

Comment ID #	Comment Source	Comment (Direct quotations from comment submissions)
77	P	<p>In regards to GOGA GMP, Newsletter #4, Part 6 Preliminary Alternatives for San Mateo County, the Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the continued access for equestrians and the continued use of the property for agriculture. Numerous groups have weighed in on specifics. The Chamber supports the positions of the Coastside Horse Council and Coastside agricultural groups.</p> <p>The Chamber is actively promoting eco-tourism on the Coastside which is the Bay Area's backyard. That means easy access for hikers, horses and dogs. The Chamber has also been a longtime advocate for supporting agricultural uses. There is great concern that the Chamber's efforts in both arenas will be thwarted if there are changes to current uses. Please consider these issues when determining future uses in what is quite literally our backyard.</p>
79	P	<p>I am writing this in support of keeping the equestrian facilities where they are currently located (and hopefully under current management). as well as expanding equestrian activities for non-horse owners.</p>
79	P	<p>Should the current facilities be expanded to include more programs for people who currently do not have access to horses? Yes. Horse programs have been shown to be effective in helping children who have been abused, returning veterans, inner city youth and people with disabilities. Horses help people deal with stress better, increase circulation and help improve balance and co-ordination.</p>
79	P	<p>Should the current facilities be left where they are and also have the same private horse boarding available? Yes. There are many reasons why the stables should be left as is and only expanded to increase programs. One reason is security for the park. Many large parks currently have become safe havens for drug growers and manufacturers. Large pot farms and meth labs have been discovered in many state and national parks. These people are very dangerous as the latest shoot out in the South Bay has shown. Rental programs tend of use the same paths over and over. It is easy for law-breakers to escape detection. Horse owners frequently use the trails, in fact most of the current trails were developed by horse people. Trail riders also go lightly on the land as can be seen by the fact that Rancho del Tierra still has many endangered species on it. Trail riders traverse most of the park and can keep an eye out for pot growers and meth labs. This keeps the park much safer for all visitors to the park.</p>

San Mateo County
Public Comments

79	P	<p>For a very personal reason, I hope the barns can be left as they are. These barns have been there for generations and the people who use them are very generous. I had always been interested in horses but I grew up in an inner city in a lower middle class family. There was no money for horses and in fact, although I was a horse-crazy girl, I only saw a horse up close when I was in college. Still I never saw myself as being able to afford to do anything with horses. I also battled depression all my life. Then almost 11 years, a woman I knew told me she was leasing a horse at Ember Ridge and did I want to go for a ride? Although I didn't know how to ride, of course I said yes. She arranged to borrow someone else's safe horse to take me on a trail ride. From there, other people offered to let me ride their horses in exchange for help taking care of them. Eleven years later, my depression has almost disappeared (for one of the first times in my life), I have learned to ride and I now have a horse that someone gave me when she could no longer take care of her. I am now the person who asks anyone who seems to have any interest if they'd like to come down and meet my horse, give her carrots, go for a ride. If people who participate in the programs that will be available at the</p>
79	P	<p>Many stables have closed and it is getting harder and harder to afford not only the costs of horse ownership but also the car expenses necessary to visit and care for the horse. There are over 300 horses at the barns on Rancho del Tierra. I live in San Francisco and travel ½ hour each way to visit my horse. First there are not enough barns anywhere close to stable 300 horses and second if I had to travel further, it would be extremely difficult financially.</p>
79	P	<p>The horse community has been good stewards of the land. The water is cleaner than it was 10 years ago and it is because the barns took the initiative to start monitoring it. People, horses, wildlife and plants all share Rancho del Tierra. I hope you allow the private barns to remain where they are, run by the management that currently run the barns and with the same number of horses boarded there. I hope you also expand the public programs so many more people can enjoy these incredible creatures.</p>
79	P	<p>I am an environmentalist. More than ½ the money I donate every year goes to environmental groups (including POST). Horse people take very good care of the land. Their manure is currently composted and then used by the local farmers to grow vegetables. The creek water is kept clean and monitored by current barn management. Keeping the barns where they are is a better use of resources than moving them.</p>
86	C	<p>More interpretive interaction. Educates and allows questions to be answered. More accessible trails to be available for mountain bike riding. Shuttle service to Muir Woods is a great idea but must be priced reasonably. Maintain Muir woods accessibility for disabled citizens, they really appreciate and enjoy the experience. Establish biking, hiking and primitive camping in San Mateo. Yes, no plans to create single track mountain bike trails. This is important due to the great number of mountain bikers in California whom pay taxes and deserve a place to ride. more mountain bike trails!!!!</p>

103	P	1. Maximizing diverse uses of The Sheldance Nursery Site, this site of all the sites in Pacifica and /or San Mateo Co. parklands has enormous potential. Consider Maintain the current nursery operator to assist in the site management program. The preservation of natural and cultural resources.
103	P	A moderate to small sized camping facility..15 to twenty sites, in a appropriately deemed area in the Pacifica Parks zone. Provide a adequate and appropriately located interpretive center in Pacifica.
103	P	.The need for a overpass, causeway or land bridge connecting Mori Point with the Sheldance Nursery site trailhead, for east/west access to Sweeney Ridge, the San Francisco Watershed Property and beyond. Preferably a land bridge for wildlife and pedestrian use and to mitigate the highway's park fragmentation and sizeable highway wildlife deaths in that vicinity.
103	P	3. Implement a grassland and wildflower habitat enhancement program particularly with coastal prairie and meadow plant communities. Controlling and thinning of non-native and native (coyote bush/brush) encroachments, on Pacifica coastal parklands. I am very concerned about the loss of these crucial and elegant habitats. Consider incorporating mycology and mycorryzal /mycelia dynamics into the parks natural interpretive regimen.
103	P	For me, Parks are like Arks.....protecting are wildlife and their habitats from the floods of various forms of human endeavors. This is my personal...general requirement.
108	P	SMCHA is San Mateo County Horsemen's association As a local equestrian I feel that GGRNA should be looking out for ALL user groups that can be involved in using the properties under their jurisdiction. My areas of concern are dedicated parking and access for equestrian trailers at trail-heads, maintaining and or increasing equestrian boarding facilities in preserves, increasing interconnecting trails between preserves, and increasing shorter loop trails.

108	P	<p>the percentage is substantial. These cover county and state parks, MROSD, POST, SFPUC, and the National Parks dept. This land should all be open to the public. Trails and access roads should be open and not closed. Casual walkers like trails that are relatively flat and have a loop distance of 1-3 miles. Hikers and many equestrians like trail lengths from 5 to 20 miles, again with the start and end in the same area and not having to walk out and back down the same trail. For all users parking is an issue. Using road right-of-way is not a safe or enjoyable start and finish to an afternoon outing. If the choices are this or nothing we normally will make do. But a well implemented parking lot is a welcome sight. Trails should reflect the user groups involved. Single track with limited user (hiking only or hiking and equestrian) to multi user fire roads including all users should be considered for each application and area. Not all trails should be paved and not all trails should be limited to hiking only. Trails may be segregated where necessary, but all groups should be included in most facilities. An entrance in and a passage through should be enabled for all groups. Where trails are to be paved a side shoulder approximately 2-3' wide should also be included for those that are not into the paved experience (equestrians, mt. bikers, and joggers).</p>
108	P	<p>Many want to argue that the cost and removal of habitat is too much. Aggressive engineering in the short term can reap benefits for many years to come and with proper foresight, plantings and drainage can mitigate many of the issues. It is sometimes wiser to complete one larger project than to try and implement many smaller ones that are half thought out and are easier and cheaper to construct. Remember these are our parks and we want the improvements constructed now to benefit our grand children in there years. We would like them to be able to have the same or similar experiences as we have.</p> <p>Keeping something pristine is a long way from having an area that is usable to the public. A well maintained fire road that winds its way through a wooded or grassy area may have minimal impact and will give public access to the area beyond. Only having access from the edge of a main road maintains a view, but leaves a lot of beauty unexplored. Hidden valleys, rock formations and streams and water falls that may never be seen from the edge of the roadway.</p> <p>Keep our parks OPEN for all of us to use.</p>

