another situation such as that which required the closing of the salmon watching site in Lagunitas.

Of course I would be pleased to discuss this with you in person or to contribute in any way to a constructive conversation about this issue. Having spent many decades working on protecting the Adirondack Park from overuse (a constant struggle which is only held in balance by increasing the amount of acreage that is protected from human overuse) I know how contentious these decisions can be. Given that the original purpose of the restoration was for the health of the bay, let's stick to that goal. There are plenty of opportunities for people to enjoy the bay from other existing facilities and trails.

Thanks for taking my concerns into account.

Harriet S. Barlow

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Peter Barnes  
<peter@tomales.org>  
02/12/2007 08:35 PM  
PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

Dear Don

I am writing to say that I support Alternative D with no southern perimeter path.

Congratulations for getting the money together for the restoration.

Regards

Peter Barnes

PO Box 237  
Point Reyes Station

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Coeyley Barry  
 <co\_barry@yahoo.com>

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: In put on wetlands

02/14/2007 02:05 PM  
 PST

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Dear Don Neubacher,  
 I sent the following letter yesterday but then realized today comments need to be submitted by this evening at 5:00 so I am sending it via email as well

thank you  
 Coeyley Barry

February 13, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Comments on the Draft EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

Dear Don Neubacher,

I would like to register my strong support for Alternative D.

As a Masters degree candidate in Environmental Studies, I am very focused on what best serves the environment. I also have a Masters in Education and I have been working to combine the two disciplines [in my life] to contribute in whatever way I can to increasing awareness about taking care of this planet. The wetlands restoration seems like just such an opportunity.

To this end, it seems to me that there is no choice but to go with the "environmentally preferred" alternative D. I would like to see the wetlands restoration proceed unimpeded by human access. This would be a model of restoration, exemplifying the urgency of putting the hydrological and ecological health of the bay first. This would provide a great example for future projects.

There are already plenty of public access and observation sites for our local wetlands.

I love Tomales Bay and, having grown up here and watched the water quality deteriorate, I would like to do anything possible to restore its natural function.

I support you to do whatever it takes to facilitate the free flowing of Lagunitas and Tomasini Creeks into Tomales Bay!

Thank you for your amazing work.

Sincerely,

Coeyley Barry  
 p.o. box 157  
 Pt. Reyes, Ca.



Hathaway Barry

RECEIVED  
Point Reyes  
National Seashore

FEB 14 2007

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Superintendent  
Pt. Reyes Natl. Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Rd.  
Pt. Reyes, Ca. 94956

Dear Don and Lorraine,

First, I would like to thank you both. It is ever more clear to me what a monumental effort this Wetlands Restoration Project is and I appreciate your excellent leadership and also, Lorraine, the beautiful way you led the public meeting (1/25/07). It certainly appears that there is less divisiveness in the community than there was at earlier meetings. I'm glad for this. May it extend to the implementation of the final restoration plan!

As you know, I am wildly in favor of Alternative D, the "environmentally preferred" option. Alternative C, the Park's "preferred alternative", increases public access thereby compromising the environmental goals. This will draw a lot more people into Point Reyes Station, which will create more noise, traffic, and congestion. I'm concerned for the long-term impact on the bay, the wildlife and their habitat, and the community of us who are trying to live respectfully nearby. Any increased human activity will detract from what I understood to be the original intention of the project - the fullest restoration of the wetlands and the hydrological activity of the once pristine bay. I would like to see Lagunitas and Tomasini Creeks allowed to flow freely, unimpeded by human activity or bridges. Who knows what creatures might take up residence?!

Since the earlier public meetings, Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" has come out and highlighted the urgency for maximum restoration possible, wherever and whenever possible. Noticing what's already here - 8 existing observation sites - I'm inclined to feel that's enough. Especially if no one's clamoring for more. Access already exists at White House Pool, Martinelli Open Space, and Olema Marsh (could easily be made ADA compliant) - all with parking, multiple observation points, and trails to enjoy. All are 1) away from town and residential areas 2) already existing and 3) require minimal financial output. I would prefer that the money go towards full restoration.

As for the proposed spur trail, I would suggest putting up a large ranch gate at the entrance on Mesa Rd. and leaving it to the wildlife. By the time the Giacomini's lease on the hunt shack is up, global warming and/or an earthquake may well have put the old railroad bed underwater anyway, and on its way back to riparian habitat! In addition to being a serious fire hazard, a policing nightmare (vandalism & noise), a teen hang out and all around attractive nuisance, the trail would be an invasion of the habitat of the residents - human and wild (especially the endangered Tidewater Goby). As Lorraine said at the Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, in response to why the southern trail didn't continue north from White House Pool to Inverness - "that would be looking into the people's back yards". Surely that is the case on the proposed east side spur trail, too.

A couple of examples that have stimulated my concern:

\* In Lagunitas, the spur trail off of Sir Francis Drake created to view salmon has been so misused that it has now been closed off, except for a few months of the year.

\* A cover story of the Marin IJ (5/9/05) read "Rare Frog Imperiled By Humans" because visitors to a waterfall on Mt. Tam had inadvertently become a threat to the very endangered species they were trying to protect. The article went on to say that the visitors (and their dogs) to a waterfall on Mt. Tam watershed were "accidentally crushing egg masses and disturbing mating habits." "The eggs from the frogs – federally listed as a species of concern – already face predation from California newts and non-native bullfrogs. ... And now people are the concern." ... The frogs are feeling the pressure of being in a heavily recreated area," said the natural resource specialist with the Water District. "We want people to have a connection with nature, but sometimes there is too much of a connection."

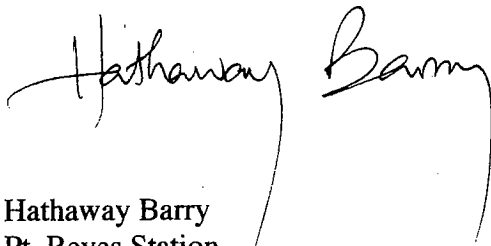
When I heard/read these things I wondered – might this be a headline about the proposed Tomales Bay Wetlands a few years down the road? And, with foresight, might we as a community avoid creating this situation, by remembering that what is for us a desire, is, for the wildlife, home.

I appreciate the very real safety issues of Levee Rd. And perhaps these issues (of traffic and speed) can be better solved by the county, rather than the wetlands.

In summary, I'm trusting the expert hydrologists, biologists, ecologists, (and all the other "ologists") and engineers who have worked so hard on this Draft EIR/EIS and concluded (as has the EAC, The Sierra Club, The Audubon Society, The Marin Conservation Group) that the environmentally responsible alternative is Alternative D. The benefit of the restoration for people is naturally secondary to that of the wetlands.

Thank you for all of your hard work!

with gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hathaway Barry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Hathaway Barry  
Pt. Reyes Station

cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov



Hathaway Barry  
<hath@horizoncable.co  
m>

01/22/2007 12:40 PM  
PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: jonjarvis@nps.gov  
Subject: re Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

January 21, 2007

Superintendent

Pt. Reyes Natl. Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Rd.  
Pt. Reyes Sta., CA 94956

Dear Don and Lorraine,

We recognize and respect the desire for public access to the proposed Giacomini Wetlands. However, we feel these desires can be met in a way that does not set a **precedent** by significantly altering the quality of life for current residents (as none of the other proposed paths would), and are therefore opposed to the proposed "spur trail" on the southeastern perimeter. There are some factors which likely only those who live here are aware of and which we feel are essential to include in a complete EIR, so we feel obliged to share them with you.

As neighbors who would be most immediately and permanently impacted, our primary concerns are 1) **NOISE** 2) **SAFETY** 3) **INCREASED TRAFFIC/PARKING CONGESTION** 4) **PROPERTY VALUES** - i.e. **QUALITY OF LIFE**. We are guessing that many people don't realize how intensely sound travels upward. When it's not windy and the cows are in the nearby pasture, we can hear them chewing! And one of us even has a hearing aid! You know how it feels on a bus or other public space when someone starts talking on their cell phone? That's what it's like living above the roadbed. Every conversation. Most of us moved here because we enjoy the quiet of rural life. If the proposed path is implemented it will change that possibility forever. It would be especially intrusive on weekends when most of us are wishing for the sanctuary of home and rest. We invite you to come and hear for yourselves.

If public access is granted, there will be no control over the amount and frequency and amplitude of noise. This is a startling prospect. I imagine the wildlife, if they were burdened with forethought, might feel the same way. The roadbed affords a wildlife corridor and, as you well know, any increased human presence will diminish wildlife activity and habitat. At one meeting, Don spoke of his own experience of living far above Whitehouse pool parking lot and yet being

disturbed by the weekend noise coming from people gathered there.

Realistically, who would **police** the pathway? And what about the very real **fire hazard** of smokers out for a stroll? **Vandalism** of the hunt shack? The inevitable roving **dogs** and their effect on wildlife? People coming to **drink**, to **argue**, in search of better **cell phone** reception? And where will they **relieve themselves**? Although the proposed pathway might be lovely for the occasional silent birder, more realistically – oy! what an **attractive nuisance**. Having a **public rather than private neighbor** is a vast quality of life change, and leaves us feeling very **vulnerable**. And, of course, affects **property values** as well. We are asking you to feel how you might feel if you lived here.

In addition, having a destination point here and yikes! – a possible parking lot, observation deck, and picnic table?! – would exacerbate not only the noise but also increase the foot, bike, and car traffic on Mesa Rd.. We feel sad and concerned about this prospect. We do not look forward to more booming voices of bikers, as they zoom by, yelling back and forth to each other about their jobs and their latest trips and their lives. Or vehicles parked all along the bottom of Mesa Rd. Or curious humans hopping fences.

There are 75,000 acres of Park for people to walk in and already several existing access points (with parking) to the proposed Wetlands. Most of us don't want to go to town any more on the weekends because it has become so crowded. Must we let this crowdedness now spill over into our residential neighborhood? New access points will create this. (Especially when they get published in the next *Secret Places of Pt. Reyes* !) The roadbed is not going to become a through pathway (although this might well be considered an invitation by those who would like it to), so it seems a heavy cost for very little advantage. Let's use the limited funds available for restoration, not *more* public access. ADA access could easily be met at the White House Pool c Olema Marsh parking lot.

Please hear us! We are seriously and ardently trying to hold onto our neighborhood and a quality of life that we cherish. Quiet

itself has become an endangered species and we humans are all suffering from the lack thereof.

As current residents, we are part of the existing environment so we are urgently requesting that you reconsider the proposed, unnecessary pathway and consider the habitat of those who already

live here as seriously and heart-fully as the habitat of the rails and goby and red-legged frogs is being considered.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully

(and with great appreciation for all the work you have done on behalf of the wetlands),

Marianne Sakellar	Susie Logan	Doris Allen	Hathaway Barry
Justin Tibbitts	Ben Logan	Nancy Sakellar	Kai Barry
Gabriel Tibbitts	Nick Logan	John Sakellar	Coeylen Barry
Kate Wilson			
Maria Wilson			



Kai Barry  
 <kaibarry@yahoo.com>  
 02/13/2007 10:31 AM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands -- Alternative D

February 13, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
 RE: Comments on the Draft EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.

Dear Don Neubacher:

I would like to express that I am strongly in favor of Alternative D for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration. I believe it's important to restore the wetlands as much as we can and to keep human access to a minimum. There are already plenty of access points.

I grew up in Point Reyes and would not like to see the community so drastically changed. Adding access points throughout the town and in the Mesa neighborhood will welcome the park's tourists into our sleepy community. Additional access points will only increase traffic congestion and parking problems within the town.

It is important to remember the spirit of restoration and return these wetlands to the animals and ecosystems we took them from in the first place.

I am firmly in support of Alternative D.

Thank you for your time.

Kai Barry  
 Point Reyes Station.

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Julia Bartlett  
<jujub@horizoncable.com>  
02/13/2007 01:11 PM  
PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Restoration Plan Letters Due by Tuesday 2/14

Subject: EAC Announcement: Giacomini Restoration Plan Letters Due by Tuesday 2/14

Dear Don et al,

Thank you for asking us for our opinions on this important matter. I am in favor of plan D with the addition of the southern bridge.

Thank you.

Julia Bartlett

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**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

I prefer Alternative D, with the inclusion of southern public access trail. The possible spur trails at Mesa Rd + the Martinelli Property would interfere w/ the free access of crabs from wetlands to uplands - v. imp't. Thank you.  
Julia Bartlett



THOMAS G. BATY

P.O. BOX 534, INVERNESS, CA 94937

4157669-1682

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Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes CA 94956

Subject: Comments on Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Don,

Here's my bit of lay-wisdom on the Giacomini Project. I would like to offer a voice of support for Alternative D with the addition of two significant changes.

The first is the widely-supported inclusion of the pedestrian footbridge over Lagunitas Creek. Since Alternative D calls for spur trails from both sides of the "Southern Perimeter," bridging the two seems like a golden opportunity for non-vehicular connectivity with minimal environmental downside. The price-tag of such a bridge seems to be the only real deterrent, but wouldn't this qualify the project for some transportation-type funding? May I suggest that the NPS consider naming the bridge the "Sis Arndt Memorial" in honor of her unwavering advocacy of this ecosystem for so many years.

The second suggested change would be to reach further into your partnership with the State Lands Commission on this project and secure the jurisdiction/management of the northern half of the headwaters marsh—what is now the Tomales Bay Ecological Reserve. While I strongly support the Park's fairly recent limitations on hunting in the Bay, this policy has caused a discernable concentration of hunting activity on the TBER. Does it make much sense to spend millions of dollars on a marsh restoration to create conditions that may well increase hunting pressure within the very marsh system we are attempting to preserve and protect? There is a very real possibility that the improved waterfowl habitat in the Giacomini Wetlands will increase hunting on the Bay. My previous recommendations for a comprehensive marsh management plan were met by observations from your staff that hunting/no hunting boundaries will always generate greater hunting pressure, but this discussion took place well before the development of your current policy.

Of course I realize the Giacomini Project is about far more than simply duck and goose habitat. But yesterday morning I found myself thinking about the Giacomini Wetlands as I hiked out along Limantour Estero and marveled at the thousands of ducks and geese feeding and loafing in that salt marsh system. Wouldn't it be fine to truly protect another "complete" marsh through this deal? Seems like a very choice opportunity.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Baty

Dear Park Staff

I strongly endorse Plan C  
that includes pathways &  
a connecting bridge  
across the creek.

Thank you

William Bant

Box 81

Unwees Ct 94937

February 12, 2007

Superintendent D  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Orleans, Ca 94950

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Re: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan-

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

This letter is in support of comments presented by the Chairperson of the Design Review Committee of the Point Reyes Station Village Association.

Restoration measures described in 'Alternative D' should make the least negative impact. "Wetlands are the hardest part of the environment to repair once damaged" says Christopher Hallowell, author of 'Holding Back The Sea'.

Public access should be limited to an observation area away from the residential areas.

The purpose is to restore the wetlands. Doing so in the simplest, most straight-forward manner can only help the process.

Thank you,

Elizabeth L. Beatty  
P.O. Box 534  
Point Reyes Station, Ca 94956



"Elsie Becker"  
 <elsiebecker@gmail.co  
 m>

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

02/10/2007 10:36 AM  
 PST

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

I am in favor of plan D for the restoration project since I feel that there is so much public access in the Pt. Reyes Peninsula area that it is time to give wildlife more access without human interference. Also, for the same reason, I don't see the necessity of a trail between the Green Bridge and White House Pool.

Sincerely,

Elsie Becker

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February 11, 2007

Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Please support Plan D, WITHOUT the 100 ft long Bridge. It is crucial to maintain and expand wetlands for bird migrations. Maintaining wetlands means a quiet place for migrating birds to rest. The addition of the Bridge to Plan D breaks the barrier between the goal of maintaining wetlands for migrating birds and weekend TOURIST activities.

Sincerely,

John Becker  
PO BOX 1102  
Inverness, CA 94937



cc:  
Regional Director  
National Park Service  
1111 Jackson Street  
Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607

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P.O. Box 1147  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956  
February 7, 2007

Superintendent  
Pt. Reyes National Seashore  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

Regarding the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan, I support Alternative D.

I feel strongly that as much of the former ranch as possible should be off limits to people and domesticated animals. Since most of the thousands of acres of adjacent National Seashore and GGNRA are accessible to the public, there is no reason to further limit the "kidneys" of the bay.. Every bit of wetlands will help restore Tomales Bay to its original pristine state .

This project can become a national model of responsible stewardship of our environment. I hope that no special interest group will be allowed to diminish it.

Sincerely,

*Lee (Lee) Benzinger*

Lee Benzinger

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"Winston Black"  
 <winstonblack@msn.co  
 m>

02/13/2007 11:10 PM  
 GMT

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Bridge at Giacomini Old Dam Site

Dar Sir:

It is a good idea to consider the installation of a bridge at the site of the old Giacomina Dam.

Best, Winston Black, 58 Drake Summit, Inverness  
 Mailing: P O Box 15, Pt. Reyes Stn., CA 94956

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FEB 6, 2007

DON NEUBACHER  
SUPERINTENDENT  
PT. ROYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

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DEAR DON -

PLEASE LET THIS NOTE SERVE AS MY NOTIFICATION TO YOU AND NPS THAT I ENDORSE ALTERNATIVE D FOR RESTORING WETLANDS ON GIACOMINI RANCH.

THE IDEA OF A BRIDGE OVER LAQUINAS CREEK IS A BAD IDEA THAT INCREASES HUMAN ACTIVITY IN THE RESTORATION AREA. ALSO YOUR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY COMES INTO PLAY WHEN ONE GOES TO THE TROUBLE ~~TO~~ TAKE THE COST FOR TRAIL + BRIDGE AND THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF BICYCLE RIDERS IN INVERNESS PARK. DO THE MATH AND YOU WILL FIND IT POOR USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO SPEND SO MUCH PER EACH BIKE RIDER.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE AS A PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER + FIELD NATURALIST, WHO HAS RESTORED WETLANDS MYSELF ON MY RANCH IN THE KLAMATH BASIN, THERE IS SO LITTLE COASTAL WETLANDS IN CALIFORNIA THAT THE PRUDENT COURSE OF ACTION MANDATES DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CREATE ~~AS~~ THE OPTIMUM CONDITION FOR THE WETLAND RESTORATION.

NO "BRIDGE TO NOWHERE !!"

Sincerely,  
Jugga Blaha  
PO Box 152  
Inverness, CA 94937





BBochte@aol.com  
02/12/2007 08:13 PM  
EST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: jon\_Jarvis@nps.gov  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Park Service,  
I am a long time resident of Marin County, bike rider and hiker. I am emailing in response to your considerations for the restoration of the Tomales Bay estuary. I am adamantly in favor of Alternative D to allow for the optimal healing and vitality of this unique ecosystem. I know there are already miles and miles of hiking and biking trails in Marin. An estuary is a biological nursery and needs to be treated like one. Please consider Alternative D for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan.

Bruce Bochte  
311 Rydal Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
415-381-3456  
bbochte@aol.com

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"Susan M. Brayton"  
 <susanbrayton@horizo  
 ncable.com>

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Project

02/12/2007 08:54 PM  
 MST

I support Plan C ... however,

At the January 25th meeting you passed out cards asking for comments on additional issues that were not brought up at the meeting.

It is not clear from the maps I have looked at today if the County will still maintain the current County Parks adjacent to the Giacomini Ranch and at White House Pool. I would like (responsibly) to continue to walk my dog in this area, as presently permitted, as would other residents who have companion animals. And in view of the proposed bridge & path to Point Reyes Station, as well as pedestrians & cyclists, I hope it will be permissible for those of us with dogs who also live in this area to walk from White House Pool to town with our animals,

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan brayton

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Brostrom  
1116 Curtis St  
Albany CA 94701

OAKLAND CA 946

12 FEB 2007 PM 7:11



2/12/07

Superintendent Pt. Reyes  
National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA

This is just a short note to voice my opinion that there should not be trails into a newly proposed wetland restoration on Tomales Bay. There are plenty of opportunities for hiking at Point Reyes, White House Pool and Martinelli Open Space. What is in short supply are habitats without human intrusion.

Margaret Brostrom  
1116 Curtis St Albany CA

Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent,

As a twenty-three year resident of West Marin, I am writing this letter in support of Plan D. The reason so many of us live here is due to the beauty of the nature and the privilege of living so close to wildlife. The site of the proposed parking lot on Mesa Road (Plan C) is crucial to wildlife. After all the habitat that has been destroyed for our "conveniences," paving over an area used by other species can no longer be considered an option. I ask you from my heart to please support Plan D.

Sincerely,



Sharon Buquen  
M.A. Education  
State of California Credentialed Teacher

Buquen  
P.O. Box 1046  
Bolinas, CA 94924

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**Ann Nelson**

01/25/2007 11:26 AM PST

To: Lorraine Parsons/PORE/NPS@NPS, Don Neubacher/PORE/NPS@NPS  
cc:  
Subject: Fw: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

FYI



**2bab4@earthlink.net**

01/24/2007 10:36 PM EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiscir\_draft\_2006.htm

i support EAC's proposal of Plan D with a bridge over the creek. As a user of both ends of this trail, I would be delighted to make the walk without detouring to Levee Road.

Thank you for your consideration. I am sorry not to be free to attend the meeting on Thursday the 25th.

Barbara Carlitz

# Catherine Caufield

RECEIVED	
Point Reyes National Seashore	
FEB 12 '07	
P. O. Box 884	
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February 12, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956  
via email: [park\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:park_planning@nps.gov)

Re: Draft EIR, Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

I want express my support for Alternative D, the environmentally preferred alternative, of the Draft EIR. Wetland and creek restoration and wildlife protection should be the overriding values of this restoration project. Public access, education, views, etc, should take second place to these priorities. I am especially concerned about the negative impacts of placing a bridge in the stream buffer zone of Lagunitas Creek, perhaps the most important salmon creek in Marin County, and one that has suffered much abuse and needs all the restoration it can get.

I support the arguments of others, more qualified than I to make them, regarding the ways in which Alternative D would be more successful than Alternative C in achieving the primary goal of ecosystem restoration and I wish to register my strong support for their conclusions and for Alternative D.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

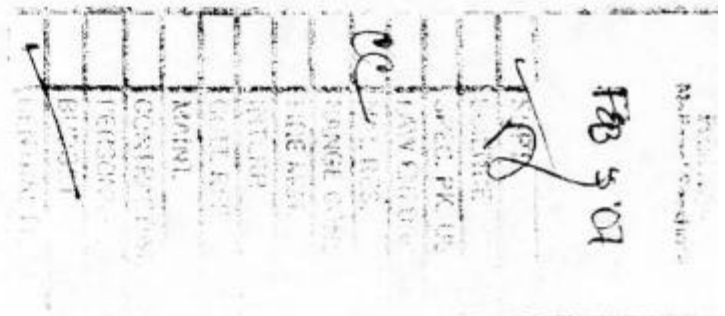


Catherine Caufield  
cc: Jon Jarvis

## I am voting strongly for Proposal D.

1. Proposal D is consistent with the values of our community. It asks that we do the uttermost for the restoration, preservation and protection of our natural environment.
2. Public access can always be considered in a second stage, later on, when we have seen how successful the restoration process turns out to be, whether it requires more money and time and therefore more focused energy than presently imagined.
3. I strongly disagree with the proposals from the Sierra Club and the Biking Club, that we undertake considerable public access as a modification of Plan D. Two reasons for this: aesthetic and aesthetic It is certainly a lovely idea to link our communities, but a structure like the bridge, prominently positioned at the entrance to a beautifully preserved wilderness area is bound to give us the look of artificiality—as if we were a golf course or worse yet, a kind of Wilderness Theme Park. It is very difficult to preserve, quite easy to destroy, the integrity of a place like Point Reyes.
4. Preservation/restoration is headed in a direction that restores the natural flow and shape of our land. The public access, as presently conceived, seems to move in the opposite direction—adding structures that are not and have never been part of our natural terrain.
5. There are so many miles of trails for bikes and horses and walkers in Point Reyes. Why is it necessary to take this area so close to town and introduce what is bound to occasion at least some added congestion, privacy issues, parking problems?
6. Let us concentrate our energy, our money, our planning capacity on the environment.
7. **Proposal D is what the Point Reyes Peninsula is! The other proposals do not do it justice.**

**Kim Chernin, 704 B Street, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 663 9511**







gchisholm@audubon.or  
g  
02/12/2007 01:35 AM  
EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration EIR/EIS

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

Dear Don Neubacher:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project. We are supportive of the Alternative C and pleased to see this important restoration project get underway.

As a neighbor I would like to bring several issues to you and your staff's attention along our common property boundary just north of the Giacomini Clubhouse.

We have a number of eucalyptus trees along our boundary though I am not sure of the exact line between our property and NPS managed land. We would be supportive of the removal of the boundary eucalyptus and working together on the removal of eucalyptus on our hillside along with the restoration of native upland habitat on both our land and the old railroad grade next to the pasture. We would be interested in undertaking a collaborative project to restore native habitat.

In addition, prior to full transfer of the property I would like to ask that the sizeable pile of irrigation pipes that have been abandoned for a long time along our property line be removed and that an abandoned shack on our common property boundary be removed and that the electric line to the shack be shut down to reduce fire risk.

I appreciate your attention to these details and look forward to working with you and your staff to seeing this project succeed.

Sincerely,

Graham Chisholm and Kelly Cash

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Kay Clements  
<kay@kwmr.org>  
02/12/2007 12:35 PM  
PST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: wetlands restoration

Hi,  
I just wanted to comment briefly on the proposed trail connecting Inverness Park with Point Reyes Station. I believe access to Pt Reyes via an off road trail would be used by many residents and kids on bikes and a good idea. What I would like to see is the trail as a throughway, not a freeway for weekend bicyclists.

