



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

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's 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's 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.

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➤ **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,

Giacomini Wetlands Restoration  
Plan

I hope you will implement alternative D for the Giacomini 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 Suler.

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

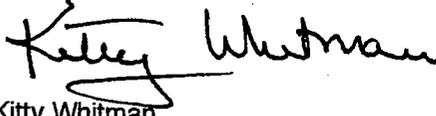
Dear Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project management team:

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.

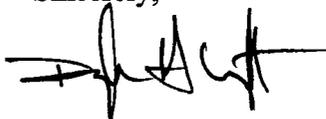
There continue to be an array of specific funding sources for acquisition and restoration of wetlands, including US Fish & Wildlife grant programs (specifically those aimed at endangered species habitat, appropriate for the Inverness Park parcel), EPA accounts, Caltrans mitigation funding, and private 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.

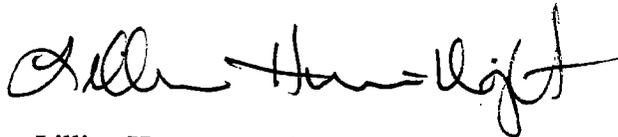
Given its scale and significance, the Giacomini restoration project should be a highly visible, very attractive, and priority candidate for additional funding. The opportunity to actively pursue established as well as new funding sources for a project of this importance suggests that the possibility 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

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