109	P	<p>"1. Which ideas of any of the preliminary alternatives do you think are most important to include in the preferred alternative and why?"</p> <p>"In all alternatives, the majority of the area would be managed to preserve the wild, open character of the land and offer trail-based recreation that is light on the land, including hiking, biking, and equestrian use." This idea corresponds to current use patterns of the Rancho Corral de Tierra. Hikers, bikers, equestrians, and dog walkers share the trails in harmony and mutual respect. The San Mateo County coast is a popular destination for visitors primarily from the greater Bay Area. People are attracted to the coast from inland areas for its cooler temperatures, beach access, views of the rugged shoreline, and the experience of the semi-rural lifestyle that has already been displaced by suburbs elsewhere.</p>
109	P	<p>"Natural habitat and processes would be restored, and the ecosystems of the four coastal watersheds would be restored to the greatest extent possible." While removal of invasive species such as pampas grass and eucalyptus would be welcome, it is not clear exactly what is meant by "restoration to the greatest extent possible." Restoration from what to what? As described under question #3 below, the Rancho Corral de Tierra land has been used for ranching since at least the 1790s, though cattle have apparently not been grazed in the area since the 1940s. Since the 1940s the land essentially has been rested, apart from the relatively light recreational use that is ongoing. The California coastal scrub that characterizes the area is valuable habitat that needs to be preserved, but the habitat and scenic value of the current agricultural and ranch areas should not be dismissed. The cultivated fields and pastured horses have their own special, bucolic beauty, which many visitors to Rancho Corral de Tierra stop to appreciate and photograph. These transitional zones are also rich in wildlife. Barn swallow nests crust the barn eaves, and barn owls nest in and around the barns. Local raptor species nest in the tallest trees around the ranches, while California quail nest in the shrubby growth between creeks and cultivated fields. Restoration efforts should be based on actual data indicating that specific changes would lead to specific, and achievable, restoration goals. For example, how would efforts to "restore riparian zones" account for the modern Highway One, not to mention climate change, which might</p>

109	P	<p>"In this alternative. An improved trail network would connect the local communities to the part, and link the ridges of Montara Mountain to the Pacific Ocean. Opportunities for a trail connection to Sweeney Ridge through the SFPUC watershed's northwest corner would be explored with other land managers." I believe these two specific ideas would be especially welcome. Currently, beach goers scamper across Highway One from the parking area to access Gray Whale Cove. The situation is extremely dangerous, and will only worsen with the opening of the tunnel, as traffic becomes even heavier and less aware of pedestrians. Trail connections between Rancho Corral de Tierra and Sweeney Ridge would be of tremendous benefit. "&"portals" would be established in the areas of existing development: these would include facilities to support visitor enjoyment and exploration of this large, diverse park area and the extensive adjacent public lands."</p>
109	P	<p>The Montara Lighthouse and immediate surroundings would be an ideal location for a visitor center and other facilities. Other existing portals include access through the entrance to McNee Ranch State Park (which could be developed as appropriate in partnership with the State Parks system), the twelve acres at Etheldore and Highway One, and the Clipper Ridge area in El Granada. It would seem prudent to limit the expansion and number of "portals" until any increase in need is established. "In addition to equestrian facilities with strong public programs, facilities could include a visitor center, stewardship/educational center, warming hut, group picnic areas, developed campsites and rustic overnight accommodations&." As mentioned above, the Montara Lighthouse area would be ideal for facilities such as a visitor center, stewardship/educational center, etc. There are also existing sites, such as the Clipper Ridge area in El Granada, which with minimal impact and expense could be made suitable for rustic family camping. Warming huts or other development in the main areas of the park would seem likely to introduce a litter problem that does not currently exist. Snacks and soft drinks are readily available from shops and restaurants in the local area, which would be unlikely to welcome competition from park concessions. "New or retained facilities would be restricted to</p>
109	P	<p>The existing equestrian facilities already have "strong public programs," which should be retained. These will be discussed in more detail under #3 below.</p>
109	P	<p>"Habitat restoration and community stewardship activities would have a strong presence in this zone. The adjacent working agricultural landscapes and Fitzgerald Marine Reserve could be incorporated into the visitor experience through programs and interpretation." The local and wider communities take their roles as stewards of the environment very seriously, as evidenced by the current excellent condition and species diversity that characterizes Rancho Corral de Tierra land including providing habitat for "several threatened and endangered species. "Opportunities for further habitat restoration would be welcomed, insofar as such efforts are guided by actual scientific evidence for potential benefit, as well as respect for the cultural identity of the community.</p>

109	P	The plan should acknowledge the ongoing stewardship by the current users of Rancho Corral de Tierra land, and commit to continuing this partnership. It is no accident that "one of the largest areas of open space near San Francisco" has been kept in a condition that "provides unique and productive habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal species, including several threatened and endangered species."
109	P	The plan should commit to consideration of the heritage, culture, and economy of the local area in making land management decisions. Visitors come to the San Mateo coast for a total package. They may: go to the beach, eat at a local restaurant, take a hike or bike ride to enjoy the views, visit a real old-fashioned country feed store, and finish the day by stopping at a farm stand for fresh produce and a pier-side fish market to pick up cracked crab for dinner. Plans for the park should be seen as fitting into the larger context of the existing community and visitor activities.
109	P	History and culture of the area: The San Mateo county coastal communities are rightfully proud of their rich and colorful history. According to Historic Spots in California by Hoover et al., 5th edition revised by Douglas Kyle, Stanford University Press, (2002), Rancho Corral de Tierra was originally known as "El Pilar" or "Los Pilares" (from the rocks at Pillar Point). The land was occupied by horse and cattle ranches belonging to Mission San Francisco from as early as the 1790's. In 1839, the northern part of the land grant known as Rancho Corral de Tierra was granted to Francisco Guerrero Palomares, and the southern end to Tiburcio Vasquez.
109	P	Over time, crop production replaced cattle ranching as the main agricultural activity. Horses were employed in farm labor, as well as transportation, and so were bred, raised, and trained on area ranches. As requirements for horse labor gradually decreased, the connection between the people and the horses on the land remained. Some of the same equestrian facilities that currently operate on Rancho Corral de Tierra land had their origins in these early ranches, and continue the traditions that began over 200 years ago.
109	P	The coastside communities have worked long and hard to hold development to sustainable levels, while maintaining the natural beauty and agricultural character of the area. Bay Area property prices are some of the highest in the world, and so the pressures to "sell out" have been enormous. Because of community efforts, both residents and visitors to the area are able to enjoy the open spaces and participate in the semi-rural lifestyle. Downtown Half Moon Bay, for example, is anchored by the iconic Half Moon Bay Feed & Fuel and Cunha's Country Store. These businesses are not quaint relics of a bygone age, but continue to be vital components of the local economy.