I believe that visitors to the area bring a different sensibility - not to say they don't appreciate what is here, but I think it is a little removed from the community and not always as conscientious. When you are on a trail and see your neighbor, you make the extra effort to call out or move aside. If a trail is going to connect IP and PRS, let it be to facilitate and protect local traffic, not provide another raceway for the bicyclists to group up and dominate.

thanks for your consideration.  
Kay Clements

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Ann Nelson

01/11/2007 03:24 PM PST

To: Brannon Ketcham/PORE/NPS@NPS, Lorraine Parsons/PORE/NPS@NPS  
cc:  
Subject: Fw: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report

FYI



gerry@horizoncable.com

01/11/2007 06:01 PM EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

Having such short notice to address my concerns about the subject Project please know that these matters are not all of them:

I object to the fact that the local newspaper of record, either in the County of Marin or in West Marin did not report your deadline being today for the deadline to comment on the subject study plan.

The study does not describe why the CALTRANS money has a link to being used to consider "Transportation" issues on and near the subject property.

The study/report contains no cost estimates for each of the four proposals. There is no cost/benefit analysis for each of the four proposals.

The report presents little to no summary information showing how using the property's edges for public enjoyment and transportation had no negative impact on restoring the property's wetland features.

The report has little to no information that deals with important matters concerned about:

(a) Bicyclist safety issues including accidents in the area; (b) Why bicyclist use in the area is discouraged due to poor conditions for safety and enjoyment (very narrow roads, heavy motorized traffic, etc.) (c) Motorized traffic patterns between towns and neighborhoods bordering the property to show that such traffic is increasing; (d) There is no safe way to travel by foot or bicycle north of Point Reyes Station to the Martinelli Park. (roadway there has little to no shoulder space) (e) Explaining why the nearby town's community plan shows no interest in reopening the nearby Abandoned Railroad Right-Of-Way (ARROW). This includes why it has little giving local residents easy access to the property's easterly side, to other neighborhoods, and to the area south of the subject property. (f) That the property's ARROW connects to the ARROW on the east side of the nearby town that also connects to the ARROW at Tocaloma that has been reopened. Omitting this significant off-road transportation system information misleads the reader who does not know the area on an intimate basis. (g) No mention is made about the fact that for the past 27 years the local community has shown an interest in having this ARROW reopened while at the same time well connected residents living on the hill adjacent to the

ARROW have done what they can to defeat its reopening; (h) No analysis shows how the ARROW uses none of the dry land near what had been wetland before the ARROW was constructed over a hundred years ago; (i) Why the restoration project must include transportation issues in the area of the subject property. If its edges are not considered for public use (bike and walking paths) then an important opportunity is abandoned. (j) The Olema Marsh public access path issue should be considered in all four options and so it is included in the option settled on. (k) Dating back 27 years (1980) it has made been known at public meetings and in public reports that it wants the subject property's ARROW reopened so it connects to the ARROW on Point Reyes Station's east side all the way to the ARROW at Tocaloma that is in use for the public's safety and enjoyment benefit.

Lastly, it must be noted that none of the public hearings about a matter of this importance that concerns the public at large (those residing outside of West Marin) was never held outside of West Marin - even though it is known this public uses their federal parks here in West Marin on a basis that represent 82% of the users from the Bay Area and beyond.

For all these and more reasons it must be known that the subject study was biased in favor of only restoring the property to a wetland while it ignored how public access can coexist along with wetland restoration.

Gerry Coles PO Box 353, Bolinas, CA 94924 (tele: 868-1108)



Gerry Cirincione-Coles  
<gerry@mermaidhill.com>  
m>

02/14/2007 08:27 PM  
PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: lorraine\_parsons@nps.gov  
Subject: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Please be advised that your subject's EIR is incomplete until it deals with the following matters:

- (a) As the dire effect Global Warming will surely have on the restoration project, and the data presented in the EIR now does not deal with how the additional height of two more feet over previous expectations - means the EIR is insufficient in this regard.
- (b) That it was most arbitrary (slanted to favor Alternative C) how the study dealt with various schemes to allow public access, but did not show, for example that the abandoned railroad right-of-way (ARROW) could be restored to public use (as proposed in Alternative A) along with having the maximum method of restoring the property to a wetland (as proposed in Alternative C or D) - even a casual reader of the EIR will easily note its bias that favors Alternatives C and D, but don't consider opening the ARROW to public use.
- (c) That no public meetings to encourage public comment were held outside of West Marin shows an intent to influence the results of the EIR to favor Alternative C (aka: the "Preferred Alternative) even though a NPS study proved that more than 80% of the public who frequent the federal parks in West Marin actually reside outside of Marin County. The NPS made no effort to solicit public comments from the public who use their parks in West Marin because it hosted no public meetings outside of West Marin means that the subject EIR has not had a fair hearing as far as the greater public is concerned. Considering that the public who attended the public meetings on this subject are locals who are well known to not be receptive to having 3 million visitors in their area - thus the results of the meetings reflect the EIR report's bias, which results in their not being receptive to making the subject property being made more attractive to visitors. In this regard the EIR should cite the fact that the West Marin Chamber of Commerce (WMCC) is not a member of the Marin County Visitors and Convention Bureau because the latter wants to service the needs of visitors to Marin County and while the WMCC, like the local residents has not shown this interest on a local basis.
- (d) Considering that the town of Point Reyes Station borders the subject property, but has nothing in its General Plan that proposes any convenient access for its residents on the subject property or to the federal park to its north that has no access but from Highway One - proves a local bias against giving this matter a thorough hearing at the local level, which is the only feedback the NPS seems to have relied on in its EIR with regards to ordinary civilian input that isn't scientific.
- (e) While several consultants whose Literature is cited in the EIR (J.G. Evens, PWA, etc), and it is well known that their bias did not support opening the ARROW, means that the EIR's Literature information does not cite that of any known supporter for opening the ARROW.
- (f) With regards to the List of Preparers, it can be substantiated that one person who contributed to the EIR at this level (Jules Evens) has

made it clear in a public record (Point Reyes Light) that he is against opening the ARROW to public use. That this EIR used no consultants who understand the benefits of wetlands coexisting with ARROWS, Alternative Transportation, etc. shows its bias that favors a maximum wetland restoration with an a minimum of public access.

(g) With regards to Public Safety: the fact that the EIR concerned with a property that borders a town that has the most residents of any town in West Marin needs additional information about an issue of vital importance considering that all roads bordering the subject property, and the town nearest it, are narrow two lane roads that must accommodate about 3 million visitors (1 million cars?). This EIR must have project how public safety would be improved if the 550 acre property's ARROW is reopened, and it had off-road paths along its southern and western edges for the benefit of bicyclists and hikers so they could travel away from high speed motorized traffic.

(h) With regards to CALTRANS contributing the greatest share of purchase monies to acquire the property the EIR explains almost nothing about the "...legal agreement between CalTrans and the park, which only obliges the park to mitigate 3.6 acres, all agencies agreed that more fully restoring lands on the acquired property was the ultimate goal, and the MOU called for restoration of a 'significant portion' of the historic marsh." Why isn't the MOU in the EIR? Does "significant portion" mean 80% (440 acres) or 90% (495 acres)? In either case it easily leaves enough land to be set aside for public access: 440 acres in wetland leaves 110 acres for public access, or 495 acres restored to wetland still leaves 105 acres for public access. Considering that the EIR contains no analysis that shows any computations for how much land would be used for public access in any of its alternatives means the EIR is totally inadequate with regards to its meaning of: "significant portion".

(i) Considering that the ARROW had been in historical "transportation" use for many decades, that the public roads near the subject property are not safe for bicyclists and pedestrians, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to conclude that the property can be restored to wetland, but at the same time must also accommodate the public's transportation (aka: safety) needs. And this is what the ARROW would accomplish as would construction of other off-road paths near its southern and western edges.

Gerry Coles  
PO Box 353, Bolinas, CA 94924  
(tele: 415-868-1108)



Rigdon Currie  
<rigdon@horizoncable.com>

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: Johnson Trish <patrish@horizoncable.com>  
Subject: Giacomini Property

02/09/2007 03:26 PM  
PST

I like Plan C with the additional access and the bridge.

Rigdon Currie  
1 Balboa Ave., P.O. Box 1120  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956-1120  
415-663-1755  
415-663-1756 (fax)  
415-999-5855 (mobile)

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Kathryn de Laszlo  
<delaszlo@svn.net>  
02/12/2007 09:59 PM  
PST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: bridge over creek for Inverness Park/Point Reyes Station

Dear Mr. Neubacher,

The reply to a bridge or no bridge is, from our household, a resounding yes! There is no better way to preserve the majority of our natural habitat than to create viable alternatives to vehicle transportation. Families and all those inclined to seek out alternative modes of traveling locally will benefit and be given the great gift of a close up reminder of the fragility and rarity of our landscape. there is nothing like getting out of the car and passing slowly through our immediate environment to remind us of what needs preserving for the future. Kathryn de Laszlo, Stephen Marshall and daughters. (415) 663-1964 email:delaszlo@svn.net

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Barbara Deutsch  
 <undone@lmi.net>  
 02/14/2007 12:56 AM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: explaining a seeming duplication

RECEIVED
Point Reyes
National Seashore
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Dear Superintendent Neubacher and Regional Director Jarvis:

I sent this earlier today (now yesterday) from my husband's computer (his e-address Barry@ddw.com) forgetting to identify it as my comment, not a second from him (Barbara's own comment from that e-address earlier this week). *OK - Rec'D 2/12/07*

I re-send mine now from this computer, to correct mis-impression -- and, I hope, allay a confusion.

Yours irregularly, but less so than before,  
 Barbara Deutsch (resident of levee road, Pt. Reyes Station)

comment in favor of alternative D, un-a-briDgeD

I am among those many who Do not want to see commercial exploitation or any carelessness in the implementation of a wetlanDs restoration project maDe financially possible by professional generosity and environmental conscientiousness.

who aDvocate the alternative most Desirable in terms of habitat restoration,

who wish human presence NOT to Degrade wilDlife habitat OR opportunities for other humans to enjoy and learn from unDisturBeD wilDlife presence

and who Desire that whatever is Done, be Done so as to restore where absent and safeguard where present:

integrity of eDge, especially the water's eDge, but also the eDges of pathways

full, continuous, complex riparian habitat in the estuarine eco-tone, with optimized structural Depth and Density, in orDer to proviDe the concentration of resources that will naturally be sought there

effective buffering for wilDlife Dispersal corriDors

alreaDy establisheD wilDlife, and natural recovery alreaDy unDerway

maximum potential retrieval of natural sounDscape

least possible Disruption to visual field (e.g., Disallowing human intrusion in an unnaturally elevateD or accelerateD manner, or with what appear to be preDators, causing fright and other stress to wilDlife)



provision for choice for both wild and human beings, including the choice to be in a place free from domesticated or mechanized artifacts

and for the assurance wildlife (and humans with sensitive awareness, itself in great need of restoration) derive from limited and muted human access

expanded amplitude for re-ascendance of natural patterns and rhythms

the full complement of diversity, re-endowed with capacious amplitude for evolved inter-relationship

future opportunities for expanded and integrated habitat recovery

the capacity of animals (the overwhelming majority of whom are invertebrates, "on thousands of whose backs every step is taken"), distinguished from us and our domestic subjects above all by their evolved perfection, to live as fully as possible in what is after all their world, not ours; -- and, by that means, safeguarding for ourselves the possibility of authentically knowing them -- a knowledge that brought us into being, and that may yet rescue us from our present uncertainties about ourselves

and our own recovery of the awareness of who we truly are:

one recent and not yet reliable occupant of "a world of beings, in infinite and mysterious acts of connection, created from the earth, itself a being."

[quoted from Paul Shepard's "Digging for Our Roots," **Encounters with Nature**, p. 114]



Barry Deutsch  
 <barry@ddw.com>  
 02/11/2007 06:04 PM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetland - Plan D

Dear Superintendent Don Neubacher:

Please follow the goals and purpose of the Restoration. This considerable and unusual opportunity can be THE example for future projects on how to bring back native wildlife and increase the habitat for creatures - other than our species! As a property owner and resident of Pt. Reyes Station, I'm particularly conscious of the sensitive nature of the wetland's edge. The impact of human disturbance on the river, birds, turtles, mammals, and all the other creatures is painfully obvious. The joy of seeing a Green Backed Heron or a Great Blue waiting... and wading in Lagunitas Creek is memorable - alas, so is their flight, caused by unleashed dog/s being "walked" along the bank while their owners chat obliviously.

Being conscious of the needs and political pressures of the situation, I strongly endorse PLAN D as is: WITH NO BRIDGE. I suggest you use the \$800,000+ estimated cost of that bridge toward making the South Side of the Levee Road safe for bicycle and horseback riders, or find some other way to relieve the pressures on wild creatures, to whom we owe at least that.

Sincerely,  
 Barry Deutsch  
 11270 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard  
 Pt. Reyes Station

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Don Neubacher  
02/12/2007 03:55 PM  
PST

To: Ann Nelson/PORE/NPS@NPS  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

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Don Neubacher  
Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

415-464-5101 (office)  
415-233-0303 (cell)  
415-663-8132 (fax)

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that we can all experience our heritage.

----- Forwarded by Don Neubacher/PORE/NPS on 02/12/2007 03:55 PM -----



cornelia@horizoncable.  
com  
02/12/2007 06:13 PM  
EST

To: don\_neubacher@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Mr Neubacher

I am writing to tell you that I very strongly support Plan D with no mutli use path along Lagunitas Creek.

I gathered at the meeting that you have been under a lot of pressure from the Marin Bike Coalition and others to put in the multi use path along Levee road.

I am probably one of the few local people who bikes regularly along Levee Road. I do it about 5 times a week and usually during peak hours. I think it is one of the safest stretches to bike around here because the road is wide and straight.

If people want to make it safer then all the county needs to do is mark off part of the hardtop for a bike path as they are doing in Fairfax. This would slow the traffic down a bit too.

The proposed multi use path will be so wide it will cut through prime riparian habitat and create noise and pollution along the waters edge.

It also attract weekend road bikers who will come down there in groups and at speed making everyone jump out of their way. I regularly walk the Samuel P Taylor multi use trail and it's positively hazardous, especially for children or seniors. They come at you at 20 miles an hour or more.

Please change your recommendation to Plan D.

Thank you very much,

Best wishes

Cornelia Durrant  
9 Los Reyes Drive  
Point Reyes Station



"MikeBin"  
<mikebin@svn.net>  
02/11/2007 10:31 PM  
PST

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
cc: <mmery@horizoncable.com>  
Subject: Marsh Option D

Agree with Michael Mery's analysis and comment. C would be ok, but D is preferred as it emphasizes restoration over access....of which there is enough. Mike Durrie, Inverness

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**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting

January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Prefer alt. D with addition  
of bridge on southern trail.

Please eliminate spur trail  
at Mesa Rd going north.

Chuck Eckert

ALICE HART ECKART

Box 1090, 11 Mesa Road, Point Reyes, CA 94956

415 663-9016

eekart@horizoncable.com

Point Reyes  
National Seashore

FEB 9 - '07

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February 7, 2007

Mr. Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Re: Tomales Bay Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

Congratulations on the excellence and timing of the Draft Environmental Report on the Tomales Bay Wetland Restoration Project. I attended the public meeting and found the presentation informative and thorough.

After reviewing the details I am convinced that the choice should be Alternative D. It best meets the primary purpose of restoring natural hydrologic processes and wildlife habitat in the entire Tomales Bay watershed. Public access is a secondary issue.

I am particularly opposed to any development leading to an Eastern Perimeter trail that could eventually connect Mesa Road and the Martinelli Open Space to the north. Opening this area to hikers, bikers, dogs and horses would contradict the intent of renovation of natural habitat and restoration of the wetlands. It also would negatively effect the downtown Point Reyes Station, Overlook and Mesa Road residents with increased traffic and parking problems, and present privacy, security and noise concerns. I also wish to point out that our Community Plan specifically calls for protection of the Mesa bluff and a trail at its base would be a negative impact.

Neither do I encourage the Southern Perimeter trail and bridge because it would benefit so few people for such a short distance for a very large expenditure, and seems to counter the primary objective of restoration of the wetlands.

Sincerely,



Alice Hart Eckart

cc: Jon Jarvis, Regional Director  
National Park Service  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607



Barbara Eastman  
<eastman@horizoncable.com>

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands

02/07/2007 06:01 PM  
PST

This letter is to urge the Park Service to choose the Alternate D regarding the Giacomini Wetlands restoration. My opinion is that this alternate would protect the increase of human presence that will adversely impact the wetlands and the wildlife. The project was to restore hydrologic and ecologic function of the bay not to increase visitation to our small community. There are already 75,000 accessible acres just a few minutes and miles away. Tomales Bay is depleted of 50% of its wetlands. The bay has pressing water quality problems. WE NEED MAXIMUM RESTORATION. I urge you to select Alternate D. Thank you,  
Don and Barbara Eastman

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2/12/07

ATTN: Superintendent  
RE: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR

After careful consideration of the materials provided to the public for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project and attending the public meeting on January 25, 2007, I feel that there is a significant gap regarding public access and transportation around the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project.

In 2005, new Transportation Legislation for the National Park Service was passed into law as part of the SAFET-LU bill. These legislation funding changes do not appear to have been accounted for in the current DEIR. <http://www.nps.gov/transportation/alt/> is link where I read the information

Has the park considered these new funding opportunities including Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands and a Recreational Trails Program. As of 2006, the details were still being worked out on this program. Now is the time for the Park Service to get involved and secure funding for better public access for residents and visitors.

The southern perimeter trail shown in Options A, B & C is crucial to the local residents in terms of moving between towns, and will likely reduce vehicle trips around the Giacomini wetlands. Regardless of the chosen option, it should include not only the bridge at White House Pool, but also the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with Marin County Public Works to extend the path from White House Pool to Inverness Park.

I prefer Options A & B because they include more comprehensive public access for the community. A connection to Railroad Point would enhance foot travel throughout this area. To not maintain hiking access to the railroad right of way is a loss to the community.

Future acquisitions including the railroad right of way as a continuation of the Cross Marin Trail into Point Reyes Station would go a long way towards moving people with an alternative to automobiles in the area.

Automobile emissions are one of the most destructive sources of single point pollution that exist. Reducing auto trips is crucial to the health of the wetlands as well as the plant, animal and human life in the area.

The park would do well to consider the larger picture in making your final determination regarding the option that is really best for the environment.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Eichstaedt  
Bear Valley Inn  
Olema, CA

*Amanda Eichstaedt*

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"Bart Eisenberg"  
<barteisenberg@comcast.net>

02/12/2007 11:30 AM  
PST

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Marsh comment

Bart Eisenberg  
Box 250  
20 Sinaloa Ave.  
Forest Knolls, CA 94933

February 11, 2007

Dear Superintendent Neubacher

I want to express my support for alternative D in the restoration of the wetlands. Given the scarcity of wetlands in general and the abundance of recreational opportunities in West Marin, I believe that the balance should be tipped toward reviving this nearly lost ecosystem. Of course, the restoration itself also represents an educational opportunity—but that, rather than recreation, per se, is where hope the emphasis will go. In an era when so much wildlife habitat is lost, what a treat it will be to watch a bit of it be regained.

Thanks to you and your staff for this great stewardship. The word is overused, but in this case, it's completely apt.

Sincerely,  
Bart Eisenberg

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**Gayanne G. Enquist**  
**P.O. Box 577 – 15 Via de la Vista**  
**Inverness, CA 94937**

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February 11, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Don,

I urge the Park to implement Alternative D, which for me is "what's best for the Bay". The ecological restoration is primary and all the other interests are secondary because of the rarity of wetlands (in general) and the overall health of the Bay and our entire ecosystem.

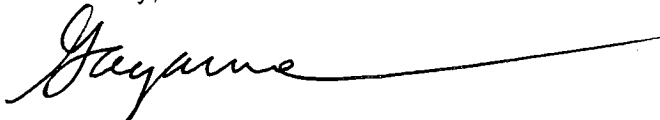
My grown daughters, who grew up in Inverness, remember and often brag to faraway family and friends that "Tomales Bay is one of few remaining pristine bodies of water—aren't we lucky?" How long ago was that a reality? I need to remind them that this isn't the case now.

Eliminate the access point parking area at the former worker housing site on Mesa Road. Access already exists at White House Pool, Martinelli Open Space and Olema Marsh. These trails, parking, etc. could be made ADA compliant. The Ag zoned property on the East side of the marsh should be in public ownership with removal of all barns, etc.

I am a long-time birder and believe that any increased human presence will impact the birds, wetlands and all other wild life. Please help to protect this environment with the most complete restoration possible.

Thanks to you and your staff for a strong evaluation and analyses, and for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Gayanne G. Enquist  
Cc: NPS-J.Jarvis

Jules Evens

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P.O. Box 839, Point Reyes Station  
California 94956 USA  
telephone 415/663-1148  
fax 415/663-9235  
e-mail [jevans@svn.net](mailto:jevans@svn.net)

February 6, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Comments on the Draft EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.

Dear Don:

Although I worked on the compliance phase of the Giacomini Restoration Project as a wildlife biologist, I am submitting these comments as a private citizen, a long-time resident of Point Reyes Station, and a naturalist intimately familiar with the wetlands of Tomales Bay.

First, I appreciate the excellent evaluation provided by the Draft EIR and the thorough work that your staff has provided. You have cultivated perhaps of the best natural resources staff in the country and their excellence is reflected in the depth of the Draft EIR. I look forward to watching the restoration proceed and the health of the bay improve.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge that the Park implement Alternative D, "the environmentally preferred alternative." Because the entire impetus of this project was ecological restoration, I feel strongly that all other considerations (public access, education, views, etc.) should be secondary to that restoration process. The Park has a responsibility to protect and enhance habitats that sustain and support special status species. This can be accomplished only by advancing the most extensive restoration effort available given the constraints of the watershed and the site.

Toward that end, I hope the Park will incorporate the following goals into the Final EIR:

- 1) Implement Alternative D, without a bridge across Lagunitas Creek (as has been suggested by some advocates of public access);
- 2) Focus restoration efforts on the downstream portions of Lagunitas, Bear Valley, Olema, and Tomasini creeks. This requires limiting public access so that riparian and transitional marsh vegetation can develop fully at the fresh/brackish saline interface: this area is the most critical transition zone for numerous listed species, including salmonids.

3) Maximize tidal action and tidal access to the estuarine reaches of all drainages that feed into the south-end of Tomales Bay. This last goal argues for the various elements of Alternative D summarized in pages 77-80 of the Draft EIR. Of particular ecological importance is the adaptive restoration of Olema Marsh (pg. 79).

Alternative C, the Park's "preferred alternative," addresses some of these goals, but only as half-measures. Alternative D provides a more environmentally comprehensive approach, and, once implemented, will result in a more hydrologically dynamic and ecologically functional restoration.

Finally, I would like to suggest that the Park consider renaming the project and the site. Although the Giacomini family has made important contributions to the social and economic fabric of West Marin, the "reclamation" of the tidal wetlands at the south end of Tomales Bay, beginning in 1947, to create the Giacomini Ranch did more to degrade the ecology of the bay than any other modification, before or since. A more appropriate name would be "Tomales Bay Wetland Restoration."

Again, thank you for your dedication to the natural environment of Point Reyes and Tomales Bay and for leading the Park Service forward in the spirit of restoration. I look forward to the day when clapper rails again nest and in these wetlands, when night-herons roost undisturbed in willows overhanging salmon swollen waters. Maybe someday we'll

ALSO, THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIR.

Naturally,



Jules Evens  
P.O. Box 839  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

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February 11, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956  
Attention: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Don Neubacher,

Thank you for your support of extensive wetlands restoration of Giacomini Ranch at Tomales Bay. I am glad that the Park has taken a strong stand for the restoration of these critical wetlands.

However, I support even greater restoration of the wetlands than the Park's current plan of Alternative C. I believe that Alternative C is insufficient because it allows too many new access-related impacts. We must do all that we can to maximize restoration of the wetlands.

I support Alternative D, because it will minimize adverse impact on the wetlands and goes the farthest in restoring the natural character of the region. I also support the construction of a bridge over Lagunitas Creek and the trail connection between Green Bridge and White House Pool, because of the contribution they will make to minimizing impact on the wetlands.

Thank you for your consideration,



Tom Faulk

Tom G. Faulk  
901 Lark Court  
Novato, CA 94947



Jeff Felix  
 <bonnandjef@horizonc  
 able.com>

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini wetlands restoration

02/11/2007 04:32 PM  
 PST

Dear Park Planning Team,

I am in complete support of the position put forth in Michael Mery's recent letter to you. Most importantly, I urge the Park to adopt Alternative D, which makes environmental needs and concerns the priority.

Thank you very much for seriously considering my point of view, along with that of others who are concerned enough to make their views known.

Bonnie Felix  
 POB 935  
 Point Reyes Station  
 Ca. 94956  
 414-663-1867

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Jeff Felix  
 <bonnandjef@horizonc  
 able.com>

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Plan D

02/09/2007 06:32 PM  
 PST

We, two residents of Pt. Reyes Station, vote for Plan D. Plan C with a parking lot off of Mesa Road is unacceptable as it will invite intrusion into the natural habitat defeating the whole purpose of the project. We hope that you will not give in to the special interest groups which have a stake in getting Plan C through but prevail for the wild life, who are not organized pain in the asses, and implement Plan D.

