

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 chose 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 75,00 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.

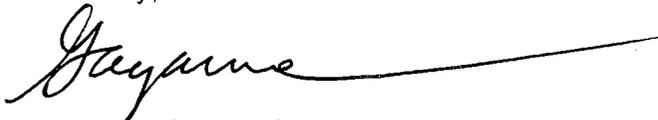
My grown daughters, who grew up in Inverness, remember and often brag to faraway family and friends that "Tomales Bay is one of few remaining pristine bodies of water—aren't we lucky?" How long ago was that a reality? I need to remind them that this isn't the case now.

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

RECEIVED Point Reyes Marine Laboratory
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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

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

Naturally,



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

RECEIVED
Point Reyes
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FEB 13 2007

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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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Point Reyes
National Seashore

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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

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 3rd 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/www.philipfradkin.com

Supt. Don Neubacher
 Attn. Giacomini Wetlands Plan
 Pt. Reyes National Seashore
 Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

January 26, 2007

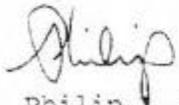
Dear Don:

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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