109	P	<p>Public programs and education: The existing equestrian facilities serve boarders, leasers, and riding students from all over the greater Bay Area, but that is just the beginning of what they do. In hosting open events such as clinics and horse shows, the barns put the interested public in contact with experienced judges and nationally-recognized horse trainers. Long-standing partnerships exist between these facilities and youth groups such as 4-H, Pony Club, and Future Farmers of America. The availability of affordable lessons and summer camps provide opportunities for adults and children to experience equestrian activities and an introduction to the Rancho Corral de Tierra land. All of these programs emphasize respect for the environment and other area visitors, as well as teaching riding skills and horsemanship. If these facilities were to be closed or significantly downsized, all of these programs would be lost to the area.</p>
109	P	<p>Ecological Impacts: There does not seem to be any actual evidence indicating that the current equestrian facilities are damaging the environment, or that removal of the facilities would lead to environmental improvements. To the contrary, there are data showing improvements since the year 2000 in creek water quality following institution of current manure-management practices on the existing equestrian facilities. A recent article in the Half Moon Bay Review highlights the success of these efforts: (http://www.hmbreview.com/articles/2008/05/22/news/doc4835aecbd5fd5465662378.txt)</p>
109	P	<p>The barns and surrounding areas also serve as habitat for wildlife. As mentioned above under question #1, barn swallows and barn owls nest in and around the barns. Raptors nest in the surrounding tall trees, and California quail in the undergrowth. Deer often hide their young fawns in the brush next to riding arenas. Bobcat, coyote, rabbits, and foxes are frequently seen in the immediate areas of the ranches. One boarder even saw a young mountain lion within a few feet of the riding area at Ocean View Farm; though fortunately he seems to have left the immediate area!</p>

109	P	<p>Animal welfare issues: Closure of the boarding facilities on Rancho Corral de Tierra land would leave owners with four choices: 1) move, 2) try to finding boarding outside the local area, 3) sell the horse, or 4) humane euthanasia. The majority of the horses currently housed in the boarding facilities on Rancho Corral de Tierra land are not high-value performance sport or show animals. They are primarily much-loved family pets, used for trail and pleasure riding, as well as lower-level competition. Many of the horses at Ocean View, in particular, are older animals that have been retired from active careers in competition or on rental strings. Some are suitable for light riding; others are not ridden at all. These animals are thriving because they have owners who are committed to making sure their care requirements are met on a daily basis. Without such care, older animals invariably develop dental and digestive problems, as well as arthritis, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy body weight and good quality of life. In other words, simply "putting them out to pasture" on a distant ranch without individualized care is not a realistic option. With the current glut in the horse market, as well as sky-high hay and fuel costs, such animals essentially have no resale value. Despite California law to the contrary, shipment out of state to large auctions, with consequent sale to</p>
109	P	<p>As a local resident and horse owner, it is my hope that GGNRA will finalize a General Plan that incorporates working with the current users of Rancho Corral de Tierra, and supports retention, with long-term leases, of the existing horse-boarding facilities. It would be a tragic irony if the enjoyment of open space and a way of life that "Coastside" residents have worked so hard for so long to maintain in the face of tremendous pressures from development interests were to be lost due to actions of the National Park Service.</p>
115	P	<p>I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general pan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to the entire area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate trailer parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.</p>
115	P	<p>In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible.</p>
115	P	<p>I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.</p>

115	P	<p>I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 really needs to be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.</p>
115	P	<p>The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash. Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.</p>
126	P	<p>The Bay Area Ridge Trail will be a continuous 550+ mile trail on the ridgelines around San Francisco Bay, open to hikers, equestrians, mountain bicyclists, and outdoor enthusiasts of all types. So far, over 310 miles are dedicated to enjoy today, and protected for future generations. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BARTC) is a nonprofit that plans, acquires, builds, and promotes the Ridge Trail.</p>
126	P	<p>GGNRA hosts many miles of Ridge Trail in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, and the partnership is long established. BARTC hopes to continue to collaborate with GGNRA to support the multi-use trail network of which the Ridge Trail is a part. BARTC supports continued public access on GGNRA lands where that access does not significantly affect natural, scenic, cultural or other resources. Thus, under the three Concepts listed in Newsletter #4, BARTC supports the Visitor Experience goals described in Concept 1, including 'Encouraging visitors to engage in a wide range of opportunities and experiences in a diversity of settings', and 'Enhancing outreach and access to and within the park and make them welcoming', as well as the goal in Concept 2: 'Managing low-impact visitor use that enhances the qualities of solitude, quiet, and naturalness in critical natural resource areas, and accommodate active recreational pursuits in other areas', and finally the goal in Concept 3: 'Allow the park's distinctive resources and associated stories to shape recreational opportunities'. It's important to note that the above goals are not at all mutually exclusive.</p>
126	P	<p>As the Ridge Trail crosses so many portions of the GGNRA and adjacent properties it is not easy to pick out individual segments to comment on from the standpoint of the Proposed Alternatives. Given BARTC's mission of multi-use trail access, those alternatives that support multi-use trails are what we prefer, while acknowledging that not all sites may allow all uses at all times. In those cases, a route for the Ridge Trail that can accommodate all uses should be high priority.</p>

126	P	<p>As the Ridge Trail is almost complete within the boundaries of GGNRA, the Council's main interest is in promoting and maintaining the Trail and access to it in a sustainable fashion, consistent with the GGNRA management goals throughout the park. In addition, opportunities for connections between the Ridge Trail and Coastal Trail or other regional trails are worth investigating. The acquisition of Rancho Corral de Tierra Palomares in San Mateo County provides at least 2 such possible connector routes to the Coastal Trail: the Whiting Ridge alignment noted on page 42 of Newsletter 4, and another more southerly route through Rancho Corral, the Wicklow property (owned by Peninsula Open Space Trust) and Mirada Surf (owned by San Mateo County Parks).</p>
126	P	<p>BARTC is pleased to note that under all proposed alternatives the Park Service would pursue development of the Ridge Trail through the upper portion of Phleger Estate, in order to link existing Ridge Trail in Huddart County Park to a newly-planned segment along Skyline Blvd on SFPUC lands in Upper Crystal Springs watershed. This follows a recently completed initial study, and represents a significant collaboration among several agencies. Another promising Ridge Trail proposal is the Milagra Ridge segment described in Alternative 1 on page 38 of the Newsletter.</p>
126	P	<p>An additional regional trail that should be noted is the San Mateo County alignment of the historic California Riding & Hiking Trail, which extends for several miles along the SFPUC Peninsula watershed and was planned to extend south into Huddart Park. This alignment could be a significant connector between the Ridge Trail and the very popular Sawyer Camp Trail managed by San Mateo County Parks.</p>
126	P	<p>Finally, a possible enhancement of the Ridge Trail users' experience has recently been proposed to us: a series of 'hiker huts' or trail camps that can serve to extend the Ridge Trail experience to multi-day excursions. BARTC recommends study of the concept and possible locations of such facilities, in collaboration with adjacent land managing agencies, to determine the feasibility of such overnight accommodations.</p>
133	P	<p>In San Mateo County, it is imperative that Mori Point restrictions be managed to preserve the San Francisco Garter Snake.</p>
154	P	<p>San Mateo -- there are only two small sites where "diverse opportunities" (a designation that includes off-leash dog walking) will be allowed in Alternative 1 and 3. Alternative 2 will not protect recreational access (except for hiking on trails through the natural areas).</p>
155	P	<p>1. I support the Coastside Horse Council's recommendations for Alternative #1. We all want to steward and preserve the natural beauty and existing ecosystems and watershed but we want to maintain our equestrian facilities and make the trails accessible for horses, bicycles and hikers. Having entry or portal areas with maps is important, but keeping them where there is already parking areas established makes the most sense. Enlarging or joining the trail systems from Sweeney Ridge to Rancho Corral del Tierra would also be important.</p>