Thanks,  
 Jeff & Bonnie Felix  
 171 Mesa Road  
 Pt. Reyes Station, Ca 94956  
 415 663-1867

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PACIFIC LAND INSTITUTE  
Randall Gray Fleming, Architect

P.O. Box 252  
36 Cypress Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
(415) 663-8266

February 14, 2007

Point Reyes National Seashore  
National Park Service  
RE: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

Point Reyes National Seashore
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I am very pleased that the Park Service is proceeding to restore the wetlands. I do have several concerns and recommendations with regard to the alternatives presented in the EIR.

Public Access: I support Plan C, yet with the deletion of the parking and trail at Mesa Road.

- Encouraging pedestrian access from Point Reyes Station to the wetlands is very important. To increase pedestrian accessibility, extending the trail system from the observation area overlooking the wetland north along the edge of the wetlands and joining with 3<sup>rd</sup> street should be considered.
- With a town edged loop trail system, the parking and limited trail system that is north of the green barn off of Mesa Road should be deleted. Eliminating this parking and trail could reduce extra automobile trips that will occur from the town to the Mesa Road parking area and help create fresh water marsh with less disturbance.
- The wetlands and trail systems will likely increase visitor use and parking in the town. This increase will in turn add to already limited parking. To maintain a pedestrian, bike, and equestrian accessible town, the NPS needs to study traffic and parking impacts in the town and recommend mitigations, such as parking, shuttle access from existing park visitor sites, etc.

Urban Storm Water Runoff: This is not directly addressed in any alternative.

- The towns (Point Reyes Station and Inverness Park) will likely generate storm water runoff that includes sediments, nutrients, oil, heavy metals, pesticides and pathogens. A combination of grease/oil traps, primary settlement ponds, and the wetlands themselves should reduce these pollutants before entering the Bay. The NPS should monitor current pollutant loads, and with the County involvement, address urban runoff.

Pollutant Removal by the Wetlands

- It was mentioned in the public meeting that presented the alternatives; that the restored wetlands will have the capacity to remove 2 to 18% of pollutants entering into the wetlands from the surrounding watershed. While this may be reasonable, I am surprised that the wetlands would not remove higher percentages of pollutants. From my urban storm water experience, I understand that bio retention systems can remove 68 to 90% of pollutants. Perhaps the NPS could increase the performance standards of the alternatives, and adjust wetland configurations as necessary to maximize pollutant uptake efficiency.

Randall Fleming



forester@sonic.net  
 02/13/2007 03:04 PM  
 PST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Restoration Plan

Dear Mr. Neubacher,

Unfortunately my husband and I were unable to attend the Jan. 25 public meeting, and we would like to voice our concern now.

Alternative D certainly provides the most extensive restoration potential for the benefit of wildlife, whereas Alternative C allows too much public access at the expense of wildlife.

EAC has the great idea of modifying Alternative D to include a bridge over Lagunitas Creek, which would provide low-impact public access by creating a continuous trail between White Housse Pool parking lot and the Green Bridge. This is our preferred solution.

Thank you for reading and considering our view.  
 Lynne and Phil Forester (Tomales residents)

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Kenneth Fox  
P.O Box 87 Point Reyes Station 94956

Rec'd  
FEB 16 2007  
February 2007

Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
Attn: Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Comments on Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.

Dear Don:

Thanks for the hard work on this plan. I wanted to add a personal note as well. As you know, I worked a long time to get people out of their cars and have a decent alternative to the motorized method of transportation. I firmly believe that people will be more appreciative and have better understanding of nature if you get them out of their cars and into nature. I know that there are impacts to all our activities, but the impact of automobiles is seriously underestimated. I strongly support both the restoration both as it's benefit to species habitat and development of a formal trail for educational value for the public. Informal trails also have their purpose and can be accommodated in some areas.

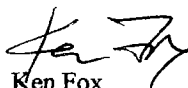
I support a modified version of Alternative C. You have struck a good balance in general with Alternative C, and that it is really the "preferred environmental alternative" than considering that it calls for a huge amount of restoration and at the same time includes educational opportunities and allows basic transportation for non-motorized transportation, something that many of the self-crowned environmentalists seem to ignore as they drive gas-guzzling pollution spewing SUVs to take care of their second or third properties or drink PC Latté's.

Considering that the Giacomini will retain the old duck clubhouse and road to it for at least another 25 years, it makes good sense to have that be an area that the public can feel free to use and monitor activities around the old clubhouse. Remember that the public was swindled by a convicted war-time profiteer who grabbed the land and had the public pay for illegal reinforcement of his levees, and after all that the public had to pay over 5 million dollars for the land,

**I recommend implementing Alternative C, with the following emphasis:**

1. Make elimination of the northern transecting dike of the western pasture highest priority.
2. Build a full-spanning bridge over Lagunitas Creek as soon as monies become available (we note that those monies are coming from a different source than restoration fund. Those who say that those monies would be more wisely spent on improving the connectivity between the Olema and Giacomini marshes are being disingenuous, Think of how much money it would take to remove the levee road entirely?. Undertake the restoration and development of the trail concomitantly. Furthermore, the funding necessary to alter Levee Road in order to fully restore connectivity between Bear Valley/Olema Marsh and Lagunitas Creek may be much more than the pedestrian bridge.
3. Extend the trail along the western pasture utilizing both the park lands and the county easement on SFD. Extending western perimeter trail to allow basic transportation and promote education regarding the importance of transitional wetlands. (Remember, a great number of exiting trails in the park pass over or are within wetland areas. E.g. Muddy hollow trail, bear valley trail, Estero trail. And the Limantour road was built by the park through some pretty sensitive habitat in the name of fulfilling park priorities)
4. Utilize the old Inverness Park post office as an educational tool for teaching both history and the importance of the restoration.
5. Include the access point parking area at the farm worker housing on Mesa Road and maintain existing ranch road as an viewing access trail. Consider raising Mesa Road on a causeway rather than digging new alignment for Tomasini Creek. (Eliminate Mesa Road altogether in favor of lighter use trail?...) )
6. Buy the property at the corner of B street and Highway One for a parking area and have a trailhead there that connects to trail toward the dance palace. The since visitors and residents can easily walk from town just as the farm worker housing site where there is very good pedestrian access from Mesa Road. Michael Mery is wrong about this, many people walk along mesa road Maybe he doesn't want the general public to know that he lives near there? The parking lot at the old Ken Parr/ Bear Valley Stables is underutilized and I have not seen or heard much problems from it, so I don't see that there will be a great problem with other smaller parking lots.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

  
Ken Fox

Lorraine Parsons

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PHILIP L. FRADKIN  
 P. O. Box 817  
 Pt. Reyes Station, CA94956  
 415-663-8733  
[philfrad@earthlink.net](mailto:philfrad@earthlink.net)/[www.philipfradkin.com](http://www.philipfradkin.com)

Supt. Don Neubacher  
 Attn. Giacomini Wetlands Plan  
 Pt. Reyes National Seashore  
 Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

January 26, 2007

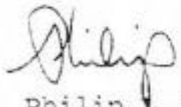
Dear Don:

Great planning job!

I favor Alternative C rather than D for the following reasons. I don't agree that D is the most environmentally sensitive alternative. The more extensive grading will be disruptive to wildlife and humans, the transition from marsh to grasslands is a more natural environment both in visual terms and as a way to provide habitat for more diversified species, and there is no way that you are going to control the outflow of Tomasini Creek in big storms, regardless what course you choose for it. Humans are part of the environment too, and the bridge will be an environmental enhancement in terms of the leisurely pleasures of walking and biking and diminished use of vehicles for those of us who live in West Marin.

I would only add, as I have at each workshop and hearing, that it makes no sense to provide a huge, new refuge for waterfowl and still permit hunters to set up on the northern edge and bang away at the incoming ducks.

Sincerely,



Philip L. Fradkin



The Dance Palace  
 <dance@horizoncable.com>

02/13/2007 11:55 AM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: wbuxbaum@svn.net  
 Subject: Giacomini wetlands restoration

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Don Neubacher  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes, California 94956

February 13, 2007

Dear Don:

I am writing to you in regard to the Giacomini wetlands restoration project. As you formulate your plans, I hope you will take into consideration a long-time community use of the area: that of the children in Dance Palace Camp.

Generations of kids have participated in this camp (the only ongoing day camp in the Point Reyes/Inverness area) since its inception in 1980. Over 70 children ages 6–14 attend camp each summer, with 35% of those kids receiving scholarship assistance. Activities include art, ceramics, theater, music, martial arts, and more; but one of the very basic activities at camp is called outdoor adventures – and these adventures have always centered around hikes and programs in the area around the creek.

Our outdoor adventure program expands the knowledge of our campers about West Marin’s unique ecosystems; teaches basic information about local wildlife, plants, and the ecological diversity of our local riparian areas as well as the challenges of conservation and preservation; and encourages West Marin youth to take a greater interest in science and environmental stewardship. Age appropriate activities reinforce their school-year biology studies and teach them about habitat requirements, life cycles, creek ecology, and each child’s important role in helping preserve our special local environment.

Every day during the camp season for the past 26 years, kids from camp have walked down to the creek from the Dance Palace, using the access at Third Street. This magical outdoor space has indeed been their extended playground and learning area. I strongly urge you to consider including public access to the wetlands area that is quickly, easily, and safely accessible to the kids in Dance Palace Camp (and indeed for all users of the Dance Palace Community Center) as you move forward with your plans for the Giacomini wetlands restoration.

Sincerely,

Carol J. Friedman  
 Executive Director, The Dance Palace Community Center



LYNNFRANCO@aol.co  
 m  
 02/12/2007 05:56 PM  
 EST

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
 cc: LYNNFRANCO@aol.com  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project - Comment

Dear Sir; You and your staff are to be commended for the effort necessary to procure and develop the plans for restoring the Giacomini wetlands. Plan C seems unique in providing significant public access while maintaining 99% of the ecological benefit.

We have a home on the wetlands outside the boundary area marked red in your presentation. There is question of concern which would effect a small number of homes on the wetland between Inverness Park and Inverness. We were hoping for clarification about your description of increased potential for flooding due to an elevation of .6 to 1.6 ft of water during a 12 year flood event on the western side of the restoration. Since our home foundation is on poles in the mud flats and the Jan 1st 2006 waters reached within a few inches of flooding the house, we wanted to know did your Hydrologists evaluate the expected rise in water outside the immediate adjacent private properties.

Your report indicates the immediately adjacent homes are on raised fill. Since ours is not, did you consider the possibility of mitigating any danger to our and other homes at greater risk of flooding? What would be the expected drop off in water highth as one moved closer to Inverness? Do you consider the Jan 1st 2006 flooding as a 12 year event. Thank you for your consideration and reply.

Nathan Kaufman 510-5482500  
 e-mail lynnfranco@aol.com  
 12660 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Inverness Ca  
 P.O. Box 567, Inverness Ca,

94937

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llouisefranklin@aol.com

02/12/2007 11:47 AM  
EST

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov

cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Marsh input

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Don: I want to cast my vote for Plan D. I feel strongly that there is quite enough public access, and the primary goal should prioritize full wetland restoration. Wetlands are extremely precious and vulnerable ecosystems and I am especially concerned about ground nesting birds such as the plover. Everything and anything that assists wild species here is vitally important. Easy public accessibility means dogs, and more dangers for vulnerable species. The public comes here to view and enjoy and become educated about wild life and wild lands. Lets ensure that this area becomes a prime example of a true wetland. This will, in the long run, contribute the most to the goals of the Point Reyes National Seashore. Thank you for all of the work you and your staff have done. I most appreciate your efforts to provide us with all of the variables.

Sincerely,  
Louise Franklin  
Resident, Inverness

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"Tom Gaman"  
<tgaman@forestdata.com>  
02/14/2007 06:13 PM  
PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Tomales Bay Wetlands Restoration

14 February

Don Neubacher

Alternative D sounds to me like the best option. There are few coastal wetlands in California, and the south end of Tomales Bay is under increasing visitor pressure every year. While we have lived in Inverness the visitation has increased dramatically. Therefore I support the "environmentally preferred alternative". Thank you.

Tom Gaman

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**Ann Nelson**

01/23/2007 03:10 PM PST

To: Lorraine Parsons PORE/NPS@NPS  
cc:  
Subject: Fw: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands

Do we have a draft, or final, timeline? Would you please copy me on response or let me know if I may do anything to assist.

Anni



**aleta@lmi.net**

01/23/2007 03:47 PM EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

I write for Bay Nature magazine and we want to track the progress of this project. Can you please tell me the timeline once the public comment period is over? What are the next steps?

Thank you,

Aleta George Ear to the Ground, Bay Nature Home office: 707.429.3529 E: aleta@lmi.net



"Ann"  
 <agessert@svn.net>  
 02/12/2007 07:11 PM  
 PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
 CC:  
 Subject: preference for wetlands

To Whom.....

I would like my voice counted among those who support Plan D for the Giacomini Wetlands.

I support the most environmentally protective plan, even if it means some inconvenience to humans and human traffic. I support the most extensive protection of the wetlands that is possible. However, I do also support footpath connection between the green bridge and the white house pool area, which I believe means a bridge being built.

Thank you for adding my thoughts to the many you have already received

Ann Gessert  
 Inverness  
 669-1544

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Ms. Joyce Goldfield  
 P.O. Box 581  
 Inverness, CA 94937

**ASPCA**



*Comments on islands  
 Giacomini - Project  
 Restoration*

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*My choice of Alternatives  
 for Giacomini wetland restoration  
 would be D - with the exception  
 of having Pt. Reyes station  
 connected to White House Pool  
 via a bridge over lagoons  
 Creek (at old summer dam site)  
 for children + adults to pass  
 commute (as proposed in Alternative C)  
 from Rt. 166 from*



John Gouldthorpe  
<john\_gouldthorpe@yahoo.com>

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

02/14/2007 06:44 AM  
PST

To the Giacomini project management team:

After reviewing the EIR and visiting the sites proposed to be developed under Alternative C what makes the most sense to me is Alternative D, with the addition of a bridge across Lagunitas Creek.

Thank you

John Gouldthorpe  
PO Box 879  
Marshall, CA 94940

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Ann Sheree Greenbaum  
 <asg\_yoga@yahoo.com>  
 >

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: wetland restoration

02/12/2007 02:33 PM  
 PST

Dear Don,

I very much appreciate the efforts of the Park to thoroughly consider appropriate ways for administering the restoration of the Giacomini property.

It is clear to me that it is imperative for the restoration to be the most ecologically sound approach possible. Given the proposals currently being considered, I implore you to choose Plan D.

I would also appreciate your consideration of the idea of burying the utility pole lines along the levee road and the land atop them becoming a foot path from Inverness Part to Point Reyes Station. I was told this idea was mentioned at the last public meeting regarding the restoration along with a funding source for such a project.

I offer my gratitude to you and your staff for your conscientious determination in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ann Sheree Greenbaum

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WETLAND RESTORATION PLANS A, B, C, D

Since moving to Walnut Place Senior Housing in Pt. Reyes Station five years ago, I found it odd that you could not walk out into our wonderful, nearby parkland without walking on the road. I tried this numerous times—along the Levee Road (Sir Francis Drake) and Hwy. 1—and found it dangerous to do this and also not very pleasant.

What I and others who either don't drive or don't care to hop in a car every time we wish to be out in a natural (not man-made) environment really need are paths into natural habitats in the area.

I like the plans that include a bridge across Lagunitas Creek and a trail that connects it to the one that extends east of Whitehouse Pool. It could be if "D" is the preferred one----it could include the bridge and path along this creek....as some organizations (Bicycle group, Sierra Club) have advocated.

We walkers and bicyclists need safe paths within a natural setting. Please do include them for we who love to be in nature and love to walk or ride bikes. Think of the youth and the seniors.

Sincerely,

*Gail Greenlees*

Gail Greenlees (Walnut Place resident)  
PO Box 567  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

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Marine Department  
FEB 13 1997

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting

January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Please be sure to include

The Southern Perimeter  
Public Access Trail with Bridge

to connect up to Whit House Pool  
& beyond to Saveress Park.

There are those who do not

drive (whether young or elders)  
and wish to walk in a natural  
setting & not on the road — (the  
levee  
rd)  
which is taking your  
life in your hands.

Gail Greenlees  
PO Box 567  
Pt. Reyes Station  
CA 94956





Sadja Greenwood  
<sadjagreenwood@yah  
oo.com>

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: my vote is for plan D

02/12/2007 06:39 PM  
PST

I second the remarks by Michael Mery in his letter to  
you. Sadja Greenwood, 440 Birch Rd. Bolinas.

---

The fish are biting.  
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TonyGrif@aol.com  
02/06/2007 11:33 AM  
EST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
Subject: Lagunitas Creek - Alt D

I am a registered voter and resident of Inverness, CA and I am in favor of what is currently call "Alternative D", which calls for no trail and no trail over Lagunitas Creek. The proposed bridge and trail are inconsistent with "original wetlands" purpose of the project.

In short, I am against Alternative C, which is reported to be the preference of your department

Anthony Griffin  
2 Camerson  
Inverness, CA 94937

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doug@yosemitecreek.com  
02/14/2007 09:42 AM  
MST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov, pore@yosemitecreek.com  
cc:  
Subject: Wetlands Recommendation

I would like to voice my support for Alternative D for the Giacomini Wetlands. Originally I favored C, preferring increased access, particularly at Mesa Road. As a resident at 65 Mesa Road and as a walker I thought the easier access would be preferable, especially for those of us who live here. After talking with my neighbors I have changed my mind. The feeling here seems to be that bringing increased traffic and visitors to the edge of a residential area is not desirable and that access should be gained in areas away from residential areas so as not to impact those of us who live here. I am not against increased access for people coming here to visit but we should not increase their incursion into residential areas.

In addition, I would like to have a pedestrian bridge over Papermill Creek at White House Pool. Anything that makes travel between Pt. Reyes and Inverness Park safer for our children and ourselves should be encouraged. Done well, a minimal bridge would not have a deleterious effect on the environment. In the spirit of compromise, I hope the NPS will consider those of us who live here as part of the environment as well.

Doug Haner  
65 Mesa Road  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA. 94956  
(415) 663-8571

*[Faint, illegible text with handwritten marks]*

Point Reyes National Seashore Park Headquarters  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

December 14, 2006

Superintendent:

My husband and I enjoy birding. During the recent high tide December 4 on a gorgeous morning we made our way out on to "Waldo's dike" to look for rails and other exciting birds pushed out of the wetlands and fleeing the herons and egrets. We joined an informal group of birders including locals like David Wimpfheimer and some members of Audubon Society who had come all the way from Santa Barbara. We spoke with the folks widening a portion of the dike along the creek and prepping it for replanting with native flora. We are all hoping that the portion of the dike we were using would somehow be salvaged for future nature lovers. Can you tell me what the plans are for Waldo's Dike and the public access to it off Sir Francis Drake near Drakes' View Street in Inverness?

I believe that continued public access would guarantee the bonding of people with you can stand out there at high tide and count 40 snipe flying by to dryer ground, watch rails being eating by egrets and great blue herons, and see your first ever Swamp Sparrow as we did, it comes to mean so much more. This is potentially a place for ranger led walks to teach people about the life hidden in the pickleweed. If the dike needs to be breached for the restoration project, could you include culverts or a bridge in the plan so we can still walk out there and feel ourselves part of the life of the marsh?

Thanks for your attention to this and for buying and restoring the ranch lands to wetlands!

Sincerely,

*Nancy Prince Hanson*

Nancy Prince Hanson 488-4202

PO Box 1184  
Woodacre, CA 94973



"Roger D. Harris"  
<busirh@comcast.net>  
02/12/2007 09:56 PM  
PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Support Alternative D for the Tomales Bay Restoration

NPS:

Please support alternative D for the Tomales Bay Restoration.

Roger D. Harris  
10 Echo Ave  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

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I Mary Haines -  
would like to see  
- a pathway and  
Bridge to Inverness  
Park, alternative C  
OR D with Bridge  
& path

Mary Haines  
2-14-07

February 12, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

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RE: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan - Comments on Draft EIS/EIR

Dear Don,

Having read and reread the excellent letters created by Jules Evens, Hathaway Barry, and Wiebke Buxbaum I know they have said everything I would write if I only could do it as well. Since they have paved the way, my message will be simple, brief, and to the point.

I live on the Point Reyes Mesa, Cypress Road, at the edge of the bluff overlooking the former Giacomini ranch lands. I have resided here for thirty five years. So, I know very well this special place under consideration.

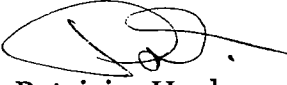
We have a very serious mission to restore these wetlands. As you and I each stated during the public meeting, "The United States wetlands have suffered a 37% loss, while the wetlands of Tomales Bay have been diminished by 50%!

Frankly, I think the handwriting is on the wall, Don. Considering the global warming catastrophe confronting every living being we must do anything and everything we can to help control the impending worldwide disaster.

The most obvious, and therefore the first thing we can do for this restoration project is to keep it simple and restore every square foot we can. Bridges and new trails going almost no where are not necessary. We have a long way to go just to reach the United States statistic of 37% wetland loss, when we really should be striving for 100% restoration.

For the record, I am in complete agreement with the Point Reyes Village Association - Design Review Committee's recommendations.

Very truly,

  
Patricia Healy  
P. o. Box 429  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Superintendent P. R. N. S.

Point Reyes

CA 94956

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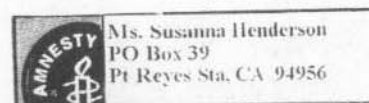
Dear Superintendent —

Thank you for your thoughtful choices for the Giacomini lands —

I am in favor of # C — so we can still walk there — perhaps even bike + walk to Inverness Park —

However — I am very concerned that we may lose our off-leash DOG walking priveledges — the blackberry tangle with it's labyrinth of paths and access to the creek are a joy to us owners and to our dogs — We are very diligent about cleaning up after our dogs.

Sincerely,  
Susanna Henderson







for the preservation & enjoyment  
of the American people (.)  
- Natl. Park  
inc. 1863

Sunday

DON:

An ADA trail to a prominent view of  
the E. Shore of MARSH - FABULOUS!  
Congratulations, thank you, way-to-go!  
What a great visitor-use addition -  
That guy in a Wheelchair at the Pine  
Cone can now take his disabled  
wife for some easy bird-watching  
from a world class view-spot!  
May Plan C go forth unopposed by  
trailer-trash sentiments from  
NIMBY Mesa Rd!! They've got  
huge back yards and 20-ft of  
brambled embankment protecting them,  
even if people walked on the  
old ROW. (Yes, I did leave a Comment  
Card.)

I, of course, will/am/would  
lobby for connection to Martindale area  
& could defend a "primitive  
footpath" connecting 2 used  
areas as not increasing the  
"moderate use" intended for the  
Marsh. Foot-steps won't hurt  
any thing along this disturbed E. edge.  
Your clever compromise is so good  
that I can WAIT (at try later?) on  
"connection" via old ROW.

(Please) give me a confidential "hint"  
(Yes, No?) at Box 623 or 663-862? IF, in  
3 yrs, a private donor to create a  
connection thru Eastern Foundation might  
meet consent (not objection) from NPS.  
(born repair = culverts, "primitive footpath", exclusionary signage - stay-in-trail, etc., etc)

Happy Now with Plan C  
Tambor! Good Luck!  
- Bob Hildreth  
to Party

JAMBO, Don Neubacher...

Bob Hildreth  
Box 623, PR St.  
663-5162

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Nat'l Parks are for preservation & use ("enjoyment") of the people!  
Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:  
The old railroad ROW belongs to all!

⊕⊕⊕ re  
My issue: Visitor Use at old farm access/horsing area @ Mesa Rd crossing over creek.  
I strongly support Plan C's "facility/view/ADA trail" there (I also support Plan B's connector trail up to Coastal Access/Martindelli property.)

If plan C fits most other environmental aspects best, couldn't same connector trail be put in C?

If not, but ADA trail to View Spot is planned, could a PRIVATE DONOR talk to NPS and Seashore foundation?? (Ignore MESA RD. selfish concerns).

"primitive path"  
(on old ROW from ADA/View to Martindelli Access)

# WADE B. HOLLAND

POST OFFICE BOX 87  
INVERNESS, CA 94937 USA

(415) 669-1631 • FAX (415) 669-1460 • wade@svn.net

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February 9, 2007

Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

After a more-than-cursory reading of the DEIR/DEIS for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project, attendance at the public workshop on January 25, and careful consideration of the project and the Alternatives, I wish to express my support for proceeding with the Project on the basis of implementing **Alternative D**, the environmentally preferred alternative.

However, I also feel that Alternative D should be amended to **include the bridge over Lagunitas Creek** to connect the two segments of the Green Bridge to Whitehouse Pool trail. Without the bridge connection, you would essentially have two orphaned trail segments that go nowhere, at the same time that you would be forcing the through users of the route to resort to the shoulder along the Levee Road. I believe strongly that the bridge is essential, but in conjunction with adopting (and as an amendment to) Alternative D.

