

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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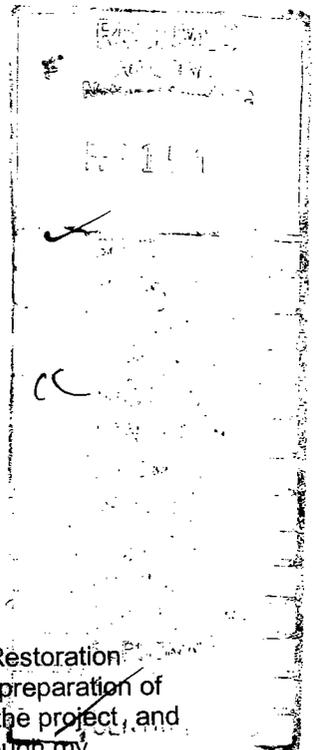


"Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook"
<leslieai@horizoncable.com>

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 3rd 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 4th 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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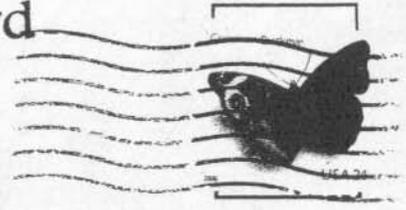
Superintendent Newbacher,

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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Point Reyes
National Seashore

FEB 13 '07

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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
>

02/11/2007 09:27 PM
PST

To: Park_Planning@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration

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 reather 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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My notes so far
 I understand the
 bridge!

Ann Asbury
 POB 463
 Pt. Reyes Sta.

February 12, 2007

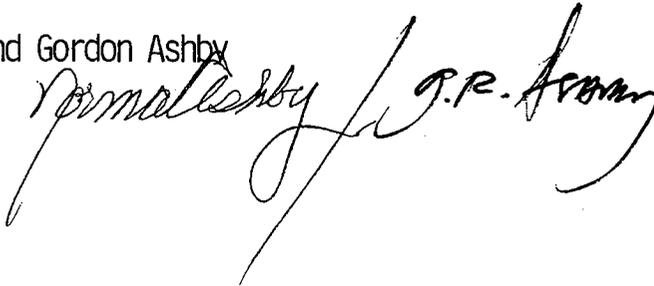
Superintendent
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, California

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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