155	P	2. Equestrians have developed and maintained most of the trails throughout the last 60 years and volunteer horse patrols could work to ensure the safety and access of the trails to all. Although the stables along Vicente and Martini creeks have diligently worked to clean the creeks, a consistent manure management policy should be determined and enforced (no spreading of manure, for example).
160	P	San Mateo and Marin: There are very few sites where "diverse opportunities" (a designation that includes off-leash dog walking) will be allowed in alt. 1; your 2 & 3 are disastrous alternatives.
180	P	2) Support for continued equestrian access to riding trails: Milagra Ridge, Shelldance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point, Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain (all south of San Francisco), Phleger Estate as well as trails in Marin County and in San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands.
181	P	For Sweeney, Milagra, Mori Point: preferred alternative is Alternative 2
185	L	<p>In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be reexamined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.</p> <p>I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.</p> <p>The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.</p>

191	L	<p>San Mateo County Mori Point: Conservancy staff supports Alternative 1, with its dual focus of resource preservation and public trails. Millions of dollars of private and public money - including \$500,000 from the Conservancy is currently being spent building trails on this property. The California Coastal Trail runs through this land. To “highly control” visitor use, as proposed in Alternative 2, would negate the purpose of these years of work and millions of dollars of grants.</p>
191	L	<p>Pedro Point: Again, Conservancy staff supports Alternative 1, with its emphasis on public trails. To restrict public access (as proposed by Alternative 2) would be inappropriate for this property which was acquired with public funds and provides a critical link in the California Coastal Trail.</p>
191	L	<p>Montara Lighthouse: Conservancy staff strongly supports Alternative 1, with a particular emphasis on enhancing the current hostel and day use programming. The hostel should be kept open to the general public, not turned into a “campus” with overnight accommodations restricted to “program participants and staff” (as proposed in Alternative 2) or people taking part in a “historical immersion experience” (Alternative 3). To limit overnight stays to people who sign up for a program would ultimately mean that only school groups and organized nonprofits would be able to enjoy this absolutely unique overnight experience. Families, foreigners, people passing through - these are the people currently using the hostel who would be shut out by Alternatives 2 and 3. People should be able to enjoy a night or two in this wonderful place without having to sign up for a “program.” Instead, the hostel should be expanded, for general public use, as proposed in Alternative , with access from Highway 1 improved.</p>

193	L	<p>In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and must allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse council have proposed. I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to the multi- use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. Additionally, this is a large enough area that dogs on leash can be allowed. The plan should also address existing trails and roads, which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide critical regional links from north and south and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash.</p>
194	L	<p>I am writing to provide comments on the General Management Plan/ETS Newsletter 4, dated Spring 2008. The members of the GONRA Liaison Committee of the City of Pacifica (GGNRA LC) discussed this document at our monthly meeting on May 26, 2008. We would like to begin by thanking you and your staff for the production of a professional document that is well done with excellent graphics and summary material which make your recommendations easy to understand.</p>
195	L	<p>The GGNRA LC understood the GMP update to be premised on need to have a plan for the San Mateo properties within the GGNRA which became part of the park after the GMP of 1981 was written. Because of that, the committee felt there should be greater emphasis on this fact, with a commensurate orientation of the entire document toward the land in Pacifica and unincorporated San Mateo County which either currently are, or are being considered for inclusion in, the GGNRA.</p>

195	L	<p>Members also believe there should be greater opportunity in GGNRA lands within Pacifica to be in the ‘scenic corridor’ designation. For example, we believe there should be more diverse opportunities for recreational activities and access at the Shelldance Nursery Area and Picardo Ranch, should it become part of the park. The GGNRA LC believes there should be a commitment to maintain equestrian trails at Picardo Ranch, and there should also be a serious evaluation for the siting of a drive- through facility to park a truck and horse trailer somewhere in Pacifica.</p>
195	L	<p>We recommend further exploration into the idea of connecting trails in Pacifica (including GGNRA property, San Pedro Valley County Park, and other parklands) to Rancho Corral de Tierra property and McNee Ranch State Park. These options should include using the proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail which we understand may traverse the Peninsula Watershed property managed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. In the same way that we feel the G1vW should expand on trail connections for hiking, the committee believes there should be an examination of public transportation connections. For example, we like to think there will be great demand in the near future for hikers who might walk from the north or central part of Pacifica to destinations to the south to take a SAMTRANS bus back north at the end of their trek. Integrating these transportation concepts at this early stage will further the likelihood of them happening in the future.</p>
195	L	<p>The GGNRA LC feels strongly that the “multi-agency visitor information and orientation facility” needs to be in Pacifica. In this newsletter, it appears as if the GGNRA prefers for this visitors center to be located in Rancho Corral de Tierra. We agree that a smaller satellite center might be appropriate for the southern entrance to the park; however, we unanimously feel that Pacifica must be the location of a larger visitor center as it will have more visitation from trips originating to the north and the Pacifica has the business and commercial infrastructure to support high levels of visitation.</p>
195	L	<p>Last, we support the idea of creating more structures and programs for the youth. We know this is important to GGRNA as well, but suggest we explore opportunities for constructing facilities dedicated to youth programs, which will serve as possible stewardship and internship opportunities for students and young adults.</p>
195	L	<p>We thank you and your staff for your dedication and hard work. We continue to be grateful for all that you have done and continue to do for the advancement of park lands in and near Pacifica.</p>
202	L	<p>In Pacifica, to connect the existing coastal trail, the GGNRA should explore the idea of acquiring the small beach area at the end of Manor Boulevard, just west of the post office. The city of Pacifica owns this property, but it would likely be better managed by the GGNRA, which has more experience and resources. It’s presently somewhat fenced, with no benches, ice plant rather than natives, and nothing to welcome visitors other than the magnificent coastal view.</p>