Cordially,



Wade B. Holland



"Madeline Hope"  
<hopexing@HorizonCa  
ble.com>

02/12/2007 09:20 AM  
PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Alternative D with a bridge connector to PRSta

Please know that I am in full support of alternative D with the bridge connector to PRSta For the safe route to school for young people and local citizenry we need more bike AND pedestrian paths. Thank you Madeline Hope Shoreline Unified School District Trustee

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**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Progress Reports to the community  
How are things going?  
Will NPS be providing this info  
to the w/m community?  
M. Hoge



Cxl777@aol.com  
02/14/2007 09:03 PM  
EST

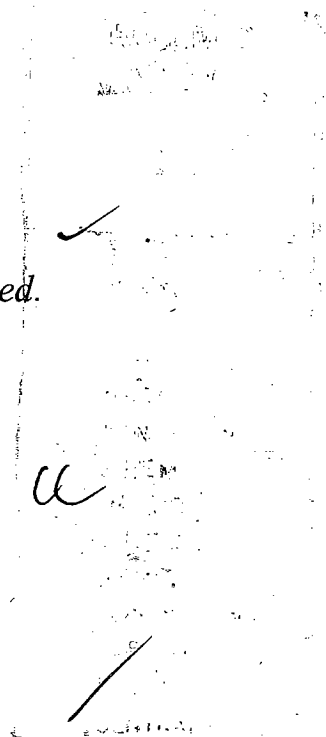
To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Marsh

*Superintendent Don Neubacher:  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956*

*The undersigned would like to see "Alternative D" implemented.*

*Sincerely,*

*Drayton and Joyce Howe  
Point Reyes Station*



Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station CA 94956  
Attention: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

February 9 2007

Louis Jaffe <louis@overlookmedia.com>  
PO Box 235  
Point Reyes Station CA 94956

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To the Giacomini project management team:

I am a homeowner on the Point Reyes Mesa bluff who attended the January 5 2007 informational meeting on the Giacomini Wetlands restoration plan, and I have studied the full EIS / EIR.

Regarding the choice of alternative, I agree with the advocacy groups including the Sierra Club, the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin and others:

Alternative D, the environmentally preferred alternative, would be my preference. However, I would like to see the pedestrian / bike bridge over Lagunitas Creek added to Alternative D (as described in Alternatives A through C), to connect the important southern perimeter trail corridor.

If it's not possible to add the bridge to Alternative D, then I would prefer Alternative C.

Regardless of which alternative is finally implemented, I would like to bring your attention to an area of invasive vegetation not currently identified in the project mapping that urgently needs clearing. It is along the Tomasini Creek slough, immediately south of the Martinelli Ranch.

This backwater slough with its levee is retained in all planning alternatives as habitat for the endangered Tidewater Goby. Within view of my property on Point Reyes Mesa bluff, eucalyptus trees have taken root and are growing to large size on the levee itself. They may threaten the structural integrity of the levee.

On the historic railroad grade along the east side of Tomasini Creek a dense grove of eucalyptus has become established, continuing on private property ascending the bluff. French broom infestation is also extensive in this area.

I've spoken to the other adjacent property owners, and we would like to coordinate efforts with the Park Service to remove invasives and restore native habitat on the privately owned section of the Point Reyes Mesa Bluff bordering the historic railroad grade.

Please add removal of these invasives from the Tomasini Creek levee and historic railroad grade to any restoration plan. To document this issue, a map and photos of the area described are included with this letter.

Thank you very much



Louis Jaffe

Giacomini Wetlands restoration area:  
Invasive non-native vegetation on Tomasini  
Creek levee and historic railroad grade, adjacent  
to Point Reyes Mesa Bluff, off Overlook Road  
(near boundary of Martinelli Ranch).

Photographed January 29, 2007 by Louis Jaffe.



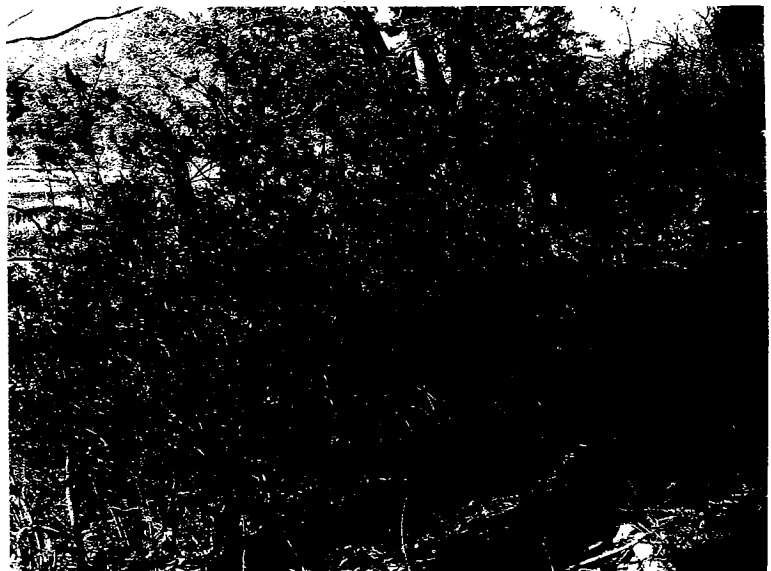
Eucalyptus trees on levee, railroad grade, and adjacent private property.



Recently fallen sapling on bank of slough. Larger tree in background  
fell across slough, bridging from east bank to levee.



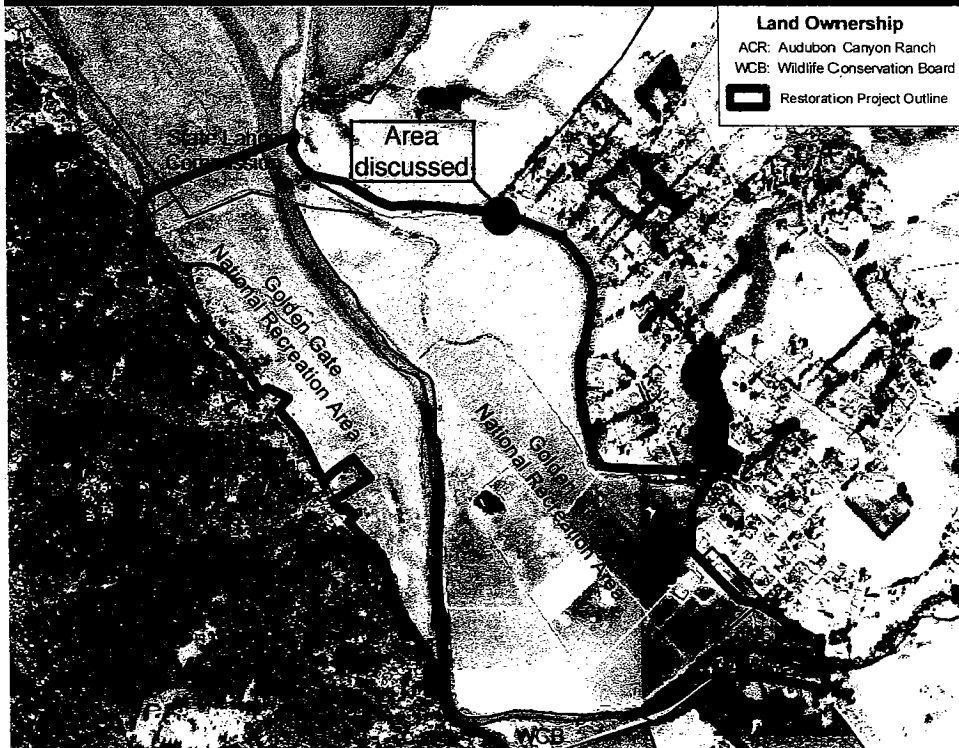
Closeup of eucalyptus on levee. High tide in the slough inundates  
the base of the tree.





# Project Area

Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

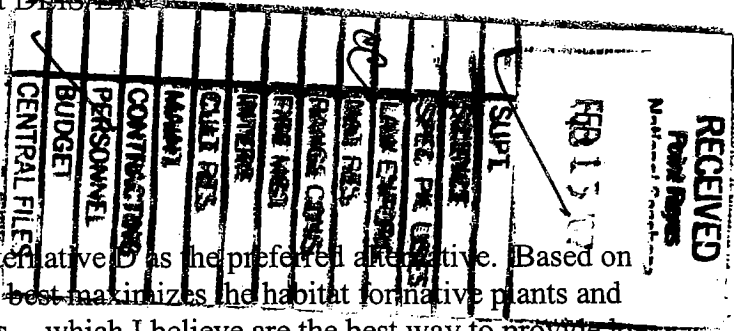


Detail from Project Area map, Giacomini Wetlands project EIS / EIR with emphasis added to pinpoint area of invasive plants on berm and historic railroad grade



Current Google Earth imagery showing eucalyptus on Tomasini Creek berm and Point Reyes Mesa bluff. Martinelli tract at upper left; Overlook Road mid right.

ATTN: Superintendent  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956



Dear Don,

I am writing to support selection of Alternative D as the preferred alternative. Based on the alternatives offered in the DEIR, D best maximizes the habitat for native plants and wildlife, and D provides **viewing areas** -- which I believe are the best way to provide low impact public access, consistent with a sound environmental educational message.

My remaining comments are aimed at strengthening the definition of D to

- Assure that D is the best environmental alternative
- Assure that public access in D is satisfactory, and at least from some perspectives, superior to the other options
- Improve the evaluation of alternatives to fairly consider Alternative D.

**Add an ADA compliant trail to Alternative D**

Probably the most important and easiest way to enhance Alternative D is to put in the ADA compliant access included in alternative A. D already includes the Dairy Mesa viewpoint. To enhance D use the option as defined in A: " A decomposed granite trail that would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act would be constructed from C Street in the vicinity of 3rd Street along an easement to the edge of the Dairy Mesa, where there would be a viewing area to allow the public to experience and enjoy the restoration project and views of Tomales Bay... This viewing area would consist of simple facilities such as benches, picnic table, and interpretative exhibits." (page 49)

Alternative D is faulted for lack of ADA-compliant access in several places where the alternatives are compared:

Criterion 5 of section 101(b) and 102(1) - "Alternative C would appear to offer the best benefits ... **including an ADA-compliant access component**" (see page 96)

The Preferred alternative selection: "Alternative C offers the best combination of restoration and public access benefits ... and **incorporates an ADA-compliant access component.**" (see page 96)

Table 1: Incorporate opportunities for the public to experience and enjoy the restoration process – In alternative D "there would be no through-trail or **ADA-complaint access components**" (see page 99)

Those statements are an unfair evaluation since it is easy to add an ADA-compliant component to D without sacrificing the environmental benefits of D.

### **Impacts of spur trails and a through trail**

There is much discussion in the DEIR about the desirability of having spur trails and a through trail. Many people would like spur trails and many would like to ride bikes from Inverness to Point Reyes Station. But, these desires do not enhance the restoration and they are not necessary for the public to experience and enjoy the restoration process.

Despite all the attention given to spur and through trails in the DEIR, the negative impacts of the recommended trails are omitted or the discussion is incomplete. Here are some of the impacts that should be considered in the final EIR:

Dogs in the wetlands and buffer areas. Where there are trails, there will be some who abuse the privilege and let their dogs, even encourage their dogs, to disturb wildlife and some dogs will carry diseases into wildlife habitat.

Disturbance occurs along trails especially ones that combine multiple modes of travel

Habitat is directly impacted by trails and their maintenance. Most of the spur trails intrude in the SCA riparian areas protected in the LCP (There is no discussion that I could find of this conflict of Alternative C and D with the LCP).

I object to the portion of the south perimeter trail included in both alternative C and D. (Creation of Southern Perimeter Spur Trail from Point Reyes Station to Location of Former Summer Dam including a new entrance area at Green Bridge County Park). This area has riparian habitat and has the potential for improved riparian habitat and associated buffer zones. This area should be restored for maximum habitat value and flood protection values. Planning the south perimeter trail through here I think violates the guideline on the project's purpose: **"public access opportunities should not conflict with the project's purpose of restoring natural hydrologic and ecological processes and functions"** (page 30)

About two thirds of that south perimeter trail along the east pasture falls within the SCA/LCP riparian zone and the graded entrance area is entirely located within scrub-shrub riparian habitat, designated as CDFG Riparian (see figure 34). Degrading these riparian areas is not discussed anywhere in the DEIR, so far as I could see.

### **What is appropriate and satisfactory public access?**

Viewing areas will allow people to enjoy and experience the restoration without intruding into it. An associated interpretive message can reinforce the need to protect wildlife and habitat, and minimize disturbances.

If the spur trails are eliminated from Alternative D, public access still will be available at three viewing areas:

- Easy access at the west end of the existing north levee
- Hike in, trail access to a viewing area along the existing Tomales Bay Trail at the top of Railroad Point
- Dairy Mesa viewing area (with ADA-compliant access as discussed in this letter)

These access points and trails satisfy the objective of the project: "The Park Service and the CSLC have committed to incorporating opportunities for the public to learn about the value of wetlands, the problems facing Tomales Bay, and the restoration process through trails, viewing areas, interpretative exhibits, and volunteer/educational opportunities."

(Page 12)

### **Excavation of the south west corner of the east pasture**

Alternative D includes a restoration step titled: Excavation of Southwestern Portion of East Pasture to Intertidal Elevations (Figure 16). This step appears to reach the limit of diminishing returns. 50,000 cubic yards would be excavated to convert 8.4 acres of grassland to tidal marsh. This spot will likely be inundated anyway as the sea level rises due to global warming. The excavation seems to offer a low return in a project restoring more than 350 acres of low-, mid- and high Tidal Salt Marsh (acreage from page 546).

Alternative D is supposed to describe the Environmentally Preferred Alternative, yet Alternative D is faulted for this excavation. See the comments comparing Alternative C and D; e.g. Alternative C " provides other environmental benefits by decreasing the amount of excavated sediment that would be disposed of off-site and thereby minimizing impacts on air quality, demand for non-renewable energy resources, and traffic in the local community and region." (Page 96) This fault in D is sprinkled through the evaluation in the same way that lack of ADA-compliant access is touted.

For the final EIR, I would expect the project planners to decide if the excavation is worth the effort. If it is, then it should be included and not listed as a negative. If it is not worth the effort because of the damaging side effects, then remove it from the environmentally preferred Alternative D. (Here is a similar kind of trade off to illustrate the process: Round-up would be a great way to kill invasive plants, but it would have terrible side effects in this wetland restoration.)

### **Starter channel**

Alternative C includes a good restoration item: " Creation of New Lagunitas Creek Tidal Channel (Create Tidal Channel; Figure 14)" I did not understand why that is not included in Alternative D, too.

### **Another Starter Channel**

Alternatives B, C and D include a restoration step of "Removal of Riprap and Regrading of Creek Bank in southern portion of East Pasture (Remove or Breach Levee; Figure 11)" Since this is an area where the creek will rise over the bank, and hydrologists have debated whether Lagunitas Creek will "dramatically change course in the future by cutting through the East Pasture in this location." (page 56). Creating a starter channel here might be a win win step which creates flood reduction benefits and environmental benefits (more area for riparian habitat, some seasonal wetlands, and isolation of important riparian and buffer areas from disturbance). I don't know what the right size would be, but I imagine a 100 foot wide swale graded and planted with willows and alders, at around 10' NAVD88 and running west until the slope takes over. One of the objectives of the DEIR is stated as "emphasis was placed on those alternatives that would create the most sustainable and dynamic ecosystems." (page 30)

### **More Island-like Refugia**

The DEIR describes high tide refugia of 1.1 acres at the north levee (page 36). This will be highly valuable habitat since shore side high tide areas are more subject to disturbance by land predators and human caused factors. I found it remarkable that the fill for the refugia had to be mitigated with wetland creation in a project that is creating about 350 acres of new salt marsh. low-, mid- and high Tidal Salt Marsh.

If 1.1 acres is appropriate for the existing salt marsh by the north levee, how much isolated refugia area is needed for the whole 350 acre salt marsh restoration? There are planned refugia on berms in the project, but there are no additional isolated, island-like refugia. If another 5 acres of such refugia were created, perhaps more excavated fill can be used on site, and valuable habitat can be created.

### **Figures and Tables in Chapter 4**

It is difficult to follow the changes under the different alternatives. Chapter 3 has extensive figures and tables on existing conditions. There are no figures in Chapter 4 illustrating what the restoration might be like. The tables that are in Chapter 4 show summary qualitative descriptions such as "major beneficial". But, it is hard to make before and after comparisons when the data is scattered in the text.

Some of the ones that might be useful are listed here

Table 10 shows acreage of most dominant vegetation type. There should be such a table for each alternative.

Table 14 shows the estimated frequency of flooding and vertical flood elevation for key locations. There should be such a table for each alternative.

A version of Figure 28 for estimating the height of the southern end of the east pasture after restoration.

I realize that the models have much uncertainty, but the text says that the conclusions are based on maps and predictions. "Analysis of potential changes in cover or areal extent of native vegetation communities with implementation of the various alternatives is based on maps that predict long-term changes in vegetation communities in the Project Area once equilibrium, or, more accurately, dynamic equilibrium conditions have been reached." (See for example, page 453)

Thank you for considering my comments. The DEIR contains excellent information and analysis. The project team should be commended for their work. I appreciate the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

Rick Johnson  
PO Box 981  
Inverness, CA 94937

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

I want to put my 2-bits behind Plan "C" -

I think "D" is too radical - all the earth-

moving will impact the environment detrimentally

as much as any restoration value it will

achieve. BUT "C" is great! Thanks

Tom Killion - 51 Laurel, I.P. (PRS, 94956)



Richard Kirschman  
 <kirschman@marincoun  
 ty.net>  
 02/12/2007 11:52 AM  
 PST

To: "Frederick Smith, Jr., Environmental Action Committee of West Marin"  
 <eac@svn.net>  
 cc: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 Subject: EAC Announcement: Giacomini Restoration Plan Letters Due by  
 Tuesday 2/14

Fred,

The more public access the better. Access is very educational. Compared to the current status of these lands, either alternative "C" or "D" represents a gigantic step in the right direction.

Richard Kirschman

On Feb 9, 2007, at 2:12 PM, Frederick Smith, Jr., Environmental Action Committee of West Marin wrote:

> Dear Richard,  
 >  
 >  
 > This is Fred at the EAC reminding you that written letters on the  
 > Tomales Bay Wetlands Restoration project on the old Giacomini ranch  
 > are due by this Tuesday, February 14.  
 >  
 > The EAC is excited to see Point Reyes National Seashore's support for  
 > extensive restoration of the wetlands at the south end of Tomales Bay  
 > for the benefit of wildlife, including Coho salmon that spawn in  
 > Lagunitas and Olema Creeks. No matter what the outcome, the wetlands  
 > will be restored!  
 >  
 > But we are concerned about the Park's support of Alternative C, which  
 > calls too much public access at the expense of wildlife. The EAC  
 > supports Alternative D because it is the Environmentally Preferred  
 > alternative that provides for the most extensive restoration of the  
 > Tomales Bay wetlands. Also, please include in your letter whether you  
 > think that the bridge over Lagunitas Creek and trail connection  
 > between the Green Bridge and the White House Pool is a good idea.  
 >  
 > Remember, if the Seashore does not get enough support for Alternative  
 > D, we could end up with a restoration plan that includes too many new  
 > access-related impacts. So please write your letters in support of  
 > Alternative D to the address or e-mail below.  
 >  
 > Remember, we'll only end up with a plan we like if we ask for it.  
 >  
 > The Park is accepting written letters on this proposal until next  
 > Tuesday February 14. Please send your letter or e-mail to:  
 >  
 > Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
 > Point Reyes National Seashore  
 > Point Reyes, CA 94956  
 > Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project  
 > E-mail: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 >  
 > For more information on the plan, go  
 > [http://www.nps.gov/pore/parkmgmt/  
 > planning\\_giacomini\\_wrp\\_eiseir\\_draft\\_2007](http://www.nps.gov/pore/parkmgmt/planning_giacomini_wrp_eiseir_draft_2007)  
 >

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> Thank you all for your support of the EAC of West Marin.  
>  
> For Truth, Justice and the Riparian Way.  
>  
> Fred Smith  
> Executive Director  
>  
>  
> --  
> Frederick Smith, Jr.  
> Executive Director  
>  
> Environmental Action Committee of West Marin  
> Protecting West Marin since 1971  
> Box 609  
> Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
> tel: 415-663-9312  
> fax: 415-663-8014  
> email: eac@svn.net  
> <http://www.eacmarin.org>  
>



"Jane Kriss"  
 <janekriss@gmail.com>  
 02/12/2007 11:58 AM  
 PST  
 Please respond to jane

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes, CA 94956

Dear Don:

I'd like to weigh in on the Giacomini Wetland restoration project. I fully support Alternative D, since I would like to see the maximum amount of restoration possible. Horses and dogs especially do not belong in the wetlands or near the creek, and there would be a major enforcement challenge if a path were there ostensibly for people only. It's delicate, precious habitat, that we have the opportunity to save for the species that need our protection. Walking and biking paths (and we need both...) should be addressed as a separate issue, away from the waterways.

Sincerely,  
 Jane Kriss  
 Inverness resident

--  
 Jane Kriss  
 415.669.7331  
[www.janekriss.com](http://www.janekriss.com)

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Rhonda Kutter  
<rikutter@horizoncable.com>

02/13/2007 10:35 PM  
PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

RECEIVED  
Point Reyes  
National Seashore

FEB 14 '07

**Rhonda Kutter**  
**PO BOX 876**  
**Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**  
**415.663.5451**

February 13, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

I am the Chairmen of the Committee for a Family-Friendly Point Reyes (CFFFPR). This organization was formed over a year ago and our primary goal has been to get a toddler playground in PRS-- it is scheduled to start perhaps as early as this spring as part of the County Restroom and Parking lot project. We are also actively persuing improving and expanding local walkways make them safer for everyone, especially children, parents with toddlers and strollers, and also the less abled.

I was very sorry that I could not attend the Park's Public meetings regarding the Giacomini Wetlands project. As a working parent of a five year old, evening meetings are a challenge--and illness prevented me from attending the last meeting, so my letter will be of a general nature, since I am not as familiar with all of the nuances of the various plans. I do appreciate all the time that has gone into investigating the various plans, as is apparent from all of your work.

Though I am not officially representing the CFFFPR (we haven't had a need for a meeting recently) I would like to speak for many parents like myself, who live or visit Point Reyes Station on a regular basis for work, pre-school, school or shopping, and are disappointed that there are few suitable walks for parents with young children right here in town. The few we have are very short and the one public trail by the green bridge, as it is, is not safely accessible. Improving the pedestrian access by the green bridge and along Levee Rd. is an important task and should be done no matter what happens in the Wetlands project.

Although I am an active member of the Point Reyes Village Association, and know the design review committee has studied this far more than I, I would still like to see more pathways than they are recommending. Alternative C's Southern Perimeter Trail is something I have always dreamed about. How I would love to have a bridge to cross to White's Pool! And wouldn't it be wonderful to have two trails--on the Wetland's side that was geared more to pedestrians (and

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perhaps equestrian too), and then have the bike access be part of the Levee Rd. widening project (or visa-versa)?

I do not have a strong opinion about the Mesa Spur Trail. However, I can see that if the Wetlands become a popular destination, it might be useful to have an parking area and entrance set aside for it, but I would like to see that be closer to town, if possible. As someone who frequently crosses Mesa Rd. at Lorraine, I find it can be a bit dangerous as it is--a lot of car travel too fast and increased use could make this even worse. I would like to see this part of the plan put on hold for now--perhaps it could be developed later if need be.

I like the idea of a dairy overlook with ADA access from town. The Point Reyes Station Village Association's suggestion of moving the access point to C Street seems well thought out to me. There is also interest in our community through the new West Marin Common's Group to improve the walkways/sidewalk along C Street to Highway One--which would make this approach even more inviting. It could also connect and attract visitor's more to the Dance Palace part of our town, which is a jewel often missed by first time guests to our village.

Thank you for you time. I hope my thoughts have been helpful.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Kutter

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February 12, 2007  
 POB 223  
 Pt. Reyes Sta., CA 94956

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
 Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore  
 Pt. Reyes, CA 94956

Re: Gracomoni Wetlands

Dear Don,

- > Please record my support of [ALT.D without the bridge]
- > Thanks to the presence of the National Seashore in our area, we are abundant in opportunities for hiking, biking, dogwalking and horse riding.
- > More and wider trails at the south end of the wetland project - riparian at creek edge - disrupt and discourage bird, insect, plant and animal behaviors.
- > A wedge over Lagunitas creek will create a magnet for day-trip recreation.
- > I do support a plan for viewing platforms in established edge areas.
- > Lets watch the marsh develop with the least amount of presence and the most of our appreciation.

Thank you for recording my choice.

Sincerely,

Jan Langdon

Copy to: Jan Jarvis  
 Regional dir.  
 Nat'l Park Service



Ms. Janice Langdon  
 P.O. Box 223  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Superintendent  
NPS & Giacomini

CENTRAL FILES	BUDGET	PERSONNEL	CONTRACTING	MAINT.	CULT. RES.	INT. RES.	FIRE MGMT.	RANGE & PLANS	NAT. RES.	LAW ENFORC.	SPEC. PK. USES	SCIENCE	SUPT.
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FEB 14 1971  
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Point Reyes  
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Dona Larkin  
Community Pathway  
Committee;  
Sustainable West Marin  
Project Coordinator  
Box 33, PRS 94956

Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

I would first like to commend the park for its thorough study of the project and its willingness for public input in the process.

There are so many factors in the equation which makes it difficult to see clearly the best course of action, but weighing all considerations I can see why the park feels that ALT. C is the "preferred Alternative".

Alternative C offers excellent restoration to the wetlands while simultaneously focusing on the sustainability goals also foremost in the overall objectives of the park. The creation of a trail to White House pool via a bridge over Lagunitas Creek is an integral component of the alternative transportation goals in our community, and setting up the potential for the path to continue to Inverness park is crucial in this stage of development. Offering educational opportunities through expanded public access and interpretive exhibits will help to foster the environmentalists of our future.

