



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
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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

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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. 25th 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."

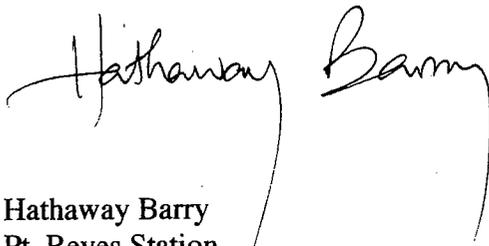
When I heard/read these things I wondered – might this be a headline about the proposed Tomales Bay Wetlands a few years down the road? And, with foresight, might we as a community avoid creating this situation, by remembering that what is for us a desire, is, for the wildlife, home.

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
<jjub@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.com>

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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