207	P	<p>San Mateo County -- There are only two small sites where "diverse opportunities" (a designation that includes off-leash dog walking) will be allowed in Alternatives 1 and 3. The areas for Diverse Opportunities and recreational access and uses must be expanded. They are too small in both alternatives.</p>
209	L	<p>Our San Mateo County Historical Association is most excited about your creating a new General Management Plan! Environmental Impact Statement for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). GGNRA had few San Mateo County interests when it was formed, but now has substantial properties, easements and partnerships within our county. We will enjoy working with your staff on the Historic Resources Study for your holdings. We are now forming an agreement with Park Historian Stephen Haller to complete this document. We also look forward to adding our comments to your planning process and hope that further partnerships can be formed between our organization, the GGNRA and the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division.</p>
209	L	<p>We read with enthusiasm your "preliminary alternatives for San Mateo County", especially the paragraph in the overview section in "Alternative 1" which refers to: "development of a multi-agency visitor information and orientation facility" which will be "located along Highway 1" and "could be shared by the National Park Service/ GGNRA, San Mateo County. California State Parks... and other organizations." We propose that you consider the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site in Pacifica as a possible location for visitor services and/or interpretive programming. The Adobe Site, owned by San Mateo County and operated by the Historical Association, is just 10 blocks off Highway 1, has ample parking and consists of 5 acres, much of which can be utilized for interpretive purposes. It is also, historically speaking, central to the story of your properties.</p> <p>It is in close proximity to your Sweeney Ridge from which Gaspar de Portola discovered the San Francisco Bay in 1769. As you know this discovery is regarded as one of the most important of the Spanish colonial period in the regions north of Mexico. Our Historical Association has long been involved in researching and recording Portola's expedition. Our museum's founder, Dr. Frank Stanger, helped translate the original journals of the main characters of the discovery part, identified their camp sites on the Peninsula and wrote scholarly articles and a book about the party's exploits.</p>
209	L	<p>The largest artifact on the site is the adobe house that belonged to Francisco Sanchez, the one time alcalde of San Francisco, commandant of the San Francisco Presidio and leader of the Californians when they faced U.S. Marines at the Battle of Santa Clara. Sanchez's story will certainly relate to the history of your Rancho Corral de Terra of the same era, which was possessed by Francisco's neighbors. While the house represents the state's Mexican period, actually the site's history is important to all three of the earliest California eras. An Ohlone Indian village called Pruristac thrived here. During mission times, an outpost stood on the site that supplied the Mission at San Francisco with food and other raw materials. This was a substantial operation, the largest of its kind in California. At one point as many people lived and worked at the outpost as did at the Mission itself.</p>

209	L	<p>Our primary program at the Sanchez Adobe consists of a well-established hands-on history program for youngsters in the 3rd (and 4th grades studying California History. While learning about the site's relationship to the first three eras of the state, the kids make their own adobe bricks, learn how to use a lariat, grind corn, make candles and participate in other learning activities. The program is so popular that when we open it for reservations in the spring, within two weeks it is booked for the entire next school year. We keep the site open to the public five days a week - - Tuesday through Thursday and both weekend days.</p>
209	L	<p>While the programs are great, the County and Historical Association have not substantially improved the site for interpretive purposes since the 1950's. Obviously, work is needed. Recognizing this, last year we completed a master plan for the site that includes better utilization of the property and the building of an interpretive center. This is the perfect time for us to have you involved and include the history of the GGNRA's holdings on the County's coast as part of our efforts. We hope that we can convince your staff to come to the Adobe Site, and with County Parks and Recreation representatives, discuss how we can formulate a proposal that could get us all working together. We are convinced that from an interpretive point of view, and from the standpoint of best utilization of all our resources, a productive joint effort can be created.</p>
209	L	<p>The San Mateo County Historical Association is a 1500 member, non-profit organization that was established in 1935. We currently operate two historic sites in the County; besides the Sanchez Adobe we also conduct the programming at the Woodside Store for the County Parks and Recreation Division. Our largest recent effort began 10 years ago when we moved our San Mateo County History Museum to the 40,000 square foot "old" courthouse in Redwood City. Since that time we have spent \$20 million dollars to restore the building and make it one of the best county history museums anywhere (I hope you can visit us sometime). While \$10 million came from a variety of governmental sources, the balance was raised through private contributions.</p> <p>We believe that with the County, we forge a great partnership with the GGNRA. We look forward to your response.</p>

212	L	<p>Our comments regarding San Mateo County are very limited. We support Alternative 2. We are specifically favorable to the plan to designate Mori Point a sensitive resource zone. Trails should be constructed in such a way that they direct people away from sensitive habitat areas. It would be prudent to plan for the eventual restoration of Laguna Salada. While not being specific about the SFPUC Watershed, GGAS does not support additional access to the watershed. Should a plan be developed to allow additional access it should be highly restricted. Access should be restricted to foot traffic and all hikers should be accompanied by trained staff or docents. The San Francisco Peninsula Watershed is home to more listed species than all of GGNRA. One probable reason for that is that the land has not been grazed and over used by people. It is our position that it should remain, for all intents and purposes, a habitat refuge in which a very small part of the Bay Area’s natural history is preserved. Activities that might threaten that goal are inappropriate and should be prohibited.</p>
213	L	<p>That said, here are my comments specifically for Rancho Corral de Tierra: Alternative 1: I read this as preserving the existing stables (equestrian boarding facilities), and accordingly, I support this Alternative, I like this alternative because it seems to support the view that with proper management (run-off and waste containment practices), equestrian facilities can co-exist without negative impact to water quality and the natural habitat. I would add to this alternative the following: (1) that the equestrian facilities be managed under long term leases or other long-term arrangement, so that management can invest in maintenance and management of the facilities without fear that the use will expire, (2) that youth education programs like 4-H and FFA be allowed to continue to use the equestrian areas and (3) that existing trails be maintained for horses and others, and new unpaved trails be added in the new areas of the GGNRA lands if possible. Alternative 2: I do not support this alternative because it mandates relocation or removal of equestrian facilities. I do not support moving the equestrian facilities unless there is a proven SCIENTIFIC reason for a specific facility and the way it is managed — not just an unfounded assumption that there is a negative impact in connection with current stable location. Finally, I support the details that ETRAC and the</p>
216	L	<p>2. EQUESTRIANS ON GGNRA LANDS; WHY HORSES? Since the dawn of civilization, horses and humans have enjoyed a remarkable partnership—in war, in peace, in farm fields, and on city streets, horses have worked for us, carried us, comforted us, and inspired us. Today San Mateo County, urbanized as it is, enjoys a healthy mix of city and rural life, with horses continuing to play an important role in local economies, family and group activities, summer camps, sporting events and competitions, rehabilitation of the emotionally and physically handicapped, and more. Much of the GGNRA lands in Marin and San Mateo counties comprise lands where horses were bred, raised, worked, and ridden. It is part of this land’s history. (When the GGNRA was in the process of purchasing the West Marin lands, old locals swore to me that one parcel of the Bolinas-to-Olema GGNRA was originally transferred from its Spanish-land-grant owner to another gentleman in trade for a black stallion.)</p>

216	L	SAN MATEO COUNTY. We only commented on areas where we ride and hike. We endorse the recommendations from the Equestrian Trail Riders Action Coalition (ETRAC) and the Coastside Horse Council (CHC) for the other areas.
216	L	Milagra Ridge should be managed to protect its natural character and give access to its visitors with a system of trails. Alternative One (1) is the best choice even though it states that trail improvements will be limited. If no trails are available, people will create their own. As the National Park Service has no staff to patrol these parks to stop people from doing so, it is in the best interest of all the plants and animal species we are trying to protect that you allow people to access this land with a well-developed trail system. Giving controlled access to the land for recreation use (carefully developed trail system, volunteer monitoring, etc.) will help preserve the wild character of the area and its inhabitants. The Bay Area Ridge Trail connecting Milagra Point to Sweeney Ridge is an important and a long-awaited improvement. At this time, equestrians cannot access Milagra Ridge, because there is no provision for trailer parking. Trailer parking for equestrians should be provided, and trails should not be paved but left in their natural state in harmony with the wild nature of the area.
216	L	SHELLDANCE NURSERY AREA: Alternative One (I) "A Diverse Opportunities Zone" is the best choice. The area is well suited for a community stewardship center and park orientation and information center; there are already in place buildings and an infrastructure to serve this purpose. The alternative proposes improved access from Highway One (1): this is a very important consideration. The alternative should also include improving the crossing of Highway One (I) to reach Mori Point by foot, bike, or horse. The road to the site is very steep and is not safely accessible for horse trailers. Parking for horse trailers could be provided at the bottom in the vacant parcel of land there, and a trail to the Sweeny Ridge Trailhead built. For all visitors, an experience on Sweeney Ridge would be enhanced by connecting Mori Point, Sharp Park Beach, Cattle Hill, Picardo Ranch, San Pedro Valley Park, Mc Nee Ranch State Park, and Rancho Corral De Tierra to the latter. It will accomplish the mission of the National Park Service: i.e. connecting people with parks by means of providing recreational activities. Up the road from the Sweeney Ridge Trailhead, the existing trail access around the gate needs to be improved. Equestrians use this area a great deal; it is located next to three horse-boarding facilities.