Therefore overall I support ALT C with a few concerns:

- ① How will the Aquisition of the parcels along SFD in Inverness Park effect the outcome of either ALT C or ALT D ?
- ② Parking - the proposed limited parking at Mesa Road could be problematic due to its remoteness. A location closer to town would better serve the project and the community. Perhaps near the ranch buildings or the corner of Hwy on + B Street, which would link with the improved access near the green bridge.

The necessary ADA component could be moved to the White House Pool parking lot.

- ③ Currently the greatest non-ag use of the area between Hwy one and the Giacomini Ranch is by dog owners on their daily walks. There is an important need in our community for a location to exist where dogs can run freely. Historically this has been the location. A possible solution to have both protected wetlands and content pets & owners would be to fence an area perhaps at the edge of the project for off leash exercise of pets in town. Ideally pets would still be welcome on the trail as is currently the practice.
- ④ Siltation of the bay could become a serious threat to habitat and water quality with the extensive excavation in both Alt. C & Alt D. What safeguards will be in place to prevent this?
- ⑤ My study was in the executive summary and I saw no details of the bridge but heard many comments that the stature of the bridge was excessive. Any efforts possible to to scale it down somewhat would be well regarded, but the bridge is crucial.

\* Please Note - while Alt C seems the best overall choice to me personally, I have also signed a document on behalf of the community pathway committee in collaboration with MCBC, the Sierra Club & Marin Access for Bikes. This group supports ALT D with the inclusion of the bridge & pathways of ALT C to Inv. Park & the Northern levee. Our support for D is contingent upon the inclusion of the bridge and pathway.

Once again thank you for the opportunity for public input, it is a decision of critical importance.

Respectfully, Dona Larkin



"Kevin Lawson"  
<yes@svn.net>  
02/13/2007 09:36 AM  
PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Don Neubacher,

To make this area really accessible and useful to the public, we need to be able to walk (or bike) from White House Pool to Point Reyes. A foot bridge across the creek where the dam used to be would be brilliant.

Thanks,  
Kevin Lawson  
Home: (415) 663-9210  
Cell: (530) 545-2730  
Fax: (415) 873-1949  
P.O. Box 1293  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

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"Vicki Leeds"  
 <cabaline@svn.net>  
 02/13/2007 11:23 PM  
 PST  
 Please respond to "Vicki  
 Leeds"

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc: <jon\_jarvis@nps.gov>  
 Subject: Giacomini Ranch Property/Wetlands Restoration

To whom it may concern,  
 My vote is for a creative combination of alternatives "C" & "D". I would like to see the wetlands restored as much as possible to pre dairy ranch conditions, as well as to have the lowest impact pathway available connecting Inverness Park with Pt. Reyes Station. It would be great if this pathway could be a safe alternative route for locals of all ages, whether they be walkers, bicyclists or equestrians. Thank you very much for your consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,  
 Vicki Leeds

PO Box 398

Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

(Business owner in Pt. Reyes Station for 30 years, resident for 35 years, member of various local environmental organizations, & outdoor enthusiast)

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Ellen Lesli  
 <elesli@yahoo.com>  
 02/04/2007 01:33 PM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_Jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Attn: Giacomini Wetlands RestorationPlan

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Ellen Lesli  
 PO Box 306  
 Inverness, CA 94937

Email : [elesli@yahoo.com](mailto:elesli@yahoo.com)

Feb. 4, 2007

Park Planning – Jon Jarvis  
 Re : Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

I have been a resident of the Point Reyes area for over 32 years.  
 In that time I have watched this area become more and more populated  
 And built up.

I am in support of what is best for the bay; the preservation and restoration of the fragile  
 ecological balance of the bay and the surrounding areas.

I strongly urge the park to support **ALTERNATIVE D** . We have to preserve this unique  
 area. There are so few "wild" areas left on this planet.

The public has more than enough access to this 75,000 acre park.  
 Any more access would be adding to the erosion of the very quality that attracts people  
 to this area.

Thank You for listening,

Ellen Lesli

It's here! Your new message!  
 Get [new email alerts](#) with the free [Yahoo! Toolbar](#).



"Ken Levin"  
<klevin@horizoncable.com>  
02/13/2007 08:35 AM  
PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: (Giacomini) Tomales Bay Wetlands Restoration

This letter is in strong support of **Alternative D**. **Alternative D** is the plan most likely to restore the hydrologic and ecologic function of Tomales Bay and return the reclaimed cow pasture to a beautiful marsh.

The fewer "visitor serving" facilities or amendments included in the plan, the better. There are already enough in the area to provide access and views. In this particular situation nature must come first; it is important to give highest priority to restoration of the environment.

Particularly, no bridge over Lagunitas Creek. This would be a visual, environmental and financial disaster.

Ken Levin  
Point Reyes Station

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Diane Levy  
 <diane@dianelevy.com  
 >

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

02/04/2007 06:10 PM  
 PST

Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

I am very concerned about the wetlands restoration plan in Point Reyes. Plan D is the least worrisome of the options presented. Please make this the priority.

The origin of the plan was to restore hydrologic and ecologic function of the bay. Plan D accomplishes this in the most cost effective and ecological manner.

In regards to human access to the area: There are already established alternative sites that provide parking, trails, and observation points at White House Pool, Martinelli Open Space and Olema Marsh. It is unnecessary that further financial output be used to create more access and it does not serve the original plan of restoration. In the long term more human access could create future problems for the ecology of the site and require greater financial burdens for maintenance and upkeep to the area.

Short sighted decision making has created the current overpopulation of non-native deer species. Curtailing the culling of the herds now presents the park with a public relations nightmare. This is not the time for another decision made for the present, without regard for the future impact. Rather than with the deer, when more intervention would have been better, in this case, less is best!!!

Please use Plan D, perhaps with a bridge across Papermill Creek as a concession to access, but no more than that. Plan D is the best option for the intended goals of the restoration project.

Thank you,  
 Diane Levy

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John Levy  
 <johnlevy@cs.stanford.edu>

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan comment

02/04/2007 04:33 PM  
 PST

Superintendent, Pt. Reyes National Seashore:

Regarding the proposals for restoration of the Giacomini Wetlands, I would like to note my strong preference for Alternative D.

The restoration of the wetlands is an important step in furthering the ecosystem represented by the National Seashore. In Alternative C, the inclusion of a bridge over Lagunitas Creek and the improvement of trails to ADA compliance level would add to the intensity of public use in the immediate area of the wetlands, threatening the effectiveness of the restoration in the most popular areas.

While we in the community surrounding the Point Reyes National Seashore welcome the seasonal arrival of millions of visitors to the park and to our community, I believe we must anticipate a steady increase in the pressure of visitors to the area and therefore minimize the number of access points in this very sensitive area. As a result, Alternative D is the best choice.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

--John V. Levy, Ph.D.  
 Inverness Park, CA

John Levy  
 415 663-0611

P.O. Box 1012  
 Inverness, CA 94907

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Barry Linder  
<barrylinda@earthlink.net>

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Tomales Bay restoration

02/09/2007 07:16 PM  
PST

Lets have plan D. Lets have bridge over creek so we can use the path to PRS. Thanks Linda Linder

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**Michael Linvill**  
1317 Lincoln Avenue, #15  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
(415) 453-4093  
mikelinvill@yahoo.com

February 11, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Regarding: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

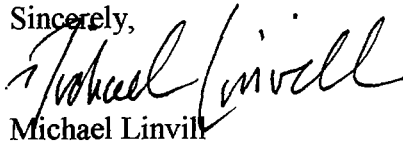
Dear Mr. Neubacher:

I first moved to Marin County from San Francisco when I was 10 years old in 1971. My parents came here in large part because of Marin's extraordinary scenery and unique balance of nature and people. I believe that it is a priority to not only preserve what is left of Marin's natural heritage, but also to restore as much of it as possible.

Thank you for your support of wetlands restoration at the south end of Tomales Bay. The restoration will help to sustain numerous threatened wildlife species, particularly Coho salmon which come to spawn in the Olema and Lagunitas creeks. However, I am concerned about the park's support of Alternative C, which will allow too much public access at the expense of wildlife.

Please reconsider your position and support Alternative D, the environmentally preferred alternative, because it provides for the most extensive restoration of the wetlands and will benefit wildlife the most. In addition, please provide for a bridge over Lagunitas Creek and the trail connection between Green Bridge and White House Pool. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Linvill

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Ruth Linvill  
100 Thorndale, #106  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
ruthlinvill@aol.com

February 10, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

I am writing to you because I support Alternative D as the plan that should be implemented in restoring the wetlands at Giacomini. Although the plan supported by your office is a good one, it doesn't go far enough in reducing human intrusion on the wetlands. I also support a bridge over Lagunitas creek and the trail connection between Green Bridge and Whitehouse Pool. Thank you for hearing my comments.

*Ruth Linvill*  
+  
Ruth Linvill

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Dewey Livingston  
 <dlive@svn.net>  
 02/14/2007 10:51 AM  
 PST

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Marsh

✓	CENTRAL FILES
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 FEB 14 '07

February 14, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Re: Comments on the Draft EIR, Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

Dear Don:

I appreciate the chance to comment on the EIR, as this is a very important and historic undertaking. For the most part, the document appears to be very good and thorough.

I support a combination of Alternatives B through D, with the following comments:

1. The proposed bridge would sit like a sore thumb in a critical section of the restoration project with its over-engineered abutments and approaches; the needed berm/levee to support a multi-use trail on either side would be a hindrance to proper restoration; and it would be too costly. As an alternative, we would propose a seasonal bridge that could be lifted into place with a crane in the spring and removed in the late fall, connecting a small, seasonal trail. This should be less costly, but I realize it probably wouldn't pass muster with all the regulations of this over-regulated society.

2. The whole project is impeded by the existence of the Levee Road: it is like leaving a piece of rotten meat in your newly cleaned refrigerator. Yes, another impossibility: replace most of the road with an elevated roadway. At the least, provide more than one new break in the road, possibly three to five; otherwise the project, especially involving Olema Marsh, will be compromised. Why such a big compromise when so much money and energy is being poured into this project?

3. A small trail along the east side railroad grade should be included: not a developed, wide, multi-use trail, but limited access (no bikes, pets, etc.). At the least, there should be no barriers of access to the area, as we doubt that individuals using a minor, unmarked and unpublicized trail have the potential to cause harm.

4. I am concerned about the fate of the original Inverness Park Store building. I acknowledge that it is in terrible condition and may not meet the criteria for the National Register, but it is a unique old structure being the only surviving historic commercial building in IP. I suggest that its shell be rehabbed into a small, unmanned visitor center/museum that could be opened by a passing ranger in the morning and closed up in the evening (seeing how dozens of park staff pass the place daily, and

many of them stop at Perry's!).

5. I am also concerned about creating a trailhead in Point Reyes Station without adequate parking.

As an aside, did you know that about 100 years ago, there was an elevated boardwalk along the creek at the road bend at the bottom of Balboa Road? A structural precedent for a trail to IP!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and good luck.

Dewey Livingston  
P.O. Box 296  
Inverness, CA 94937  
415-669-7706  
[dlive@svn.net](mailto:dlive@svn.net)



"Jack Long"  
 <jack@creeksidebirds.com>

02/14/2007 05:38 PM  
 PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc:  
 Subject: You have received photos from Adobe Photoshop Album

LETS STAY WITH ALTERNATIVE D WE DO NOT NEED MORE CARS OR PARKED CARS ON THE LEVEE ROAD I WOULD FEEL SAFER ON A FREEWAY THAN WALKING ON THE LEVEE ROAD SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BLVD. DOCTORS TELL US TO WALK MORE , IN THIS CASE WALKING COULD KILL YOU . THIS PICTURE TELLS IT ALL 35 YEARS LIVING HERE I HAVE SEEN IT ALL IF ALTERNATIVE D IS THE BEST CHOICE THEN STAY WITH IT JACK LONG

Download Photoshop(R) Album 2.0 Starter Edition free to create your own photo slideshows!



<http://www.adobe.com/getstarteredition> scan001001\_edited.jpg

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"John Lopez \(\hm ofc\)"  
 <mecoak@hotmail.com>  
 >

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc: <Jon\_Jarvis@nps.gov>  
 Subject: Gacomini wetlands Alternative D w/bridge & change of parking

02/12/2007 04:56 PM  
 PST

**To Planning committee:**

With discussions with my family (Three children who use trails) our neighbors and community members there is debate of how best to give input for our National Park. We in the community do understand that the whole nation is paying for our beautiful backyard. I would like to put my vote for the limited access to the new wetlands but with a multiuse trail for pedestrian, equestrians and bicyclist (of course some info for use and right of way). With a bridge put at the point of the old Gacomini seasonal dam. This bridge would produce a continuous link to/from the park and Point Reyes Station and Inverness Park.

So while I would approve Alternative C because of the bridge, I would like to vote for Alternate D with the addition of bridge. I would also like to suggest changing the parking from near the Green Barn(Red Barn) current housing area to Park owned land in the current Gacomini dairy ranch area.

Thank you so much for allowing for our input.

**John Lopez**  
 11190 Sir Francis Drake (Levee Rd.)  
 Point Reyes Station  
 415-663-8801

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"Ruth Kantor Lopez"  
<Bookworm@svn.net>  
02/12/2007 03:17 AM  
PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc: <Jon\_Jarvis@nps.gov>  
Subject: wetlands restoration plans

After reviewing plans C and D for the wetlands restoration at Point Reyes National Seashore, I would like to urge the park to adopt plan D with the addition of the bridge over the creek. The bridge is much needed by the community, but the other access components of plan C I fear will cause undesirable development and related problems.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ruth Kantor Lopez  
Levee road resident, Point Reyes Station

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**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Alt C

Public Access - connecting all the way to Inverness rather than stopping at Inverness Park, with a shared-use path should be included in the scope when it comes time to work with the County on this project.

Like Alt C's public Access,

LISA LUZZI

Good Job

[D would be good  
with C's Access]

PO Box 526 PRS.

• [lisaluzzi@gmail.com](mailto:lisaluzzi@gmail.com)



"Melissa Lyckberg"  
<gratitude@saber.net>  
02/07/2007 08:24 AM  
PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: FW: no on plan C

Hello - I want plan D not plan C.

Bruce Lyckberg  
663-1988

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"Melissa Lyckberg"  
 <gratitude@saber.net>  
 02/07/2007 08:23 AM  
 PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc:  
 Subject: support of plan D

I support plan D. I live on Los Reyes Drive, near Mesa Road in Point Reyes Station.

I DO NOT WANT PLAN C!

Melissa Lyckberg  
 Frank Howard Allen Realtors  
 511 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard  
 Greenbrae, CA 94904  
 415-925-3262 direct  
 415-309-5799 mobile  
 www.MoveToMarin.com

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"Jay MacMahon"  
 <jmacmahon@freitasla  
 w.com>

02/12/2007 11:10 AM  
 PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc: <jon\_jarvis@nps.gov>  
 Subject: ALTERNATIVE D -- GIACOMINI WETLANDS RESTORATION PLAN

I own the improved residential property at 11150 and 11160 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (Levee Road) since 1974, as well as 21+ acres of unimproved property at the end of Fox Drive in the Bear Valley Property Owners subdivision since 1960.

I support ALTERNATIVE D over ALTERNATIVE C

Sincerely, Jay & Gloria MacMahon.

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Melanie Matheson  
1317 Lincoln Avenue, #4  
San Rafael, CA 94901

February 12, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956

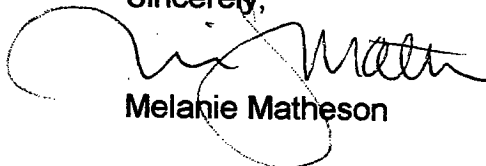
Dear Mr. Neubacher:

I support full restoration of the wetlands at Tomales Bay, specifically those at the southern end of the bay because of their importance as a home for wildlife. Salmon, in particular, depend on the creeks in the area as a place to spawn.

I have lived in Marin since childhood and am proud of Marin's commitment to preserving the natural beauty and wildlife over the years. To that end, I think that the plan your service has decided to utilize to restore the wetlands, although constructive in helping reverse the damage to the wetlands, will not be sufficient. I believe that **Alternative D is better** because it will be the most effective in reducing human impacts on the fragile wetlands. As part of a comprehensive plan to save the wetlands, I also support a bridge over Lagunitas Creek and the trail connection between Green Bridge and White House Pool.

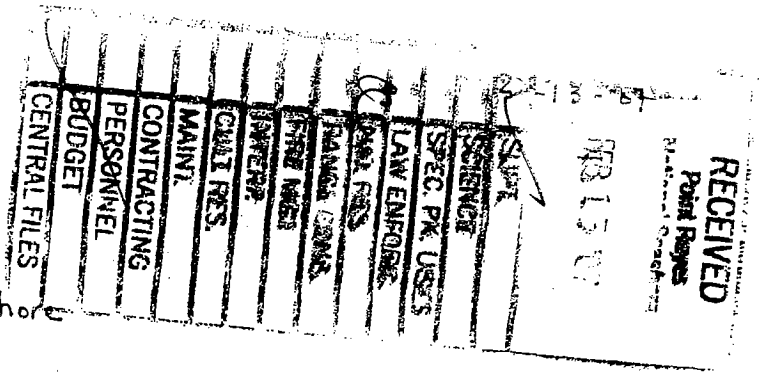
Thank you for your continued watch over Tomales Bay, and please bolster your effort by adopting Alternative D to restore the Giacomini Wetlands.

Sincerely,



Melanie Matheson

Don Neubacher  
Superintendent  
Pt. Reyes National Seashore  
Pt. Reyes CA 94956



Re: Alternative D - Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Mr. Neubacher,

As a resident of West Marin and a native plant habitat restorer, I respectfully request that you decide to implement Alternative D without a bridge.

Working on the levee road for the past several years has made it obvious to me how much the creatures that try to exist in and around the creek are limited and jeopardized.

If a bike lane is needed a better choice would be on the south side of the levee road.

Thank you for your consideration.

The wetlands and the bay need maximum restoration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Mayer  
P.O. Box 1091  
Fuerness CA 94937

cc: Jon Jarvis, Regional Director, National Park Service

Lorraine Pearson

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DATE: 1-26-67

TO: SUPERINTENDENT

FROM: MICHAEL McENEANY 669-1868

SUBJECT: PERIMETER TRAILS ON RESTORED MARSH  
(ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE)

COMMENTS:

PERHAPS PERIMETER TRAILS AROUND THE RESTORED MARSH COULD BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG ~~THE~~ THE ST FRANCIS DRAKE BLVD. RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM WHITE HOUSE POOL TO IN USING CLEAN, COMPACTABLE NATIVE FILL COLLECTED FROM RESTORATION EXCAVATION PROJECTS.

THOUSANDS OF TRUCK TRIPS OUT TO PICKUP POINT COULD BE ELIMINATED AND A RESTORATION TRAIL CREATED IF THE EXCAVATED MATERIALS WERE UTILIZED IN THIS FASHION.



Trish McEneany  
 <mceneany@svn.net>  
 02/13/2007 10:29 AM  
 PST

To: Park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: lcrosse@co.marin.ca.us  
 Subject: Giacommini Marsh Restoration @ Point Reyes National Seashore

Regarding the creation of a bicycle and pedestrian path from Inverness to Point Reyes Station:  
 In two previous comments submitted to the Superintendent, I failed to mention that this subject has been discussed many times in the County of Marin planning process. Specifically, it is mentioned in the Marin County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, prepared for the Marin County Congestion Management Agency in June of 2000.  
 Given the County's interest in developing such a pathway along the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard right of way, one might see this as a good time to explore the possibility of a cooperative effort to achieve this end. Using the spoils from excavation activities in the marsh to widen the bay side shoulder of the roadway would save possibly thousands of truck trips over Ottinger's Hill, reducing costs and environmental disruption attendant with their disposal at Pierce Point.  
 Michael McEneany  
 Inverness, CA  
 415-669-1868

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Michael McEneaney

P.O. Box 892  
Inverness, CA 94927  
HS-669-1868

Point Reyes National Seashore  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Consider Removal of overhead utility lines along  
San Francisco Drake Blvd. from White House Pool to  
Inverness thereby making the shore-side  
shoulder of the road available for an ~~path~~  
informal or more developed path. PUC  
funds may be available to help fund this  
under section 70A per Leeza Cross @ Supkinsai's office

- Public Safety Enhancement
- Wetland Enhancement
- Other ongoing projects

FACTORS ~~FACTORING~~ EXPENDITURE

OF PUC FUNDS

INTRO / INU Resident

IPUD Board Members

HISTORY OF BEING CUT  
OFF & LOSING ELECT SERV.

Point Reyes National Seashore  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting

January 25, 2007



1) Is restoration of Olema Marsh contingent upon excavating the west pasture?

What's the original height of the pasture &

→ is all that expensive excavation necessary?  
I'd like to see the Marsh restoration (C, or D)

2) We dog walkers would like to keep the Wildlife Conservation Board areas as they are: off leash, at least in practice. The nearest other places are Bolinas Ridge and Millerton, several miles away. Also, the pathway to Inverness Park should allow dogs.

Philip McKee / Inverness Park





kaycmahon@svn.net  
 02/13/2007 11:09 PM  
 EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

Dear Superintendent Don Neubacher - I would like to thank you, and all of the other Park Service employees, consultants and volunteers, for the many years of hard work and dedicated effort to move forward the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project. My support is for Alternative D, with a little modification as is possible. Sincerely Yours, Kay McMahon 81 Dover Road (Box 201) Inverness CA 94937

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2/5/07

Dear Don,

I urge the park to  
support Alternative D  
with

the addition of a bridge  
across Laganitas Creek  
from the southern path  
from Pt Reyes.

Thank you

Nell Melcher



NELL MELCHER STUDIO

P.O. Box 153 \* Point Reyes, CA 94956

415-663-1815 \* Phone & Fax

[www.nellmelcher.com](http://www.nellmelcher.com)

Don Neubacher  
Attn: Giacomini Wetlands  
Pt Reyes Nat'l Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA 94956



"Jerry Meral"  
 <jmeral@horizoncable.com>  
 02/10/2007 08:05 AM  
 PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc:  
 Subject: Papermill Creek wetlands restoration

February 10, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
 Point Reyes National Seashore

Dear Don:

I support the selection of Alternative D, the Environmentally Preferred alternative that provides for the most extensive restoration of the Tomales Bay wetlands. There are three reasons:

- 1) With sea level rise, it is important to maximize wetlands productivity, so that the vegetation can "keep up" with the rising sea level.
- 2) Coastal wetlands are very scarce in California, so it is important to maximize their restoration.
- 3) The tourism economy of our area will benefit from restoration, since bird watching is a major activity for tourists here.

I support the position of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin regarding the bridge over Lagunitas Creek and trail connection between the Green Bridge and the White House Pool.

Best regards,

Jerry Meral

Gerald H. Meral, Ph.D.  
 PO 1103  
 Inverness, CA 94937  
 phone/fax 415-669-9883  
 mobile: 415-717-8412  
 jmeral@horizoncable.com

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"Connie Mery"  
<cmery@horizoncable.com>

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: marsh restoration

02/08/2007 10:47 PM  
PST

Dear Don,

I think it would be best to have the maximum wildlife protected.  
Maybe that expensive bridge is unnecessary.

thanks

connie mery

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# Michael Mery

February 11, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Comments on the Draft EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.

Dear Don:

You and the Seashore staff have done a first rate evaluation of the proposed wetland restoration, the excellence being reflected by the depth of the analyses in the draft EIS. I look forward with anticipation to watching the restoration proceed with the fascinating changes in vegetation and the various wild species that will benefit from the marsh.

I urge the Park to implement Alternative D, the "preferred environmental alternative." In my view, ecological restoration is primary and all other interests are secondary because of the rarity of wetlands, in general, and the health of the bay and our ecosystem, in particular. There are many special status species in the restoration area and that, too, calls for the best possible restoration effort.

I urge the following:


1. Implement Alternative D.
2. Eliminate the bridge over Lagunitas Creek because of excessive costs and budget limitations. Those monies would be more wisely spent on improving the connectivity between the Olema and Giacomini marshes.
3. Greater emphasis on the four major feeder streams: Lagunitas, Bear Valley, Olema and Tomasini Creeks. Limit public access to the riparian areas including the transitional zones allowing for the greatest possible vegetation and associated habitat improvement.
4. Maximize tidal access for all the drainages as per the description in Alternative D.
5. Eliminate the access point parking area at the farm worker housing on Mesa Road. This site will likely pose management problems for the Seashore as it will become a destination. The access in town near the ranch housing is much more desirable since visitors and residents can easily walk from town unlike the farm worker housing site where there is very poor pedestrian access from Mesa Road.
6. The Ag zoned property on the East side of the marsh should be in public ownership leading to the removal of all barns, etc.

The Preferred Alternative has many of the aspects of Alternative D, but in a weaker form. Because of the importance of the marsh and the unusual nature of this opportunity, doing the most complete restoration possible should be the goal.

My heartfelt thanks to you and your staff for your dedication to the ecosystem we share. The public/private partnership in which so many participate is possible because of the openness and professionalism of Park Service staff. I and many others look forward to the changes as the marsh evolves, as we watch the creatures and plant life with which we share this ecosystem become reestablished in their, and our, recovering wetland.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Mery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a smaller "Mery" following.

Michael Mery

# Michael Mery

February 12, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Additional Comments on the Draft EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.