216	L	<p>c) SWEENEY RIDGE INCLUDING CATTLE HILL AND PICARDO RANCH: A combination of alternatives One (1) and Two (2) is the best choice. Alternative Three (3) is so vague that commentary is not possible. Protecting the natural landscape is very important, but to experience that landscape through trail use, primitive camping is, as well, very important. The existing trail system through this area could be improved without disturbing the local animals and plants. This land is rugged; trails are rough, but it does offer great potential for visitors to enjoy the coastal ecosystem and to connect with the park system and the historical significance of the site (war, ranching, and discovery). Access to Sweeney Ridge from the top of Fassler Avenue should be made possible by removing the huge rock blocking the entrance. Presently one or two horse trailers can park in a cul de sac one block from the gate at the top of Fassler; the only way to provide more access for horse trailers would be to create a parking lot/turn around inside the locked gate. This might not be feasible or possible from a park or from a neighborhood/traffic pattern standpoint. The trails from Fassler are well suited to horses, however; they are not frequently used by hikers or bicyclists and are wide enough and/or provide enough passing alternatives that mixed use would not be a problem. The only other ways to access these beautiful</p>
216	L	<p>The trail from Fassler up Sweeney Ridge also contains a fire gate about 1 mile from the initial locked gate at Fassler. This fire gate, when closed and locked as it is now, will not accommodate horse passage and a passage around this gate would have to be considered should you plan to keep this fire gate closed and locked. GGNRA should pursue the acquisition of the Picardo Ranch, but only under the condition of retaining the existing tables in place. The presence of an equestrian ranch on these lands enhances the visitors' experience, provides easy and beautiful access to the surrounding area, including Sweeney Ridge, and provides additional recreational activities to Bay Area residents. Horses when managed properly are not disruptive to the ecosystem, and they remind us of their historical importance in the Portola Expedition as painted in the artist's conception of the expedition in the National Park Service brochures for Sweeney Ridge. Modest visitor support facilities at Picardo Ranch proposed in Alternative two (2) makes good sense. Picardo Ranch is situated in a neighborhood area of Pacifica and is very accessible by foot traffic; it borders a local high school, inviting educational collaboration and volunteer activities connected with the high school. A place to</p>

216	L	<p>d) MORI POINT</p> <p>Alternative One (1) “Connecting People with the Parks” is the best choice. It will restore this scenic land from the damages of a former quarry operation and the erosion created by illegal off-road vehicles while also improving access to the land.</p> <p>On the west side of Mori Point, the existing trails are in terrible shape and need to be rebuilt. These trails must remain unpaved and multiuse, because the Coastal Trail travels this area. Paved trails are not only unsafe for horses but are completely contrary to the idea of preserving and restoring the costa! ecosystem. In addition, paved trails in an area as perpetually foggy as Mori Point become slick and dangerous for horses, hikers, and bicyclists.</p> <p>A connector trail between the Pacifica Rockaway Beach, the Pacifica Linda Mar Beach, and San Pedro Point should be planned and built.</p> <p>At the Mori Point Trailhead, there is at the present time parking for a one horse trailer if the spot is not blocked by a car. Because there is ample space, it would improve all users’ experience if you were to build a separate parking lot for horse trailers. Tie posts and water for people, dogs, and horses should be made available.</p> <p>Alternative two (2) is not an option, because it controls and limits the access to this beautiful area to the local residents. Within this highly populated urban area, this area is extensively use by hikers, dog walkers, and equestrians.</p>
216	L	<p>e) PEDRO POINT, DEVIL’S SLIDE, AND SAN PEDRO MOUNTAIN</p> <p>On the subject of Pedro Point and San Pedro Mountain: The best alternative is Alternative One (1). Equestrians did ride the trails a great deal until the area became land-locked a year or two ago. The acquisition of the land by GGNRA will be excellent only if it will give us access to the trails again. A parking area for horse trailers and a connector trail to the nearby beach at Linda Mar Boulevard should also be provided.</p> <p>A crossing of Highway One (1) at the Old San Pedro Road to reach this park should be planned as well; the present crossing of Highway One at the Old San Pedro Road is very dangerous because of continuous traffic.</p> <p>Once the Devil’s Slide tunnel project is finished, the idea of adding Devil’s Slide area to the existing trail system is very exciting. Trails should be planned to connect Devil’s slide to each of the following parks: San Pedro Point, Mc Nee State Park, Montara Mountain, and Rancho Corral de Tierra.</p>
216	L	<p>RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA</p> <p>The recommendation you received from the Equestrian Trail Riders’ Action Committee (ETRAC) and the Coastside Horse Council for the area are in accordance with our vision for the management of the area.</p>

216	L	<p>g) SFPUC WATERSHED EASEMENTS</p> <p>Alternative One (1) is the best choice for the management of SFPUC Watershed Easements, giving the public long-awaited for access to this beautiful land.</p> <p>Connecting SFPUC Watershed with the adjacent parks is very important. A connector trail over Whithing Ridge is a wonderful suggestion, considering that opening the existing locked gates is all that would be necessary to make it happen, and it would connect Sweeney Ridge to Montara Mountain. The trails are fire roads, which would easily convert as multiuse trails.</p> <p>Alternative two (2) is not an option, because it drastically limits the public use of SFPUC Watershed.</p> <p>Alternative three (3) offers an interpretive station to highlight the scope of the water system; this is an interesting idea that should be implemented.</p>
217	L	<p>SAN MATEO</p> <p>The San Mateo sites that we have addressed below are only mentioned in this GMP newsletter are to manage the protection or preservation of natural resources when, in fact, there is a large suburban population who either run, walk or hike, walk with their dogs off leash, horseback ride, and/or bike in these areas. The GGNRA GMP does not appear to consider recreational values as a major interest here, which is incorrect. Also, the GGNRA is planting new endangered species in San Mateo sites where there were none before.</p>
217	L	<p>Milagra Ridge</p> <p>A slight clarification here as it is the northwest slope that allows for potential development of the Bay Area Ridge Trail connection to the coast. And the parking is extremely limited-only parking for 4 cars. We would encourage that the Bay Area Ridge Trail leave enough room for multiple recreation user groups, including but not limited to hikers, runners, off leash dog walkers, horses and bikers. Additional visitor amenities to improve accessibility, trailhead parking, restrooms and picnic facilities would support and enhance the visitor experience.</p>
217	L	<p>Mori Point</p> <p>This section does not accurately depict the current condition of the site. This site is directly adjacent to a neighborhood and subsequently, there is very limited parking for folks who want to walk, walk their dogs off leash and generally enjoy the area. There is NO handicap parking available, so disabled folks don't have access to walk their dogs off leash there. The GGNRA could put some fences around the vernal pool areas (and other sensitive species) as neighborhood kids have a tendency to play in these areas. Additional visitor amenities to improve accessibility, trailhead parking, restrooms and picnic facilities would support and enhance the visitor experience.</p> <p>[THIS LETTER MAY BE CUTOFF IN THE DATABASE]</p>

222	L	<p>Sweeney Ridge, Milagra Ridge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the natural landscape and develop an interconnecting trail network • No need to downgrade Sneath Lane, that money could be used for habitat restoration
222	L	<p>Mori Point: Alternative 2</p> <p>General Statement: You lose your experience with nature with too many improvements like overnight accommodations, food service and visitors center were people congregate. Many trails are little used and provide a much better enjoyment and feeling of nature</p>
223	L	<p>For equestrian facilities/trails in San Francisco & San Mateo counties, I support the recommendations of the equestrian facilities located in the affected areas, and the local Horse Councils/Associations.</p>
225	L	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the General Management Plan/EIS Newsletter 4, dated Spring 2008. We'd like to preface our comments with an expression of appreciation for the long standing partnership between the GGNRA and the City of Pacifica that has led to the protection and restoration of important open space. In addition, the GGNRA and the Parks Conservancy should be lauded for the recent restoration work on Mori Point, and the continuing maintenance efforts on upper Milagra Ridge.</p> <p>The following comments were discussed and agreed upon at the City Council meeting of July 28, 2008. The City's GGNRA Liaison Committee recently sent a letter containing comments on the GMP newsletter, and the City Council concurs with those comments. While we clearly recognize the inherent value of open space and park lands, it is vital that we reinforce the positive economic component of these amenities. To that end, we strongly believe that the visitor center needs to be located in the City of Pacifica, where our established visitor serving uses may benefit from the increased visitor traffic and the infrastructure exists to better serve visitors. Increased access and connectivity to other trails and recreation areas, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the San Francisco Watershed property, should be an important component of the GMP update. The GMP update should also provide for the continuation of the Sheldance Nursery. This well established use attracts many visitors and is a benefit to both the GGNRA and the City.</p>

227	L	<p>In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.</p> <p>I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.</p> <p>The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional link from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off- leash.</p>
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242	L	<p>Here's a set of docs I have gathered recently regarding trail camp feasibility along the Ridge Trail alignment. It's a mixed bag -- the EBRPD docs indicate they are actively going forward with trail camp development (they are in actual construction phase on 2 camps along the RT alignment) -- the hiker hut docs are more info-only regarding how it has been done elsewhere (and the Sierra Club 'hut' in Sam McDonald Park is more like a chalet!), the email from Jane Mark regarding her presentation to field staff supervisors simply records comments received, and the Shenandoah brochure shows pretty much all you need to know about how their Appalachian Trail camp program operates.</p> <p>I have no particular favorite version of a backcountry camp -- it's very early days, and there are too many variables to make determinations yet -- but these docs show a bit of the flavor of options available. Also, note that Santa Clara County Parks Dept has recently adopted a plan to develop yurts in some of their parks, which may be adaptable to the trail camp concept.</p> <p>Some things that we all will need to consider might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">How long the interval between the sites should be (10-15 miles?)How big should the sites be? (Ie: how many people to accommodate)Will parking be accommodated?What minimum development/services would be available/provided? (ie: potable water, shelter, restrooms, fire rings, etc)Will reservations be required?
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247	E	<p>I understand that there are future plans that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) will purchase the land known as Rancho Corral de Tierra. Peninsula Open Space Trust currently owns and manages the approximately 4,200 acres and rents portions of it to Ember Ridge, Ocean View, Moss Beach Ranch and Renegade Ranch. The GGNRA will make changes with regards to the structure, use and operation of the ranches from what we know today.</p> <p>When I read the General Management Plan, it appears that Alternative 1 would provide the best natural and diverse opportunities and allow the stables to remain in Corral de Tierra. I would hope that visitor amenities are either maintained or improved, not reduced or made "more primitive."</p> <p>Please register my support for Alternative 1 –Connecting People with Parks, for Rancho Corral de Tierra.</p>
248	E	<p>We have lived at this address since 1983 and during that time we have had lease or licensing agreements with owners of Rancho Corral de Tierra to keep up to 3 horses and 4 goats on about five, fenced- in acres. We currently have a licensing agreement with POST and would like to continue that agreement with GGNRA.</p>

248	E	<p>On all of your maps of Rancho Corral de Tierra, you show this area as "natural" which, on the face of it, offers little hope for continuing our license agreement, but I think it might be instructive to point out a few features of this part of the Rancho.</p> <p>Our house was completed in 1973 and was one of the last houses built in this subdivision, but it was not the last house Mr Dolger had planned to build here...</p> <p>East of Harbour Drive is a construction pad for another flight of houses. Mr Dolger bulldozed the top soil north onto the designated "school lot" and then covered the area with weathered granodiorite transported from the marine terrace to the east. That haulage road is now eroded into a widening gully that carries a seasonal stream. Two other seasonal streams are deeply eroded into the construction pad and flood part of the area each winter and have flooded the backyard of 100 Harbour Drive occasionally in the past.</p> <p>Mr. Dolger did not build houses on this construction pad because Proposition 20 passed in 1973 creating the Coastal Commission. Based on historic air photos from the USGS archive and the above information, it appears that restoring the "natural habitat, processes, and</p>
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248	E	<p>We have a licensing agreement with POST primarily because the horses and goats reduce the fire load on that part of Rancho Corral de Tierra immediately east of the houses on Harbour Drive. On Monday, July 7th, some kids set off a firecracker on the trail that extends onto your land from the east end of Coral Reef....a small fire burned a strip of grass and low brush about 100 yards long and 30 yards wide just north of the large grove of eucalyptus at the east end of Coral Reef Ave. I called 911 and it took 12 minutes for the fire trucks to arrive. The wind was gentle out of the west and the morning had been overcast and foggy.....If this situation had occurred in October when the Santa Anna winds blow hard from the east, the houses on Coral Reef Ave and Harbour Drive would have been in jeopardy..</p>
249	L	<p>Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) has reviewed the General Management Plan (GMP) Preliminary Alternatives provided in Newsletter 4 dated Spring 2008 for the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA). GFNMS manages the waters and submerged lands of GGNRA off the Coast of San Mateo and Marin Counties to the mean high tide, including the tidal waters and submerged lands currently adjacent to, and overlapping jurisdiction with GGNRA. Therefore, we plan to be an active stakeholder, partner and collaborator in the implementation of the GMP.</p> <p>All comments provided herein discuss GFNMS' suggestions on shaping the preferred alternative(s), focus on the impacts to GFNMS, and examine the need for the inclusion and clarification of GFNMS jurisdiction. We have specific comments on several preliminary alternatives for Marin and San Mateo Counties and some overall comments on the maps and the management zones.</p>
249	L	<p>General Comments</p> <p>GFNMS supports the general approach of three Concepts and Guiding Principles as presented in the newsletter. In particular, we encourage GGNRA to acknowledge specific regional collaborations and partnerships when describing potential actions under each of the alternatives, including the preferred alternative. We also encourage an ecosystem-based approach to actions in the preferred alternative.</p>