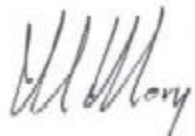
Dear Don:

To my prior comments I would like to add the following:

1. Please negotiate a management agreement with the California State Lands Commission to take on the responsibility for their 500+ acre parcel so as to integrate that management with the marsh restoration.
2. To facilitate foot and bicycle traffic from PRS to Inverness Park, please consider widening the SFD Blvd. from the Green Bridge west. Widen the southern portion so as to allow a bicycle and foot lane on the northern side of the road to the point where the path along the creek begins.
3. I add my support to the PRS Village Association letter, enclosed.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Mery".

Michael Mery

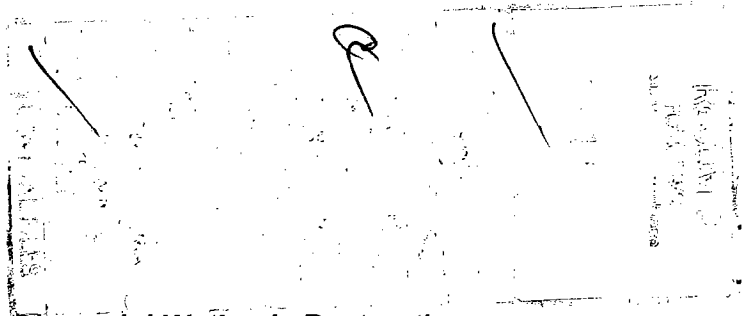
**BRIDGER M. MITCHELL**

---

290 Camino del Mar  
Inverness, CA

February 14, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956



**re: Comments on the Draft EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration**

Dear Don,

I commend the Park Service and your team for the high-quality Draft EIR and for undertaking the public consultation process.

I have not had the opportunity to read the entire draft report, but have selectively reviewed the executive summary and descriptions of Alternatives C and D. I trust that the final decision need not be constrained to the precise alternatives contained in the report, but can be further developed and fine-tuned to reflect comments from this consultation. I have read the thoughtful and constructive comments of the Point Reyes Station Village Association and the Sierra Club and find them well considered.

In preparing the report staff has clearly considered a great many factors, and has been attentive to community comment. This is particularly evident in the components for public access included in Alternative C.

Nevertheless, I believe adequate access can be achieved at lower cost and with greater environmental benefits by moving toward a restoration plan constructed around Alternative D. **I support Alternative D.**

In particular, the perimeter trail along the southern boundary of the Giacomini Wetlands can be better achieved, at lower cost, by not installing a very costly pedestrian bridge. Instead, alternative D can be improved by widening the shoulders of the Levee Road to safely accommodate pedestrian and bicycle travel, improving connectivity between Point Reyes Station and Inverness.

Restoration of a single, interconnected wetlands area encompassing both the Giacomini fields and Olema Marsh is, to my mind, the component of the project that is least advanced. Clearly, reconception of the Levee Road as a causeway will involve other agencies. Nevertheless, funds not expended on the proposed bridge should be redirected to restoring the hydraulic connectivity of the Wetlands with the Olema Marsh.

I encourage you to continue to envision a restoration effort that transcends just the NPS and to work for coordinated and cooperative solutions with the County, ACR, and other affected organizations. The project will be more successful as a result of conceiving the environment at the southern end of Tomales Bay holistically.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Bridger M. Mitchell.





"Jim Monson"  
<jamesmon@svn.net>  
02/09/2007 03:45 PM  
PST

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc: "Julie" <juliemon@svn.net>  
Subject: Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Superintendent Neubacher and staff,

Thanks so much for all of the work that you have done in planning to make the wetlands restoration project serve community and environmental needs. I particularly appreciate the public meeting that you held at the Red Barn a few weeks ago. The presentation was very clear, and you did everything possible to give everyone a chance to hear and be heard.

Julie and I would like to indicate our preference among the various alternatives presented. We favor the EAC proposal presented at the meeting - i.e., alternative D, modified to include a bridge across the creek that would enable trail access from White House Pool to Point Reyes Station. We feel that this plan would give maximum environmental protection, while giving people access to the wetlands and providing a safe pedestrian walkway all the way to Point Reyes Station from White House Pool.

We look forward to the next steps in the restoration of the wetlands.

All the best,

Jim Monson  
40 Fox Drive  
Point Reyes Station

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Point Reyes
National Park Service
FEB 12 '07
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CULT. RES.
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BUDGET
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CENTRAL FILES



SharonMooney  
 <smooney@svn.net>  
 02/11/2007 03:51 PM  
 PST

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Marsh

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 National Seashore

FEB 12 2007

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BUDGET

I am in support of the proposal below suggested by Michael Mery:

uperintendent Don Neubacher  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

RE: Comments on the Draft EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.  
 Dear Don:

You and the Seashore staff have done a first rate evaluation of the proposed wetlands restoration, the excellence being reflected by the depth of the analyses in the draft EIS. I look forward with anticipation to watching the restoration proceed with the fascinating changes in vegetation and the various wild species that will benefit from the marsh.

I urge the Park to implement Alternative D, the "preferred environmental alternative." In my view, ecological restoration is primary and all other interests are secondary because of the rarity of wetlands, in general, and the health of the bay and our ecosystem, in particular. There are many special status species in the restoration area and that, too, calls for the best possible restoration effort.

I urge the following:

1. Implement Alternative D.
2. Eliminate the bridge over Lagunitas Creek because of excessive costs and budget limitations. Those monies would be more wisely spent on improving the connectivity between the Olema and Giacomini marshes.
3. Greater emphasis on the four major feeder streams: Lagunitas, Bear Valley, Olema and Tomasini Creeks. Limit public access to the riparian areas including the transitional zones allowing for the greatest possible vegetation and associated habitat improvement.
4. Maximize tidal access for all the drainages as per the description in Alternative D.
5. Eliminate the access point parking area at the farm worker housing on Mesa Road. This site will likely pose management problems for the Seashore as it will become a destination. The access in town near the ranch housing is much more desirable since visitors and residents can easily walk from town unlike the farm worker housing site where there is very poor pedestrian access from Mesa Road.
6. The Ag zoned property on the East side of the marsh should be in public ownership leading to the removal of all barns, etc.

The Preferred Alternative has many of the aspects of Alternative D, but in a weaker form. Because of the importance of the marsh and the unusual nature of this opportunity, doing the most complete restoration possible should be the goal.

My heartfelt thanks to you and your staff for your dedication to the ecosystem we share. The public/private partnership in which so many participate is possible because of the openness and professionalism of Park Service staff. I and many others look forward to the changes as the marsh evolves, as we watch the creatures and plant life with which we share this ecosystem become reestablished in their, and our, recovering wetland.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Mery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Mery

TO THE  
SUPERINTENDANT  
PRILEYES NATIONAL  
SEASHORE

I prefer plan "D"  
with~~out~~ the inclusion  
of a bridge and  
pathway for  
the  
Coastal Wetland  
Restoration Project  
Five lined in  
Prileyes since  
1973.

Charles  
Morgan



Ann Nelson  
 01/30/2007 09:38 AM  
 PST

To: file  
 cc:  
 Subject: Fw: Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project



M M  
 <marinspin@yahoo.com>  
 >  
 01/29/2007 05:46 PM  
 PST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Fwd: Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

forwarded bt--- M M <marinspin@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Date: Sun, 28 Jan 2007 15:07:42 -0800 (PST)  
 > From: M M <marinspin@yahoo.com>  
 > Subject: Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration  
 > Project  
 > To: parkplanning@nps.gov  
 >  
 >  
 > Jan. 28, 2007  
 >  
 >  
 > To:  
 >  
 > Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
 > Point Reyes National Seashore  
 > Point Reyes, CA 94956  
 > Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project  
 >  
 > I would like the park to go with plan D because of  
 > the  
 > following reasons:  
 >  
 > D will provide more habitat for more  
 > wetland-dependent  
 > species, more natural hydrological function, and  
 > more  
 > extensive restoration of riparian habitats in the  
 > Lagunitas Creek delta and at the mouth of Tomasini  
 > Creek. Ultimately, these factors will contribute to  
 > a  
 > healthier Tomales bay and greater biodiversity along  
 > its shores.  
 >  
 > Thank you,  
 >  
 > Marjorie Morgenstern - Long time Marin County  
 > Resident  
 >  
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"Marble Marble"  
 <marble74@hotmail.co  
 m>

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration: In Favor of ALTERNATIVE D

02/14/2007 12:04 AM  
 GMT

To all Concerned, I am STRONGLY in favor of measure D as written (without the modification of the bridge). The opportunity to restore these wetlands and grasslands should be pursued whole-heartedly and recognized as the special and necessary contribution this would make to the Tomales Bay ecosystem. Any paths (particularly those including dogs, horses and bicycles) are antithetical to this purpose as they would disrupt and impinge on returning birds and other animals and plants. Who would supervise the functioning of the proposed path, who would pick up the dog and horse feces (which contain contaminants and seeds from invasive plant species) left behind; who would insure that the dogs were not on leash and not routing birds, etc?; who would pick up the garbage left by humans?

In short, I feel the best policy is that which would contribute to the most efficient healthful functioning of Tomales Bay: ALTERNATIVE D.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely, Mary Moser

Search for grocery stores. Find gratitude. Turn a simple search into something more.

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terry nordbye  
<terry@visionroad.us>  
01/31/2007 10:29 PM  
PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
cc: on\_jarvis@nps.gov  
Subject:

### Giacomini Restoration

To the Editor of the Point Reyes Light From Terry Nordbye- Inverness

The proposed plans for the Giacomini wetlands include possible -bike, horse, and foot trails, a very big bridge, a boardwalk, parking spaces and more.

The bike path proponents say that bike trails will get people out of their cars I agree but that is only after they drove the sixty miles to get to the path. The trail would be dirt and those skinny tire bikes will not be on the trail People do not bicycle out here on dirt bikes from Fairfax or Fairfield they carry them on their cars and SUV's

The proposed board- walk would go through the old railroad right of way Most people have probably never foraged through this soggy over grown riparian area because since the trains stopped it has grown back to thick and rich and hidden habitat for many a critters. Bringing in structures boardwalks and people would be an irreversible disruption to wildlife, a visual insult the human eye and provide the park with an endless and expensive maintenance project

The bridge, according to Don Neubacher, would cost around \$800,000- big and strong enough to withstand the powers of flooding and earthquake. Now even in Gov't dollars, \$800,000 is a lot of bridge to look at. And then of course there is \$ maintenance.

If you build it, they will come.

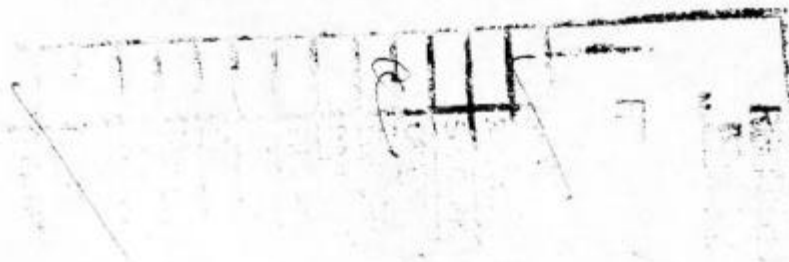
Be aware that "these charming wildlife trails" will likely end up on Bay Area Back Roads and in Sunset Magazine and will attract many more visitors and their cars to our already over-crowded town

Globally, plant and animal species are losing ground, dying off and becoming extinct The main reason for loss of species is loss of habitat. The main reason for loss of habitat is that humans always want a small piece of whatever is left. In the Giacomini wetland restoration- what is the right balance between pure restoration and our human "need" for access? . The more trails, bikes, horses, brigdes, construction, the less habitat, peace and ground for wildlife. All our demands are met at a cost to wildlife.

This restored wetland will be a thing of beauty, a gift for the wild things, and a centerpiece for Point Reyes Station. Does that not provide enough for our human needs? Can't untouched beauty satisfy our human needs? Could we accept that we don't have to do something to have something, to use something just because it is there?

Beauty does not have to be used; our lives and our soul can be enriched just by knowing it is there

Terry Nordbye





terry nordbye  
<terry@visionroad.us>  
02/11/2007 07:44 PM  
PST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
CC:  
Subject: wetlands

Please leave the wetlands to the wildlife. We (humans) have enough recreational things and toys and trails. Please keep people, dogs, bikes, strollers, picnics, etc out of the wetlands, that would include bridges, paths and boardwalks. I am sure I don't have to remind you how much habitat has been irreversibly already taken. Your restoration project is a great and commendable endeavor, please keep it as "pure" as possible.

Sincerely, Terry Nordbye- Inverness

PS I ride a bicycle, I spend a lot of days and time walking the trails of the park in my 30 plus years in Inverness.

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February 13, 2007

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE  
POINT REYES, CA 94955-9789

*ku'i*  
FEB 20 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, Ca. 94956

RE: comments on the Draft EIS: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration.

Dear Mr. Neubacher,

Having been a resident of Inverness for many years, I have been extremely pleased with the proposed wetland restoration. It will be exciting to return to Point Reyes and see the changes in vegetation and various wild species that will benefit from the marsh.

I urge the Park to implement Alternative D, the "preferred environmental alternative." Ecological restoration is primary and all other interests are secondary because of the rarity of wetlands, in general, and the health of the bay and the ecosystem, in particular.

Thank you for the opportunity to send you my comments.

Sincerely,

*David F. Peterson*  
DAVID F. PETERSON

5317 Thompsn Creek Road  
Applegate, Oregon 97530



Richard Plant  
 <rlp@svn.net>  
 02/12/2007 12:33 PM  
 PST

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Marsh

Dear National Park Officials,

I support alternatives C or D of the Giacomini Marsh restoration project, but with all of the public walk in accesses as indicated in either of both proposals. This is in accord with a national need to provide more exercise opportunities for people while at the same time reducing reliance of fossil fuels for transportation. Additionally, the public has invested heavily in the Park and it is desirable for the public to be able to directly experience, when reasonably possible, that which they have funded. The concept helps to build support for future projects of a similar nature.

Sincerely,

Richard Plant

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pontacq@horizoncable.  
com  
02/15/2007 03:19 AM  
EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

As a resident of Point Reyes Station interested in the viability of the restoration of the Tomales Bay wetlands (also called the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project), I VOTE FOR OPTION D.

I do NOT support a bridge or multi-use trail on either the east or west side of the wetlands.

I support an unimproved viewing trail for locals all the west side, if possible.

Jeanette Pontacq 415 663 1700 Box 1237/PRS 94956 pontacq@horizoncable.com

✓

u

✓

Comments on the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Plan:  
2/8/07

I am writing to express my concerns about the Preferred Alternative C of the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project. I live on the Levee Road and currently use the informal footpath already established in the designated area. I often walk from the Green Bridge access, through the Marin County Open Space area and along Lagunitas Creek between the stream and the pasture land.

Over the decades, since it was a natural wetland, this area has gone through many changes. In the past 30 years, we have seen an over-grazed monoculture returned to a diverse forest in the Marin County Open Space plot adjacent to the Green Bridge. We have also seen the streamside area alongside the Giacomini pasture become further degraded as the ranch sent in dozens of truckloads of dirt to repair the breached levees created after last years floods.

Now there is an opportunity to return much of this land to a viable wetland. Lagunitas Creek needs to be considered a key part of this! At the moment, there are many wild creatures still using the creek. To name a few: black crowned night, great blue and green herons, kingfishers, river otters, and western pond turtles. All these animals are very sensitive to human disturbance. (Those of us, who have an ongoing relationship with the creek, know that they tend to stay away from people, dogs and vehicles and congregate in the more secluded spots.) The trail, as proposed, would potentially bring in way too much use for this very fragile area. Many of us are sure that creating a large boulevard, encouraging multiple uses, will put it way over a sustainable threshold.

"Build it and they will come." We suspect that this trail will not be used to facilitate local mobility. That is not even feasible as there is no plan to be able to get farther north than White House Pool. But instead, it will become a way for horses and bikes to connect up with the Bear Valley trail system. This is a logical use as the current connection through Olema Marsh has to be accessed from the dangerous Levee Road. (This, by the way, remains a real issue but it is not an appropriate responsibility of the Restoration Project.) We also see the inevitability of the Lagunitas trail being used by tourists who want to get out and see the Wetlands on a short, convenient walk from town.

All such use will have a very negative impact on the delicate creek ecosystem. I raised this concern during the last public meeting (1/25/07). The response was that compared to current conditions, which is a leveed ranch, the habitat will be better. I would like to point out that we are not trying to improve on a bad situation. We are trying to restore a wetland and riparian habitat to the way it was pre-ranch!

My recommendation then is that, unless Alternative C can be adapted to include a small footpath and a simple one-lane footbridge, there should be no change in the current accessibility along Lagunitas Creek. If this is not possible, Alternative D - the Environmental option - is the best and only choice.

Susan Prince  
11180 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, PRS

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CENTRAL FILES	



William Prince  
 <princew@horizoncable.com>

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: alternative D

02/13/2007 10:26 PM  
 PST

> Superintendent, Pt. Reyes National Seashore Point Reyes, Ca.  
 > 94956 Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan  
 >

I support Alternative D for the Wetlands Restoration Project. Please choose to protect our most valuable resource in this way.

Sincerely,  
 William Prince  
 225 Camino Del Mar, Inverness  
 Po Box 767, Inverness  
 415-669-7332

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Feb 9 2007

THOMAS QUINN
A R T I S T
S
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National Park Service  
Don:

May we keep the original goals of this wetland.  
We endorse Alternative D.

Additionally -

1. Purchase the entire ranch and remove the possibility degradation by development on the edges of this important restoration as well as a small unique village. (wellfully avail yourself of Prop 84 funds)
2. No bridge to nowhere - spend the savings on the protections listed above.
3. address the significant effects of 2 drainage sites of the village's polluted surface runoff water
4. removal of Riprap installed by the Army Corps in 1983 - the year after Lagunitas Creek flooded and attempted to relocate its streambed.
5. be aware of the new projected changes in sea level through Global warming.
6. be alert to a Willow invasion from the South of the wetland.



7.  
THOMAS QUINN  
A R T I S T

(415) 663-1770

PO BOX 225 . POINT REYES STATION . CALIFORNIA 94956

7. request the County remove the Cypress trees on C Street. They were planted to <sup>obscure</sup> screen the Soaping Barn.
8. Consider leaving island segments of the north and south levees at removal time.
9. Soil removal on the east side of the creek should be routed on Central ranch road and not up Third Street. This residential neighborhood with its people (children), dogs, and quietude has been disregarded and menaced enough by the dairy.

Sincerely

Tom and Jeri Quinn

C H R I S R E D I N G

Post Office Box 252  
36 Cypress Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

415 663-8266

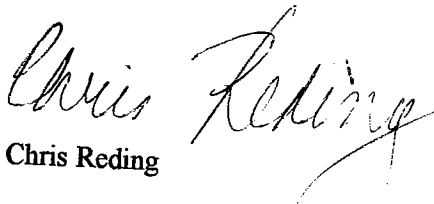
February 14, 2007

Point Reyes National Seashore  
National Park Service

RE: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

I support Plan D as I am concerned that the traffic and parking issues that could arise from the Wetlands restoration and public access in the vicinity of the town may degrade the pedestrian character of the community and our quality of life.

Sincerely,

  
Chris Reding

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"Lisa Ridge"  
<lisa.ridge@gmail.com>  
02/14/2007 08:07 PM  
PST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: wetland restoration

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

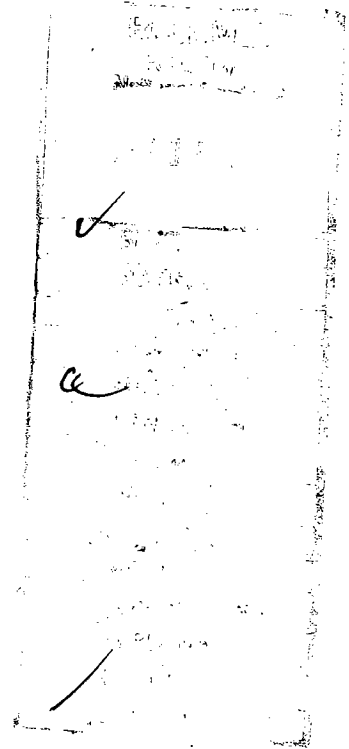
I am writing to you about the Giacomini Restoration Plan at Tomales Bay. As a long-time resident of Marin (my parents also live in Point Reyes) I cannot emphasize the importance of Western Marin's world-famous beauty and diverse wildlife. Accordingly, I appreciate Point Reyes National Seashore's plan to restore the wetlands at Tomales Bay, which will do so much to enhance local wildlife.

But I think we should do as much as possible to save the wetlands, so I hope you will support Alternative D. I support Alternative D because it goes a step further in restoring the wetlands and, concomitantly, the wildlife that they sustain.

In addition, I support the construction of a bridge over Lagunitas Creek and the trail connection between Green Bridge and White House Pool, as part of the restoration plan. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ridge  
Novato, CA 94947 (formerly in Inverness)





Russell Ridge  
 <theridges@telescience  
 .net>

To: <pore\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc:  
 Subject: Tomales Bay Wetlands Restoration Project

02/13/2007 10:20 AM  
 PST

To Don Neubacher, Supt.  
 Point Reyes National Seashore

Dear Don,

Sorry to be so late in submitting our comments. My wife and I would respectfully ask that the park service support Alternative D for the wetlands restoration: maximize marsh development and minimize human 'footprints' on a nature area.

I (Russell) am a retired professor of biology, College of Marin. One of my biology 'heroes', Garrett Hardin of U.C. Santa Barbara, had polio as a child. I was impressed when he stood with the aid of crutches at an open hearing and defended wilderness areas. "These are areas that should have limited access." He would deny access to himself, but knowing that they existed was the greater good. This is the opposite attitude of the person from Novato (whose name I won't list) who got up at a public hearing in the early days of The Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore, and pleaded for a road through the middle of the seashore (now designated as 'wilderness'), so that he could drive his elderly grandmother through the area. "We're paying for this park, so we should be able to use it". What a lack of understanding for the integrity of nature areas!

A few paths and/or observation sites around the edges could be permitted, but please keep traffic out of most of the marsh land. This is not that large an area to be invaded by humans.

Sincerely,  
 Russell and Margaret Ridge  
 Inverness Park  
 P.O. Box 396, Pt. Reyes Sta.  
 663-1716

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Dennis and Judy Rodoni  
P.O. Box 254  
Olema, Ca. 94950  
415-663-8370

February 13, 2007

Don Neubacher, Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA. 94956

Regarding: Giacomini Wetland Restoration

Dear Don,

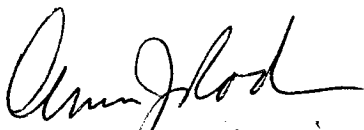
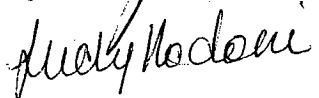
First of all we would like to thank the park for having this public dialog related to addressing alternatives for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration. Your process has proven to be thorough, educational, and a very transparent process. You and your staff should be thanked for this effort.

We believe that Alternative D provides us with the best possible wetland restoration with the most benefit for our environment and surrounding communities.

Some of the other alternatives discuss access possibilities, but our preference would be to provide the very best possible wetland restoration, with viewing areas for education and enjoyment, but very little human footprint into the wetlands

Sincerely

Dennis and Judy Rodoni

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February 10, 2007

Superintendent  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

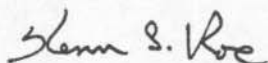
Dear Sir:

My family settled in Bodega in 1851, establishing ranches in the area, and building summer homes at Dillon Beach, which we visit regularly.

As an educator and writer, I have written numerous articles about the history, wildlife, and birds of the area in national and regional magazines.

I am thrilled that the Giacomini pastures will be restored to Wetlands. However, I am strongly in support of Plan D, which I believe will increase and protect habitat, as well as a free-flowing stream. Plan C would increase traffic, noise, and congestion, that will infringe upon the delicate, ecological setting.

Sincerely,



Kenn S. Roe  
3325 Saint Moritz Court  
Redding, CA 96002

cc: Jon Jarvis



"Mark Ropers"  
 <mcropers@horizoncab  
 le.com>

02/14/2007 11:18 AM  
 PST

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration - Alternative D

Dear Superintendent Don Neubacher:

Having read about the various alternatives in aregard to the restoration of the Giacomini Wetlands. I have also read in The Point Reyes Light that The Park seems intent on implementing Alternative C. I request that you give such a leaning further thought and instead implement Alternative D.

Alternative D is the more pure avenue to take and one which still allows us to enjoy the restored wetlands - only in a more pure fashion. And pure fashion appears to be the vision of the Park on so many other matters! Thus it should be a natural for you to choose.

I really hope that you do not build a bridge across Lagunitas Creek. That option simply is an expenditure of money you do not need and it would detract from the beauty of the restored wetlands. As much as we are looking forward to the restoration of the wetlands, we do not want it to become an amusement park with parking problems, crowds, etc.

Please implement Alternative D.

Very truly yours,

Mark Ropers  
 P.O. Box 883  
 Inverness, CA 94937

GIACOMINI POINT REYES RESTORATION PROJECT	
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Charles Gay/Pamela  
 Ross  
 <rossgay@mos.com.np  
 >

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
 CC:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands

02/14/2007 10:13 AM  
 ZE5C

Dear Don,

Although we live on Inverness Ridge for only half the year and are currently at our winter home in Kathmandu, Nepal, we have been following the Giacomini Wetlands restoration proposals online and want to add our comments on the various alternatives presented.

We are in favor of Alternative D, with the addition of a bridge to make a trail connection from White House Pool to Green Bridge. In general we support the most extensive possible restoration of the Tomales Bay wetlands, and are willing to give up most public access in order to achieve that restoration. But we also believe that the trail connection would be of enormous value to our communities, and that it could be designed in such a way as to encourage walking use only and discourage or prohibit other use (i.e., bicycles). A bicycle lane on Levee Road would be a safe and useful addition.