249	L	<p>GFNMS supports all actions in the preliminary alternatives that protect coastal streams from erosion and restore riparian habitat. We encourage GGNRA to protect and improve water quality in the creeks that drain into Sanctuary waters. Improving water quality in areas of management along coastal streams and land use in the coastal zone including Slide Ranch, Muir Beach and Rancho Corral de Tierra helps protect sanctuary resources.</p> <p>GFNMS regulations prohibit discharging or depositing any material or other matter directly into the Sanctuary from the land [15 CFR § 922.83 (a)(2)]. It is critical that any land uses within GGNRA along the shoreline have clean discharges. Actions that improve offshore water quality should be incorporated into the preferred alternative.</p>
249	L	<p>San Mateo County</p> <p>Pedro Point and Devil's Slide: GFNMS supports Preliminary Alternative 2, sensitive resources Management Zone to protect the breeding Common Murre and Brandt's Cormorant colony on Devil's Slide Rock. This colony was completely abandoned in 1988. As a result, in 1996, a \$ 5 million, 10-year restoration project to restore the Murres to Devil's Slide Rock was launched. The project used social attraction, with decoys, calls and mirrors to attract birds back to the abandoned colony. The funding was approved as part of the Apex Houston oil spill restoration fund, along with monitoring for success at the rock.</p>
249	L	<p>The restoration effort at Devil's Slide Rock has yielded successes, and in 2007 there were 392 breeding pairs on the rock. However, the biologists monitoring this colony and the colonies off of the coast of Marin identified human-based disturbance as one of the factors impeding recovery at particular colonies. Since this first restoration project, over \$ 6.2 million dollars of restoration funds have been spent on this colony. It is also expected that the Luckenbach restoration plan will continue funding for the next 20 years. The goal is to return the colony to 3,000 Common Murres, which was the estimated colony size in 1979. In order to achieve this goal it is critical to minimize human access to the rock and the surrounding cliffs. This area is prone to disturbances from aircraft and vessels, so it is critical to prevent adding an additional stressor to this colony. We recommend that the preferred alternative includes specific actions to protect Devil's Slide Rock and the surrounding coastal bluffs, and any proposed coastal access is constructed in a way that does not jeopardize this ongoing restoration project.</p>

1003	C	I am all for alternative 1. This historically has been a horse community. The establishments already in place are working very well. I want to support what is working and include the horse an all the good people who make their living on the coast, as well as Woodside. Keep our horses on the coast and in Woodside, support what is working well.
1006	C	Signs to Sweeny Ridge (fassel, shelldance trail heads) from highway. Redundant trail removal, interpretive signage and trail control very important, especially on Sweeny ridge. Move coverage of wild life and plant life in your already excellent brochure would be appreciated.
114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118	P	<p>While the lands encompassed by Rancho Corral have been accessible to the public for years, this area has been used almost exclusively by the local coastside residents. In recent years, the north end of the Rancho has seen increased traffic from hikers and cyclists accessing Montara Mountain. In general, local users have accessed the Rancho for equestrian activities, hiking, dog walking, mountain biking and dirt biking (motorcycles). To my knowledge the Rancho does not have direct access to the Pacific (with the exception of Montara Lighthouse), and only abuts Highway 1 in one small area just south of Devils slide. In other areas, direct access is impeded by agricultural areas, topographical impediments, and residential areas. With the exception of Devils Slide and Montara Mountain (which is not part of the park), the Rancho does not include the dramatic landscapes that other areas of the park contain.</p> <p>Conclusions and Recommendations: I support adoption of 'Alternative 1: Connecting People with the Parks' with the following caveats and recommendations.</p> <p>1. For planning purposes, I would view the Rancho as having the following four distinct regions:</p> <p>North region, which includes the area adjacent to McNee Ranch State Park, would be the primary portal for visitors to the park. It is directly accessible from Hwy 1 and closest to the most dramatic views and trails to Montara Mountain. This area should have minimal development (e.g. signage, limited parking, restrooms, limited picnic area, a visitor</p>
114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118	P	<p>South region, which includes the areas adjacent to Montara, Moss Beach, and El Granada residential areas, would be the primary portal for equestrian activities and a secondary portal for visitor access. Aside from the equestrian facilities, development should be limited to a small parking area (10 spaces or less), a small restroom facility, and informational signage. Visitor access and parking should not intrude on the residential areas. Because of its proximity to residential areas, this area will continue to be the primary entry point for local users, As such it is important to provide access to a trail system that is open to equestrians, dog walkers and cyclists.</p>

<p>114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>East region, which includes most of the inland areas of the Rancho, should be designated as Natural zone. Access would be limited to multi-use trails, which would be built on environmentally sound trail practices and based on the existing trail system. Sensitive resource zones, particularly in the more remote areas adjacent to the SF Watershed, should be specified as necessary. The Rancho includes species of flora and fauna that are unique to the area. It is important to recognize that these unique resources have thrived without the benefit of park protection. Most exist today because of their remote location, low human activity and traffic, and the awareness of the local community. I believe these resources need to be protected, but it would be ill-advised to close large areas of the park for this purpose. Education is the answer.</p>
<p>114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>Montara Lighthouse region, which encompasses the current lighthouse facility and grounds. The lighthouse and its facilities should be maintained in their current state. While I support the facility as a hostel, I would also support using this region as the primary visitor center, ranger station, and administrative hub for the Rancho area of GGNRA. This makes sense for several reasons. Logistically, the lighthouse compound is centrally located and accessible from Hwy 1. Fiscally, the facilities exist so new buildings would not have to be constructed. From an impact perspective, visitors could stop here first to learn about the park to better plan their excursion.</p>
<p>114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>2. Recognize that most Rancho will not be heavily visited outside of the local community and plan accordingly. With the exception of hiker access to Montara Mountain and Devil's slide trail (after the tunnel is complete and before it slides into the ocean), the Rancho does not include compelling qualities that will cause a massive increase in visitation. The hills are not dramatic or high; No redwoods, just grasses and bushes; Too far from the ocean to afford dramatic views; Not easily accessible from Hwy 1.</p>
<p>114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>It is important to not over-develop the park with new facilities. Basic comfort facilities, small and strategic parking areas, basic signage, basic visitor information stations are all that is necessary.</p>
<p>114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>3. Emphasize the cultural and historical elements of the Rancho. Emphasize its history as a Spanish land grant and old California ranch. Recognize and leverage the 20th century culture, which includes the strong horse orientation. Identify and preserve historical.</p>

<p>114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>Work with the horse community (both private and public) to promote and enhance the environmental and best practices implemented by the local equestrian facilities. Build a working model that demonstrates how livestock and equestrian facilities can co-exist in a watershed environment without adverse impact.</p>
<p>114, 172, 119, 117, 113, 118</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>4. Leverage local resources. Based on the guiding principle of "Community Based Stewardship", use the local resources at every opportunity. Not just for reactive planning feedback, but in a proactive advisory capacity during planning formulation. GGNRA staff must think outside the box (within the framework mandated by the NPS) to take full advantage of local resources waiting to help fulfill the GGNRA Partnership principle. At this point in the process, the local community is far more knowledgeable than the NPS with regard to the Rancho, its natural resources and its place in the community. The NPS would do well to follow the POST example, recognizing and relying on committed locals as their "boots on the ground". During a time when the Federal spending on parks is constricting, volunteerism is a viable alternative for getting things done. I believe the local community would welcome the opportunity to make the Rancho a valuable addition to the GGNRA and a continued resource to the community</p>
<p>76, 173, 112</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.</p>
<p>76, 173, 112</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 really needs to be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.</p>
<p>76, 173, 112</p>	<p>P</p>	<p>The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash. Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.</p>