Thank you,

Pamela Ross & Charles Gay  
 60 Drake Summit Rd.  
 Inverness CA 94956

*Don't see it*

PS--Please cancel our email of Feb. 13--it was sent in error before we had fully understood the alternatives. Thanks.

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Jonathan Rowe  
 <jonrowe@earthlink.net  
 >  
 02/13/2007 11:28 PM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov, jon.Jarvis@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands -- For Alt. D

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February 13, 2007

Superintendent  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent:

I have to support PLAN D for the Giacomini Wetlands. This is not because I am against public access, but because the alternative - Plan C - is unfitting both for this community and for the wetlands themselves.

For example, it would be good to have a footpath to connect Inverness Park to Point Reyes Station. However, as I understand it, Plan C would give us not a footpath but rather something approaching a narrow road. This likely would become a highway for bicycles on weekends. What about people who walk, especially small children?

Already we have to dodge the bikes that come at us two and three abreast as we walk along local roads. Now we could have the same experience in what is supposed to be a quiet and natural wetlands?

The same question applies to the parking area and access point proposed for the area that is now farm worker housing off of Mesa Road. Perhaps you are not aware that Mesa Road is much used by walkers. People walk their dogs and walk to town; some walk just for the fun of it. Most days I walk my son, who is four years old, to preschool, and then back again in the afternoon.

Now you are proposing to put a parking area along this road that many people are walking? I'm going to have to contend with park traffic as I walk my son to school? Walking is something to be encouraged, not run off the road. I hope you are prepared to install a sidewalk along Mesa Road - currently there is none - because we residents are going to need one if we have to face park traffic in the street.

Please pause a moment to reflect upon the irony. As part of a project to restore a wetlands to its natural state, you are proposing to increase automotive traffic in a residential area next to that wetland. You do not need to do this. There is parking already at the elementary school on weekends. More parking is coming soon on the new lot behind main street on the Ecumenical Housing site.

Both of these lots are just a short walk away. They exist already (or will shortly, in the case of the EAC site) -- as do the lots at White House Pool and the Olema Marsh. How much more parking and access do you

need for this one wetlands, especially considering the spacious National Seashore parklands (and parking) that are nearby?

For these reasons among others, I urge you to go with the plan that does the most to advance the core purpose of this restoration project - that is, Alternative D.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rowe



Point Reyes Station

Feb. 7, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Giacomini Wetlands Restoration DEIS/EIR  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

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Re: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Superintendent Neubacher,

As a long time resident on Mesa Road, I am advocating the implementation of Alternative D for the following reasons:

1- The area where Tomasini Careek enters the bay has a distinctive riparian habitat conducive to the preservation of red-legged frogs, tide-water goby and steelhead trout. If a walking trail is installed, that, and a parking area and toilet may upset this delicate balance.

2- The proposed walking trail will destroy the quality of life - quietude and privacy of those residents on the bluffs and plateaus above.

3- The hunting shack may invite vandalism and parties by teenager and others looking for a place to do so. Also this area may be difficult to police and enforce against trouble-makers and vandals.

4- The NOISE generated by large groups of people will inhibit the finding of a new protected home to the thousands of animals and birds who will find a sanctuary here.

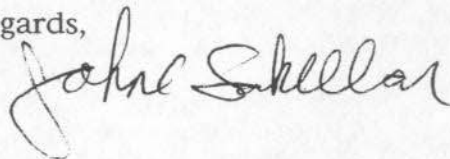
As a hiker of all the trails in Marin County, I have discovered there are trails for everyone: horseback riders, cyclists, day hikers, bird-watchers and overnight back-packers camping out. How about an area specifically for the birds and beasts?

The Olema Marsh has one fine overlook, a viewpoint from the bluff above that lets the animal and birdlife go about their business down below, as observers (humans) above can observe them in quiet. A perfect arrangement of live-and-let-live exists between the human and animal kingdoms without the birds and animals being disturbed.

Cannot the same thing be made of the Martinelli Ranch trail? It is accessed by way of Hwy. 1, north of town. It has a parking lot and well out of the way of residential areas, thus avoiding traffic and pedestrian congestion. It offers from the bluff above, as at the Olema Marsh, a magnificent overview of the bay below, much grander in fact, because the bluff or plateau above it is at a higher altitude, affording the observer magnificent views all the way to the North where the mouth of Tomales Bay breaks into the Pacific and to the South and across to the Shoreline on the West, encompassing from this vantage point all therein (birds and animals) which the restored wetlands will contain.

Thank you for your consideration. Regards,

John C. Sakellar (resident Mesa Rd.)  
P.O. Box 610  
Point Reyes Station, California  
94956



(custer@svn.net)

cc: Jon Jarvis

January 22, 2007

Superintendent

Pt. Reyes Natl. Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA. 94956

Lorraine

JAN 23 11

Dear Don and Lorraine,

My name is Marianne Sakellar, and I live at 350 Mesa Rd, on the hill directly above the proposed wetlands restoration at the southeastern perimeter in Pt. Reyes Station. Thank you for sending me the letter # L7617 regarding the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan, which I have read and understand. However, I fail to understand why there isn't a plan that suggests NO public access. I thought that the wetlands restoration was for the benefit of wildlife, plant and animal in general, and the endangered tidewater goby, in particular, as well as the red-legged frog, and steelhead trout. Public access, by definition, would disturb that very noble goal. We have so many thousands of acres of public access here in Marin, with trails, facilities, parking extant, we do not need more. Please leave the animals alone. They will thrive without human encroachment, but will be slower to nest, slower to breed, slower to feed while subject to our presence and our noise.

**To my knowledge, in Marin we do not have public access this close to homes. Because my neighbors and I would feel the brunt and dangers of public access, I am very worried about the close proximity to our homes of this proposed spur trail on the southeastern perimeter. I worry about safety, noise levels, and loss of privacy. I actually think these would be the personal concerns of the wetlands wildlife, as well, if they had a voice.**

I worry about fire. Our prevailing winds are from the southwest. Groups of walkers, birders, bicyclists who would come in the daylight or teenagers there at night partying could easily start a fire that would sweep up this hillside very quickly. Because of the very private location and easy access from Mesa Rd., a spur trail would invite activity down there, particularly at night, but also in the daytime, that would endanger our safety. It only takes a burning cigarette carelessly discarded. We have elderly, children, animals, and numbers of folks who might just be sleeping. We could easily suffer loss of life and destruction of property. We have thus far had to monitor occasional bonfires on that trail late at night – illegal, but not overseen by law enforcement. Please check the police reports. How **would** this proposed spur be policed? How **could** it be?

My second concern is noise. There have literally been countless times that we on the hillside have had to stay inside with our windows shut because of the noise coming from the trailers. This is hard on summer days. I have discovered that sound travels upward and again, with the prevailing breezes, the sound is further carried right into our homes.

Conversations, music, yelling, laughter, kids, dogs, arguments ... we get it all, day and night. It is hard to be assailed by other peoples' noise when we ourselves seek the quiet. We've paid our dues, believe me. Being forced to hear music and conversations, particularly among groups of people is disturbing, and if I am disturbed by it, imagine how the wild animals will react. My hunch is they will make themselves scarce.

I also am very concerned about my family's loss of privacy. We will be entirely visible, and for those of us who live outside the town and enjoy the privacy this affords, the proposed spur trail will be an invasion. I am particularly worried about a possible parking lot and latrine, and the attendant traffic that this would attract on Mesa. Visitors to Pt. Reyes would come to use the latrine to compensate for the single public bathroom in the town. It would increase traffic and noise on Mesa. It might just smell awful, too. It would be a sensory blight and would, I am sure, drive down our property values.

In conclusion, I ask you to please propose a No Public Access Plan in consideration of the wildlife we hope to preserve in the wetlands, and in consideration of the families here that a proposed spur trail would so negatively effect. I refer you to the enclosed paper authored by Gordon Bennett, representing the Sierra Club, dated July 2004, most particularly to the last paragraph on page two.

I am with respect,

*Marianne Sakellar*  
Marianne Sakellar

[msakellar@marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:msakellar@marin.k12.ca.us)

cc: Jon Jarvis

*M. Sakellar*  
*20 Bay Hill*  
*Pt. Reyes Sta., Ca.*  
*94956*

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
**Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting**

January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Hi - Lorraine had mentioned that a foot trail beyond Whitehouse pool was not being considered because the person on the path could look right into residents' backyards - it's the same on the Mesa. If you create a spur, users would be in our front yards - entirely visible. Please - no spur on Mesa. Ho D

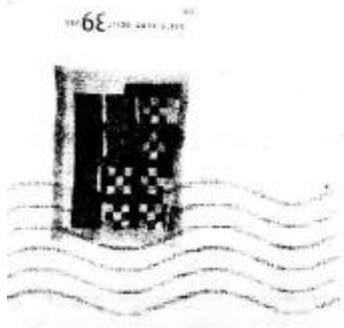
*Marianne Schell*

94957 34364+3703

*94957*  
*Pt. Reyes Station, CA*  
*1 Bear Valley Rd*  
*Pt. Reyes National Seashore*  
*Superintendent*

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*Pt. Reyes Sta., CA*  
*350 Meola Rd*  
*94957*





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Feb. 6, 2002

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Superintendent

Pt. Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA. 94956

Dear Don and Lorraine,

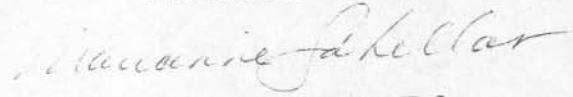
Thank you for such an informative and well-run meeting. I still do not understand why public access should be part of this equation in planning for restoration of the Giacomini Wetlands. It was not part of the original charge of the park service, and I'm sorry that public pressure is making inroads. I see our lovely community going the way of Sedona, Arizona and Moab, Utah ... completely taken over by tourism and special interests such as bike coalitions. Since you advised us to write our choices, here are mine:

First choice: Leave the Wetlands alone

Second Choice: Proposition D

Please do not put a spur trail on Mesa.

Thank you,  
Marianne Sakellar



350 Mesa Rd.  
Pt. Reyes Station  
msakellar@horizoncable.com

Point Reyes Station  
Jan. 15, 2007

Dear Don and Lorraine,

I welcome the idea of a public path along the old railroad right of way. So it was with surprise that I learned from the Coastal Post that a public parking lot is planned off Mesa Road.

I feel I speak for many Pt. Reyes residents who welcome Park visitors. Local businesses and employees depend upon them. However, many of us feel pushed out of these places especially on busy weekends. Considering the wealth of resources in the nearby Park, I would appreciate your consideration of a modest, of interest to wildlife watchers, non-vehicular resource of interest mostly to residents.

Sincerely



Nancy Sakellar  
P.O. Box 610  
Point Reyes Station  
California  
94956

custe@svn.net

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Point Reyes Station  
Feb. 7, 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Giacomini Wetlands Restoration DEIS/EIR  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Re: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Don and Lorraine,

I strongly support the adoption of Alternative D, the environmentally preferred option.

The Public Access portion of Alternative C would lead to unacceptable levels of traffic, noise, pollution, and interference with the project aim, that is restoration of the wetlands and protection of habitat for the species that live there.

I thought the mood of the January 25 community meeting was definitely for Alternative D.

*Thanks.*

Sincerely

*Nancy Sakellar*

Nancy Sakellar  
P.O. Box 610  
Point Reyes Station, California  
94956

(custer@svn.net)

cc: Jon Jarvis

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*[Handwritten signature]*

request this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Please include a rationale for your personal information being withheld from public review that demonstrates disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. Submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will always be made available for public review in their entirety.

Address written comments to: ATTN: Superintendent, Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR, Point Reyes National Seashore, 1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956. You may also email your comments. Please reference the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project in the subject line.

A **Notice of Availability** (61 KB PDF) has been published in the Federal Register and on December 13, 2006. Superintendent Don Neubacher issued a **letter** (20 KB PDF) notifying interested parties that this DEIS/EIR was available for review and comment.

Top of Page

Complete Document PDF (146 MB) (coming as soon as we can get it uploaded)

This document has been divided into smaller-sized files so that visitors with slower internet connections have the option of downloading desired chapters and/or figures separately if they do not wish to download the complete document as a single large file.

**Document Chapters (Figures Included)**

- Cover (1,053 KB PDF)
- Abstract/Executive Summary (pp. i - xviii) (20,078 KB PDF)
- Table of Contents (pp. il - lvi) (73 KB PDF)
- Acronyms (pp. lvii - lx) (53 KB PDF)
- Chapter 1: Purpose and Need for Action (pp. 1 - 26) (3,171 KB PDF)
- Chapter 2: Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative (pp. 27 - 126) (35,899 KB PDF)
- Chapter 3: Affected Environment (pp. 127 - 330) (46,458 KB PDF)
- Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences (pp. 331 - 640) (5,995 KB PDF)
- Chapter 5: Consultation and Coordination (pp. 641 - 654) (440 KB PDF)
- Literature Cited (pp. 655 - 676) (142 KB PDF)
- Index (pp. 677 - 684) (53 KB PDF)
- Appendices (pp. A-1 - A-12, B-1 - B-28, C-1 - C-17) (5,927 KB PDF)

*Please put my vote in for D*  
*Thanks Shirley Tab*

Top of Page

**Document Chapters (text and figures separate)**

- Abstract/Executive Summary (pp. i - xviii) (277 KB PDF)
- Table of Contents (pp. il - lvi) (73 KB PDF)
- Acronyms (pp. lvii - lx) (53 KB PDF)
- Chapter 1: Purpose and Need for Action (pp. 1 - 26) (278 KB PDF)
- Chapter 2: Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative (pp. 27 - 126) (875 KB)

SHIRLEY SALZMAN  
Box 1455  
Point Reyes Station  
California 94956





Wendy Schwartz  
<wenpaint@horizoncable.com>

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: The Giacomini Marsh

02/11/2007 03:32 PM  
PST

Dear Don,

I don't do well with letters like these, so I'll just say I am strongly in favor of Alternative D—more emphasis on environmental restoration and less on human access. There is already enough of the latter.

Keep up the good work!

Wendy Schwartz

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"Rishi Schweig"  
 <rishi.schweig@gmail.com>

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini restoration

02/13/2007 01:48 AM

PST

Please respond to  
 rishischweig

I realize that you are hearing many voices in our community debating the difference between Plans C and D. I am writing to suggest that the entire community - residents and visitors - will be best served by a plan that includes a bridge across Lagunitas Creek.

Such a bridge will provide a valuable connection between the existing park holdings and the newly acquired ranch. It will enable hikers, cyclists, and horse riders to avoid the most dangerous and congested sections of the highway while continuing to enjoy the park all the way from Bear Valley to the village itself.

I was privileged to walk the entire property a few years ago, participating in the early survey work. I am excited to see the changes as the old pastures become wetlands and the rich mix of wildlife does even more to restore the earliest uses of this beautiful piece of property.

Still, the use of the land must include a reasonable, careful use by human beings. On the one hand, we all live here together, and locking this valuable land away would reduce its viability. On the other hand, no one wants to see this become an area sacrificed to sprawling parking lots or paved 10 foot wide paths.

A properly maintained path near Lagunitas Creek will not reduce the wetlands being restored, nor will it disrupt habitat of sensitive species. I am quite concerned that construction of facilities farther north of town, on the east side of the Giacomini property, might not be as suitable - for both of these reasons.

I support a blend of Plans C & D, keeping parking nearer the green bridge, removing all structures possible from the property. I strongly request, for safety, comfort, and enjoyment of what we own, that a bridge be built as early as possible, providing a continuous path from the village at least as far as White House Pool, and preferably past Inverness Park as far as the old north levee.

I deeply appreciate all the work done by Don and park staff. I have enjoyed reading the EIS and poring over the maps and charts. Thank you for seriously accepting your role as citizen in this community.

Sincere Thanks,  
 Rishi Schweig

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**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting

January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Will the tidegates on  
~~the~~ Fish Hatchery Creek  
be removed under the current  
proposal?  
rishi.schweig@gmail.com



Moreva Selchie  
 <msselchie@horizoncable.com>

02/13/2007 11:05 PM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvis@nps.gov  
 Subject: Attn Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

I vote for alternative D plus the bridge to connect existing trails Inv. Pk to PR Stat.

I've been a homeowner here since 1968 and was in the local lobbying that stopped the diking at its present extent. Thanks for the Restoration Plan! Please go slowly, slowly for the sake of plants and wildlife during the efforts to restore.

Moreva Selchie, PO Box 82, Inverness

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Marie Yvonne Severitti  
20 Tomasini Canyon Road  
P.O. Box 1166  
Point Reyes sta., CA 94956  
(415) 663-9293

February 12, 2007

Superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, Sta., CA 94956

Re: EIS/EIR: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

Dear Superintendent:

This letter is to comment on the alternatives presented in the EIS/EIR for the restoration of the Giacomini wetlands. My comments to said EIS/EIR are as follows.

1. **I support Alternative D.** It is my opinion that the increase in excavation to inter-tidal elevations in the southern portion of the east pasture, as shown in the plan/map for Alternative D, would be best for the habitat and the overall restoration of the wetlands.
2. **I am not in favor of the proposed walk/bicycle bridge** as discussed in Alternative D. I am not convinced there would be enough use of said bridge to justify the cost. The bridge may create the need to channel water flowing from the creek impairing restoration and/or the natural flow of the creek. Also, the bridge may impact scenic views. Reasonable improvements could be made to the Green Bridge and along Levee Road facilitating bicycles/walking, etc.
3. The Mesa Spur Trail mentioned in Alternative C could be problematic and is likely to have little use due to its out-of-the-way location.
4. Entrance to the Overlook should be far enough from the residential area to preserve its integrity. Traffic, noise, litter, etc. disrupt the quiet enjoyment residents are entitled. Please help preserve the residential area as an integral part of our community.

Thank you for your consideration on these comments.

Sincerely,



Marie Y. Severitti

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"Susan Seymour"  
 <Susan\_Seymour@pitzer.edu>

02/13/2007 03:16 PM  
 PST

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
 cc: <Jon\_Jarvis@nps.gov>  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

We strongly favor Plan D for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

We live in Inverness Park where we look down on the to-be-restored wetlands, which we have been looking forward to for the past 25 years--ever since the park made this critical property part of its desired expansion. Now it should be restored in a way that best protects threatened wildlife. Humans to not need full access to an area that is so environmentally sensitive and critical to the wellbeing of Tomales Bay, the Coho salmon, etc. We already have an incredible luxury of trails in the park

Thank you for your consideration

Susan Seymour & Laurence Graham  
 57 Laurel St.  
 Inverness Park, CA

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nancy stein  
 <nanstein@svn.net>  
 02/12/2007 11:51 AM  
 PST

To: pore\_planning@rps.gov  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini

RECEIVED	FEB 15 07
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I am a 30 year resident of West Marin. I raised my daughter here and have worked for many years as a landscape designer. I served on the EAC board for 4 years, and am very active in the environmental community.

I strongly support a bridge connecting the white house pool area with the trail into the Marsh.

All of the residents of Inverness and Inverness Park rely mainly on the town of Pt. Reyes for supplies, community and health. Of necessity, we are the major users of automobiles in Pt. Reyes. As the town grows, it becomes more and more important to connect the Inverness users to Pt. Reyes by means other than cars. Parking lots are not what the people of Pt. Reyes want to see!

Parking at White House Pool, and traveling by foot or bicycle to Pt. Reyes would mean a bird watching opportunity in a day of errands! It would also connect school children from Inverness Park to the School. It would mean a lot to middle and high school children who might want to stay in town after school for activities, but would miss the bus as a result. I know as a parent that I would have felt a lot more comfortable with my child walking in a marsh rather than a busy highway.

I oppose the use of the Green Bridge as the access point to Pt. Reyes. The proposed trail into Pt. Reyes via the Green Bridge would mean many problems such as widening the road; and it is a much less desirable way to access the town. It could never provide the safety and enjoyment that the bridge across the creek that would connect to the trail leading into town would give. Because of this, a "bike trail" into town along Sir Francis Drake is not going to get the use of children and people like myself, 60 years old...I simply do not feel safe riding a bike along the highway, no matter how wide the trail!

It seems to me that the Giacomini Marsh was purchased by the National Park, not the Nature Conservancy. I believe that the public can interface with wildlife in ways that benefit both; and that with proper engineering, the humans using the trail will not harm the birds and wildlife in the marsh, and may in fact, become more knowledgeable and interested in protecting the environment, because they use it. Closing people out of the wetlands in a place so close to town, a place that is caught between heavy traffic and development seems wrong to me.

4th street also seems like a better access point to the wetlands than 3rd, since it's already a commercial street, which passes by the fire station and the storage unit.

Please consider the Martinelli property just outside of Pt. Reyes Station. Although it has a long trail, accessed by foot traffic and horses, it's been a great connection to the bay and the wildlife along that corridor, and I am not aware of any heavy or inappropriate use by humans.

I understand that the people living on the bluff above the bay may not want a trail along the old railway right of way. With the exception of that piece of trail, I fully support Alternative C and the multiple use of the wetlands.

I do believe that the citizens of Pt. Reyes have the right to complain about the "outsiders" who come to our area. The National Seashore belongs to all the people in the world who come here, and I for one, think those people learn a great deal about nature, and are taught to

protect it by the inspiration and familiarity they gain by using it.  
Sincerely,  
Nancy Stein





"Britt Stitt"  
<bstitt@lovett-silverman  
.com>

02/13/2007 06:33 PM  
PST

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
CC:  
Subject: Gicomini Marsh Restoration

Don Neubacher  
Superintendent Point Reyes National Seashore

Subj: Giacomini Marsh Restoration

Dear Superintendent,

Please add my vote of confidence to Option D, the full environmental restoration plan. I have done some consulting for the park---Chimney Rock Pier--- and will be glad to donate my engineering and estimating time towards the project.

Sincerely,

*Britt Stitt*

PO 351  
Inverness, CA 94937  
415.559.0095

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dog owners to comply with regulations, I encourage the Park to prohibit dogs adjacent to or on Tomales Bay wetlands.

Although I have used the term "Giacomini Wetlands" throughout this letter, I strongly encourage the Park consider renaming the project and the site. With all due respect to the Giacomini family, they made a sizable profit from the sale of the property and do not need further recognition. I suggest calling the project "Tomales Bay Wetland Restoration".

With Alternative D, we will have a beautiful, ecologically-functioning Tomales Bay wetland where birders and biologists will consider vocalizations of black rail as commonplace, rather than an exciting novelty as we do now.

I think you for this opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR. I want to express appreciation for the staff time to produce such a beautiful and valuable document.

Sincerely,

Emilie Strauss  
1606 Hearst Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94703



Chris Lish  
Sent by: Loretta Farley  
02/16/2007 11:56 AM  
PST

To: strauss@haas.berkeley.edu  
cc: Ann Nelson/PORE/NPS@NPS  
Subject: Re: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands

*Kris*  
FEB 16 2007

DO NOT REPLY to this email, rather be sure to reply to PORE\_Webmaster@nps.gov.

Dear George ,

Your message has been forwarded. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us again at PORE\_Webmaster@nps.gov or check our website at [www.nps.gov/pore](http://www.nps.gov/pore).

Thank you for your interest in Point Reyes National Seashore.

Sincerely,  
Loretta Farley  
PORE Park Ranger

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

strauss@haas.berkeley.edu



strauss@haas.berkeley.  
edu  
02/15/2007 03:19 AM  
EST

To: PORE\_Webmaster@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetlands

Email submitted from: /pore/contacts.htm

This is to support Alternative D with the possible exception of the bridge over the creek. There is plenty of opportunity for recreation in the Seashore, however the wetlands perform a unique function.

George Strauss 1468 Grizzly Peak Berkeley, CA 94708



Carol Sweig  
<carolsweig@yahoo.co  
m>

To: Park\_Planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: Alternative D

02/12/2007 02:21 AM  
PST

Please choose this most protective plan. We have so little left!  
Thank you.  
Carol Sweig and Jim Lawry

Everyone is raving about the all-new Yahoo! Mail beta.

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tortay2@yahoo.com  
02/11/2007 01:34 PM  
EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov  
cc:  
Subject: From NPS.gov: Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

We are writing to support Alternative C for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project. We live and work in Point Reyes and enjoy the expanding wildlife habitat. We believe Alternative would allow everyone, even those with disabilities, to enjoy the restored wetlands.

Thank you, Tor Taylor and Laurie Monserrat Point Reyes Station, CA

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Richard Vacha  
 <rwvacha@horizoncable.com>  
 02/11/2007 01:47 PM  
 PST

To: park\_planning@nps.gov  
 cc: jon\_jarvia@nps.gov  
 Subject: Fwd: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Richard Vacha <rwvacha@horizoncable.com>  
 Date: February 10, 2007 10:52:53 PM PST  
 To: parkplanning@nps.gov  
 Cc: kitty@overlook.com, jonjarvis@nps.gov, hath@horizoncable.com  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project

Superintendent, Pt Reyes National Seashore

Dear Sirs,

I have lived alongside the Giacomini fields for 25 years and have eagerly anticipated the day of its conversion back to natural wetlands. This is a tiny, but important, step in a badly needed shift toward restoring a damaged planet.

The stakes are high. The human race is beginning to wake up to the realization that the impact of modern civilization is endangering the viability of the earth itself to support life systems.

Every step towards restoration is critically important and must be undertaken with unprecedented clarity and boldness.

It is with this view that I urge you to adopt Alternative D as the plan which will, in the long run, be the best plan for Pt. Reyes and for the Earth. That would be a step in the right direction on the long road ahead toward preserving life on earth as we know it. The issue is nothing less than this.

Others have noted the specific local concerns--the effects on the town, quality of life in the neighborhoods, habitat pressures on sensitive species, etc. While I agree that Alternative D would be the best choice in all of these areas of concern, I urge you to support what is the only truly conscientious choice possible--the highest level of restoration and preservation.

The concerns about access and personal use of parklands, that many express will be shown in future years to be part of a terribly short-sighted and inadequate way of looking at the problems we face.

Making the choice for the highest preservation may be difficult now, but when you look back on this choice in future years, it will be obvious that is the correct one.

Thank you very much for being part of a restoration process that, no matter which Alternative is chosen, is a valuable step forward. I personally appreciate your efforts in this regard.

Richard Vacha

Dear Don Neubacher,  
I am in favor of  
Plan C, very enthusiastically.  
I now live in Marshall,  
but recently bought a  
place in Inverness Park  
on Sir Francis Drake.

Thank You -  
R. Jander-Master



*Rec'd 2/16/07*



huntergatherer8@yahoo.com

02/15/2007 10:10 PM  
EST

To: pore\_planning@nps.gov

CC:

Subject: From NPS.gov: restoration project at giacomini land

Email submitted from: /pore/parkmgmt/planning\_giacomini\_wrp\_eiseir\_draft\_2006.htm

It looks to me like you are planning to spend a great deal of money and energy to do a big project when I would think nature itself, in the form of tides and annual floods, would bring about the restoration of a healthy marshland here. The islands that would be left where the current levies are would certainly provide good wildlife habitat. My six year old daughter and I live quite close to where this project would be going on and we certainly don't want to be exposed to the noisy and dangerous construction(or destruction)project you seem to be planning. Let nature take it's course. Sincerely; Hunter&Willow Wallof



L/6107

Dear Superintendent,

I wanted to show my support for Alternative D. I am always interested in whatever plan restores the land to the highest degree.

I'm not so supportive of a new parking, as in Plan C.

Thanks for your attention.

Linda Deer Weisenberg  
Bx 823  
Inverness CA 94937

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FEB 14 '07

Betty Wheelwright  
P.O. Box 1359  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
415.663.8759

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February 13 2007

Superintendent Don Neubacher  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Superintendent Neubacher:

I appreciate the obvious care with which the Draft EIS/EIR for the Giacomini Wetlands has been done. Like many residents of Point Reyes Station, I look forward to the restoration of these wetlands and to the increased health of the Tomales Bay ecosystem.

I also appreciate the Park Service' efforts in **Alternative C** to accommodate the local community by building a bridge over Lagunitas creek that would link the existing southern perimeter footpath and the White House Pool. However, I support **Alternative D**, the environmentally preferred alternative, because I believe the Park Service' highest priority should be the restoration and health of the Giacomini Wetlands and Tomales Bay, not expanded public access. The Point Reyes National Seashore already has abundant access to its varied and rich natural resources. The existing White House Pool Trail and the proposed Dairy Overlook (in **Alternative D**) will provide limited access to the Giacomini Marsh.

I oppose the following aspects of **Alternative C**:

➤ **Bridge connection between existing southern perimeter path and White House Pool trail.**

A safe bicycle and pedestrian path between Point Reyes Station and Inverness Park would best be achieved by widening Levee Road. Widening Levee Road would be less expensive than the proposal for the bridge in Alternative C, and it would meet community needs while allowing the maximum restoration of the wetlands.

➤ **Mesa Spur Trail**

I'm opposed to the Mesa Spur Trail because I believe that it could easily become a public nuisance. It would attract people to an area that would be hard to supervise and would bring excessive amount of traffic onto Mesa Road and into the surrounding residential area.

➤ **Improved Trail Access at Green Bridge**

I support the proposed improvement of trail access at Green Bridge.

➤ **Access to Dairy Overlook**

The access to the Dairy Overlook should be from C Street at a location between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. Like many residents in Point Reyes Station, I don't want the access to the Dairy Overlook via Third Street. I'm concerned that Third Street will be overloaded with traffic. The turn from State Route 1 onto Third Street is already congested and, at times, dangerous.

I believe that Alternative D will maximize the marsh restoration while doing as much as possible to protect the historic character of downtown Point Reyes Station. Those of us who live in Point Reyes Station support the restoration of the marsh, but we want it to be done in a manner that doesn't destroy the character of the town in which we live. Imagine what would happen to Point Reyes Station if it were located where the parking lot for Bear Valley Trail is right now. Those of us who live in Point Reyes Station have made a considerable investment in the community where we live, and many of us have supported the restoration of the Giacomini Marsh. We are asking the Park Service to do the right thing environmentally and the right thing for the preservation of the historic downtown by implementing Alternative D.

Sincerely,



Betty Wheelwright



"Michael and Barbara Whitt"  
<mbwhitt@svn.net>

02/06/2007 09:10 PM  
PST

Please respond to  
"Michael and Barbara Whitt"

To: <park\_planning@nps.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan

I strongly favor Alternative D for the following reasons: the primary purpose of purchasing the ranch was to return it to wetlands, which in turn would restore the bay and its ecosystem to a more pristine state; any traffic through the wetlands would diminish their function and degrade their value to wildlife; access around the edges already exists; it is not the duty of the NPS to provide transportation routes through sensitive habitat. I know the park service has been the victim of some bad publicity recently, but I don't think it necessary to sacrifice its mission to appease its critics. What makes this area a national treasure is its beauty, serenity and

wildlife values, which have always been so ably protected by the PRNS & GGNRA, in harmony with dairy ranching and agriculture, a model for the rest of the country.

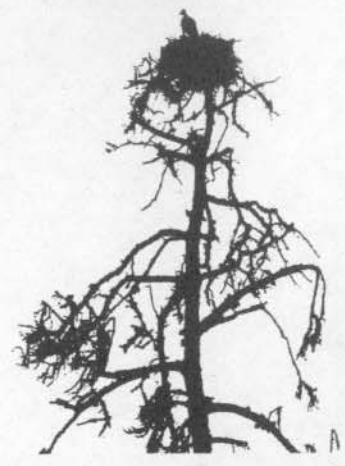
Thank you for considering my views. Sincerely, Michael Whitt M.D., PO Box 240, Pt. Reyes Sta, CA 94956 (a physician in the community of Pt Reyes for 37 years)

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Point Reyes  
National Seashore

FEB 9 - '07

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2-7-7

Don Neubacher  
 Superintendent  
 Pt Reyes Nat'l Seashore

Dear Don, Giacomine Wetlands Restoration Plan

I hope you will implement alternative D for the Giacomine Wetlands. I have not talked to Suler and Tipper recently, but I am sure they support D. I know that the park has taken a lot of criticism over the past few years, but I hope you won't let that influence your decision. The public already has access to the marsh, as much as they need for esthetics and wildlife viewing. Bounding a path through the marsh to get from one place to another is, as I'm sure you know, not in the spirit of preservation.

Enclosed is a poem I wrote about Bear Valley years ago. I don't know if you ever saw it. The marsh-to-be - as well as many other special places in the Park - could inspire a similar poem or Suley.



Thanks for hearing me out.

Wishing the Park a happy 2007.

Richard White



All around the yellow field  
the forest like a boundary  
between the known and unknown,  
the seeker and his quarry,  
embraced and held my joy.

I was filled with the meadow,  
my spirit soared upward  
like the steepled fir,  
and I felt what  
any lover  
of this meadow  
had known:  
It was a place  
no one should ever own.

Point Reyes National Seashore

*no white*

### BEAR VALLEY MEADOW

for Ane Rovetta

When I first walked here  
the meadow filled my mind,  
spread before me and behind,  
as if my whole life were contained  
in its open expanse.  
The island of fir and bay,  
chattering with woodpeckers,  
pointed to the sky.



"Dorothy&Geoff White"  
 <doge@svn.net>  
 02/11/2007 08:26 PM  
 PST

To: <Park\_Planning@nps.gov>  
 cc:  
 Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Project Planning

Dear Supt. Don Neubacher et alii:

First of all my wife and I would like to thank you for all the good work you have done in acquiring these lands for the Seashore and in laying out the alternative possibilities for its treatment. We lived in Inverness for twenty-one years, and we know how important this area is to the health of the park and to the public's use and enjoyment.

We would urge you to adopt the general outline of plan D, perhaps with certain modifications. We know that the bridge over Paper Mill Creek that is being considered is highly controversial and also expensive, and that it is opposed by many people with whose general concept of how to treat the area we agree. Nevertheless, if budgetary restraints permit it, it is our personal opinion that it should be built. The possibility of highway-free foot passage from Point Reyes Station to White House Pool has always seemed to me intriguing and desirable, and I hope it might be incorporated in whatever plans you ultimately adopt.

Whatever decisions you may make in this and other matters concerning the wetlands, we will be looking forward with great eagerness to watching the transformation of this vital area.

Regards, Geoff & Dorothy White

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Attn: Superintendent  
 Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project DEIS/EIR  
 Point Reyes National Seashore  
 1 Bear Valley Road  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

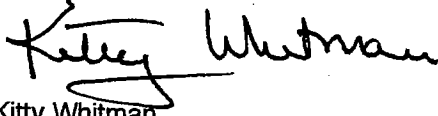
Dear Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project management team:

I have reviewed the EIR in some detail and am delighted by the extensive plans to restore the present Giacomini property to wetlands. I concur with many local residents in preferring Alternative D, the "environmentally preferred alternative" with the addition of a bridge across Lagunitas Creek near the old summer dam, securing an off-road alternative trail along the Levee Rd. corridor. I would prefer to see funds available for ongoing invasive plant removal rather than construction and maintenance of new overlook infrastructure.

I was surprised to find little mention in any of the alternatives of exotic plant removal in the mesic coastal scrub area of the Pt. Reyes mesa bluff (one or two clumps of Pampas grass on the Tomasini Creek channel berm were called out for removal). A significant number of trees in the extensive eucalyptus stand bordering the Martinelli Ranch fall within the project area, with broom and other invasive plants spreading from their understory. I would like to advocate for a cooperative effort between private landholders and the park service for the removal of this stand during the initial phase of the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project. Difficulties of access will make their removal prohibitively expensive after the levees are breached, given the steep and erosive bluff on which they are growing. This may be the first and last chance for the trees' removal.

Many thanks for your impressive efforts to make this project happen. Hats off!

Sincerely,



2/16/07

Kitty Whitman  
 88 Overlook Rd.  
 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
 (415) 663-1474

Rationale for the removal of eucalyptus stand on the Pt. Reyes mesa bluff at the project area/Martinelli Ranch boundary

\*The trees are considered a noxious and aggressively spreading pest of immediate concern according to the Seashore's Exotic Plant Management Plan. Fire safety for both homes and habitat would be improved by their removal.

\*The trees on the levee and the old railroad grade are unstable, eroding the bank, and compromising the integrity of the Tomasini Creek channel levee. The channel is considered essential to maintaining habitat for the endangered Tidewater goby for the next ten to twenty year period. Continued creekside erosion in this area would undermine the efforts of the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project to improve water quality in Tomales Bay.

\*The trees interfere with hydrology of the bluff. After restoration, Tomasini Creek's current channel will depend on perennial or seasonal seep flow from the Mesa to create the brackish condition required by the Tidewater goby. Freshwater flows should increase following the trees' removal. The less stagnant the channel, the lower the mosquito risk for residents.

\*The understory of the eucalyptus stand supports little native vegetation and harbors non-native plants considered Category 1 by the Seashore, highest priority for control or eradication. As long as the stand remains, it will serve as a nursery for invasive plants such as broom and Himalayan blackberry which will spread south into the mesic coastal scrub. The continuous removal of these exotics would be a maintenance nuisance for the park and the homeowners in an area with extensive poison oak and dense willow thickets.

\* The mesic scrub ecosystem at the foot of Pt. Reyes mesa has been found to be key riparian habitat, with 10% of birds observed in the project area during winter occurring in the bluff area. Revegetation of this section of bluff following exotic plant removal would comply with the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project's stated objective of creating more riparian habitat, forming an unbroken habitat corridor between the Martinelli and Giacomini lands. Additionally, native vegetation would help to stabilize the creek bank.

\* The viewshed opportunities from the proposed Tomales Bay trailhead spur trail are compromised by this eucalyptus stand. Views of the shallow shorebird area and the Point Reyes mesa bluff are blocked by the eucalyptus trees at the terminus of the proposed trail. Their removal would substantially enhance the intactness of the native landscape. Secondly, replacing the trees with an arroyo willow and coyote brush thicket would inhibit the public from wandering into the area of protected habitat at the trail's terminus.

\* Marin County's Local Coastal Plan and the Point Reyes Community Plan also call for exotic plant removal along the Pt. Reyes mesa bluff to preserve the physical, ecological and visual integrity of the area. Cooperation between federal, county and local agencies could streamline the permitting process for adjacent landholders.

\* Given the prevailing winds and the eastward trend of the mesa's geography, this eucalyptus stand is not serving as a windbreak for residents. Its removal will restore natural wind conditions to the project area.

\* A cooperative federal/private effort would expedite the process in various additional ways: 1) the trees could be felled across property boundaries, reducing costs to both parties 2) hauling away the tree material on still extant ranch roads rather than transporting them up the bluff and through residential neighborhoods would reduce impacts; 3) an acceptable regime for managing re-sprouts adjacent to the wetland could be agreed upon 4) and a revegetation plan could be jointly arrived at and implemented with professional oversight.

February 5, 2007

Superintendent

Pt. Reyes Natl. Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA, 94956

Dear Don and Lorraine,

I am a resident on Mesa Road, living just above the Giacomini Ranch, and quite accustomed to the hoards of tourists coming into town on the weekends, over crowding the once quiet, sensible town. I am afraid, like many other residents, that if there does happen to be an open spur trail on the Mesa, there will be no silence, no space in town, and no room for endangered animals such as the goby, the red -legged frog and the steel head trout. I am joining many others in asking you to please think about what these huge factors could do to change this town for the worse.

I vote YES on proposition D

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Thank you,  
Maria Wilson

*Maria Wilson*

350 Mesa road  
Point Reyes Station  
Girlontheloose14@yahoo.com

RECEIVED  
Point Reyes  
National Seashore  
FEB 13 2007

*Douglas Wright & Lillian Hames-Wright*  
180 Third Street  
PO Box 1116  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

February 12, 2007

ATTN: Superintendent  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

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Re: Comments on Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project DEIS/EIR

To Whom It May Concern:

At the request of the NPS, we offered public scoping comments in a letter dated November 5, 2002 concerning a number of issues that we believed should be examined in the NEPA/CEQA process. We are pleased that a number of those issues have been addressed in the DEIS/EIR. However, the Draft document does not respond to several other matters set forth in 2002, and so our comments at this time reflect these continuing concerns. We would like to offer the following comments on the Draft EIS/EIR:

1. We appreciate that the NPS believes it is appropriate to designate a "preferred alternative" and an "environmentally preferred alternative". We also understand that on the basis of comments on the Draft document, and further considerations of the matter by the NPS, that the resulting restoration plan may very well incorporate elements from two or more of the alternatives examined. Consequently, we are not inclined to offer a preference for a specific alternative set forth in the Draft document.
2. Regarding **hydrology**, we wish to once again address a number of matters at a location that was within the original project area, near the intersection of Third and C Streets in Point Reyes Station.
  - a. Along the west side, or project side, of C Street, between Third Street and some point north of Fourth Street, there has been a consistent history of hydrological activity that the

DEIS/EIR does not address, even though: one, the NPS currently owns a portion of the land that is subject to this activity; and two, the amount of activity would suggest to us that the hydrology should certainly be considered in terms of its relationship to the restoration project.

For years, water pooling has occurred in the cow pens that are located near the intersection of Fourth and C Streets. A similar but smaller pooling of water has occurred south of that location, in the cow pen between Third and Fourth Streets. From an historic standpoint, long-time local residents recall that when Fourth Street - that is, the block between B and C Streets - was filled, a natural drainage channel was covered by the fill on Fourth Street. Although it may be possible that the pools are spring-fed on-site, as well, this history suggests that the pooling is fed from beneath Fourth Street.

This drainage system emerges in the cow pen which, although it has also been subject to fill, is at a lower elevation than Fourth Street. As evidence of the drainage and pooling, approximately twenty years ago the Giacomini ranch installed a tile and gravel "French drain" in order to pipe the water away from the cow pens, but this device failed in operation. Recently, in conjunction with the January 25 NPS meeting, several of us inspected the pooling. On a date which followed over four weeks of virtually no precipitation, standing water was visible in several locations in the cow pen, particularly in the area west of the end of Fourth Street.

These water flows are not examined in the DEIS/EIR, although it is apparent that the water emerging from this underground drainage system is seeking a path to the south and/or west, through the restoration area to lower elevations near Lagunitas Creek. We believe that the analysis should include consideration of this hydrology and that there should be an explanation of why the property currently owned by the NPS at this location, as well as the property (tract 05-165) excluded from the Giacomini purchase, should not be considered integral to the restoration and included in the project. Why has this drainage system not been included in the DEIS/EIR analysis? Why does the NPS choose not to address this hydrology matter on property which was originally intended to be part of the restoration project and which is in part owned by the NPS?

b. In the event that the aforementioned parcels were to be included in the restoration project, and the plans to remove the levee, the road leading to the levee from C Street, and the removal of fill from the area adjacent to C Street, are realized, what would the impact of this be upon the future vegetation resources along that path? Over the course of the past 20 years, a line of willows and other low growth has occurred adjacent to our property within the (state-owned) open space that lies southwest of the corner of Third and C Street. Although this growth is characterized in the DEIS/EIR as being viewed "negatively" by property owners (us, we assume), we actually view it as positive since it has provided a lively new habitat for a variety of bird and animal species.

Were the aforementioned (2.a) hydrology system to the north along C Street to be incorporated into the restoration project, the opportunity would be provided for a further restoration of habitat, perhaps in the form of additional willows and low growth, but in

whatever form establishing continuity of vegetation northward, adjacent to C Street. This growth would be fostered by the drainage systems previously noted and a fine, natural boundary to the restoration area would be formed. We ask why incorporation of this opportunity has not been considered and examined?

c. It is noted in the DEIS/EIR (page 191) that run-off from a considerable portion of the streets of Point Reyes Station is channeled into the open space at a point near the intersection of Third and C Streets. We have always assumed that this is a contaminated water source and that the (seasonal) flow of this water may change its course once the restoration project removes the levee, removes the road to the levee, and reduces the level of filled pasture aside the levee. We believed that the DEIS/EIR presented an opportunity to examine the impacts of this runoff upon the existing and future habitat, and if necessary, to address possible mitigation measures. We have not been able to find any such consideration in the Draft document, other than the brief description cited, and ask why this impact is not addressed?

3. Regarding **public access**, we appreciate the recognition in the Draft document that creating a trailhead in the vicinity of Third and C Streets in Point Reyes Station, thereby formalizing the informal trailhead that has existed there for years, would have "moderate" (negative) impacts upon that location in terms of parking and traffic. Certainly, given the fact that there is no off-street parking provided, now, or in the plans described in the DEIS/EIR, creation of a trailhead at this location would indeed have negative parking and traffic impacts at the location. Although we have no objection to pedestrian and bike movements at this location, the streets serving this residential enclave do not have the capacity to handle the traffic that would be anticipated if a formal and signed trailhead were created. Locating parking and a trailhead that is immediately accessible to Route 101, as is proposed in Alternatives C and D, is logical in terms of addressing the impacts of auto movement and parking.

4. The **project definition**, or boundary, remains a curious matter to us, and the history of the proposed property exchange, initiated in early 2006, should not be disregarded in the context of the DEIS/EIR. Certainly this history of the restoration project has been largely ignored in the Draft document. Why does the DEIS/EIR not provide a description, or history, of the changes in the project area definition, between the time of the original purchase and now? Why is there no explanation or rationale provided for the implicit (as represented in the Draft document) decision on the part of the NPS to not include the parcels along C Street, and specifically the lower elevation parcels adjacent to C Street from Third Street north of Fourth Street, within the restoration project?

5. The DEIS/EIR discussion of **visual resources** is curious and raises some questions. It is noted that the existing view of the restoration area from C Street in Point Reyes Station is "obscured" by a "25-foot tall stand" of Cypress trees (p. 327). In fact, these trees are less a "stand" than a "row" that lines the west edge of C Street from a point south of its intersection with Fourth Street north to its intersection with Fifth Street. The trees are, we believe, within the County-owned right-of-way, and they exist because they



were planted originally to mitigate the visual impacts of the operating dairy farm from the village.

In the past, we have stood on C Street with NPS staff and discussed the view opportunities that would be provided, along C Street, when the restoration project is realized, since C Street would afford a fine view, to the west and north, of the southern portion of the project area. Of course, it was assumed in these discussions that: one, the NPS would adhere to its original concept for the project and purchase all of the parcels along the south blocks of C Street; and two, that the Cypress trees, their purpose no longer existent, would be removed. Why have these considerations, in terms of public visual resources, been ignored in the Draft document?

6. We would also like to take this opportunity to offer some brief comments on further **project funding**, in light of: one, the brief history of the project's acquisition phase (on page 7); two, the status of the five parcels that were removed from the original purchase, at the request of the Giacomini family; and three, the statement on page 8 of the DEIS/EIR which is apparently referring to a second proposed land exchange.

Per our comments, above, regarding project definition, it does seem unnecessary for the NPS to consider an exchange of property in order to secure the lowland parcels adjacent to Inverness Park, or for that matter, to secure those low elevation parcels adjacent to C Street (which we believe should be part of the restoration project area).

The DEIS/EIR explains well (on pages 8-9) the justification for the Giacomini wetland restoration effort. The loss of wetlands in California has been documented in countless studies and publications over the years. Consequently, the opportunity presented by the Giacomini restoration effort is an important counter to this historic trend, and if my understanding is correct, the location and scale of this restoration project makes it one of the most important efforts of its kind on the west coast.

That being the case, it would seem that the project should have been, and continue to be, a very high priority for funding from any number of public and private entities. Certainly, past funding commitments to the project reflect its significance. However, since our discussions in early 2006, in the context of debating the then-proposed property exchange, the funding picture has improved significantly. As we suggested at that time, changes in national administration, in the make-up of congress, and in Sacramento, can have a major affect upon the level of potential funding.

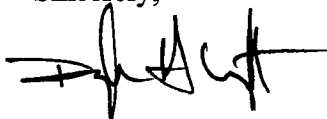
There continue to be an array of specific funding sources for acquisition and restoration of wetlands, including US Fish & Wildlife grant programs (specifically those aimed at endangered species habitat, appropriate for the Inverness Park parcel), EPA accounts, Caltrans mitigation funding, and private donor funds, all of which have provided, or could provide, (additional) increments of funding for the Giacomini project. To this point, we note the announcement within the past week a \$1 million grant from the National Coastal Wetlands Program was secured for the restoration project.

Moreover, in November of last year, California voters passed Proposition 84, which is estimated (by the Trust for Public Land) to provide a total of \$350 million for wetlands acquisition and restoration. Certainly, the Giacomini project would compete well for this funding, for either acquisition or restoration, or both. In addition to Prop. 84, California also passed Proposition 1B, which could help the Giacomini project meet other specific funding needs. A new congress, with a new majority, has begun business in Washington, and already there is talk of serious funding for the LWCF, a budget recommendation addressing the backlog of NPS unfunded needs, and an energized focus on environmental initiatives.

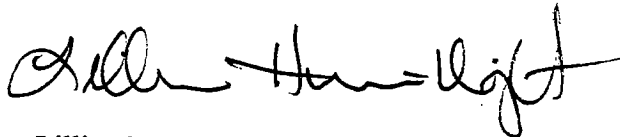
Given its scale and significance, the Giacomini restoration project should be a highly visible, very attractive, and priority candidate for additional funding. The opportunity to actively pursue established as well as new funding sources for a project of this importance suggests that the possibility to do more, rather than less, within the project's scope is very real. It also impugns the viewpoint that a property exchange - one that gives up NPSW resources that could otherwise add to the project's quality - is somehow necessary to accomplish a project that would as a result be "less" than it need be.

The original project concept made a great deal of sense, in terms of removing non-compatible agricultural uses from a restoration setting, as well as defining a project in a logical manner that would enhance view opportunities, preclude possible future development impacts upon the newly restored habitat, and offer a project with clear, undistorted boundaries. We very much support efforts to find funding in order to expand, rather than diminish, the project, and would be pleased to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Douglas G Wright



Lillian Hames-Wright

&

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Excellent long term work by the Park Service -

Thank you for a year

We support option D with the addition of the sledge / path \*

(public access)

Provide County follows Park's lead with trail design

(not too wide / environmentally sensitive)

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting

January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Please be SURE to include  
a through path from  
White House Pool to  
Pt. Reyes

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting  
January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

THE EFFECT ON RESIDENTS OF  
PRS !!! IMPACT OF MORE  
PARKING, TRAFFIC, NOISE,  
CROWDEDNESS. WHY HAVE  
AN OVERLOOK RIGHT IN OUR DOWNTOWN !!  
~~PR~~ CHECK THE ADDRESSES OF PEOPLE WHO  
ARE WANTING THIS. THEY PROBABLY DON'T LIVE HERE.

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Meeting

January 25, 2007



Please add any additional issues that were not brought up at this meeting:

Prefer Alternative D because of my concerns  
about the impact of a public trail along  
Lagunitas Creek. Recommend that, if there is  
a connection here, it be a small path & bridge  
to accommodate walkers only. - This would truly  
be a local access trail.