

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 1

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Chelsea Hardaway
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 311 4th Street.
PO Box 370591
Montara, CA 94037
USA
E-mail: chelsea@hardaway.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/01/2011 Date Received: 11/01/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please give dogs and their owners the same rights you are extending to horses and their owners. We would like to keep Crissy Field, Fort Funston, and the Rancho Corral de Tierra open to exercise for humans with their well-behaved dogs. Please don't take away this one thing that makes California so great: the wide open space we can explore, guided by our four legged companions. Dogs need to be off leash for socialization and health. So do humans. There is no reason we shouldn't just have pick-up bags and trash cans at every outdoor location, and encourage each other with peer pressure to pick up after our animals ... but still retain our rights to roam the great outdoors this state has to offer. I don't think the economy in CA can take a mass exodus, but my friends and I will take our hard-earned Silicon Valley wealth and leave the state if we are not able to cavort with our friendly dogs off leash.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 2**

Author Information

Keep Private:

Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent:

Date Received: 11/02/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No

Type: Letter

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean:

Thank you for choosing to keep Slide Ranch at its current location, any other location would pale in comparison. Deciding to keep the horses at their present location is also a good choice. A lot of work has gone into maintaining the stable and their independence.

Please try to find a safe way to connect the trails in their current locations a safe way to set down highway one is greatly needed.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 3**

Author Information

Keep Private:

Name: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent:

Date Received: 11/02/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No

Type: Letter

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean:

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 4

Author Information

Keep Private: [REDACTED]
Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/13/2011 Date Received: 11/13/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

It is really really important to keep horses visible to the public. Having them in front is an important part of the Park vision. The public loves seeing and connecting with the horses. Please leave them where they are.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 5

Author Information

Keep Private:

Name: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed

Date Sent: 11/15/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Contains Request(s): No

Notes:

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Received: 11/15/2011

Form Letter: No

Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

Please, DO NOT MOVE the VOLUNTEER PARK HORSE PATROL to Miwok Stables.

I. TOO EXPENSIVE

The move is not worth the huge costs and massive disruption to both the PHP and the Miwok Stables (Upper Tennessee Valley). One more meadow in an already huge and generous park is not worth thousands of dollars for demolition and thousands more for a new barn, refurbishing headquarters, tack storage, manure storage and removal, new turn-out area, paddocks, etc.

II. CHAOS AT MIWOK

Forcing two entities to divide costs, uses, and schedules for water, arenas, utilities, yard-space, hitch rails, manure hauling pads and dumpsters, tools, and facility maintenance issues will result in chaos. With some horses on a separate feeding and turn-in/out schedule, horses will become fractious and dangerous - they must be fed and turned out at the same time. When horses see others getting fed or leaving for paddocks, they want the same, and can begin twirling, bucking and kicking.

Humans get fractious, too. We spent fifteen years battling the conflicts between operators when the boarders, employees, independent instructors and the riding school all needed Miwok's arenas and lungeing rings. The PHP will bring back these troubles.

And, it was impossible to make an equitable distribution for costing utilities, supplies, feeds, maintenance, improvements and repairs between several entities.

We have been enjoying a wonderful peace at the stables since 2006 when Miwok was put under one single operator. The stable is too small to be divided into more than one managerial entity. If you bring in the Volunteer Horse Patrol, old problems will resurface.

III. BAD LOCATION FOR PHP TURN-OUT AREA

The new Turn-Out Area proposed for the PHP horses at Miwok defeats our entire water-management design, engineered at huge expense to us as the slope of the facility funnels down to it. We put in underground drains, gutters, sloped the arenas and dug ditches all to siphon water off the site into the vegetative buffer - but that buffer would become denuded, trampled, grazed and bare under the hooves of horses in the new turn-out area. Even if used only in the summer, by winter, there will be no vegetation left. Erosion will be terrible and the run-off will go right into the creek.

Further, the turn-out area is to be next to the schooling ring. Horses at liberty in the area will be loose and free to cavort. The students in the schooling ring will be endangered by their mounts reacting to the playground next door. Remember, these students are beginners and/or small children, without the skills yet to deal with this situation. It's dangerous.

Thank you for your consideration. I have given the last thirty years of my life to helping the public programs grow at Miwok Stables - I've been [REDACTED] for the [REDACTED], and worked with [REDACTED] for twenty years. It is the love and passion of my life. I know what I'm talking about. Moving the PHP to Miwok would be a mistake for current and future operators at this stable.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 6

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Duffy Hurwin
Organization: Marin Horse Council, San Francisco Horsemen
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 558 Tenaya Drive
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA
E-mail: duffyhurwin@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/18/2011 Date Received: 11/18/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My preference is alternative B - leave all stables in existing locations. It is unconscionable to spend funds we do not have to move or build entirely new facilities as opposed to upgrading existing facilities. All these facilities have been in existence for many, many years. There is an infrastructure of community at each of these barns who wish to put efforts into maintaining them. I have been riding in Marin for almost 40 years and there were many more equestrian facilities in the 1970's when I arrived. There has been attrition of horse facilities and we must not lose any more. There are strong lobbies from the biking communities and others who wish to convert the parklands into amusement type parks for high speed cycling. The more we lose equestrian facilities which means loss of contact with horses for the general public, the more the public perceives that horseback riding is a nearly bygone activity and that maybe horses don't even belong in the 21st century.

We ride frequently in Point Reyes and so many families and children delight in the opportunity to see and pet our horses. Many thousands of visitors come to Muir Woods each year and pass right by the Golden Gate Dairy Stables en route to Muir Woods. The sight of horses at the Dairy Stables evokes a historic charm of yesteryear for people visiting the area. It enhances the rural character of the Muir Beach community and your report has shown no negative impacts.

I implore you to keep all facilities as they are and just assist the existing stables in maintenance and improvement of facilities to help bring them up to current codes.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 7

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/21/2011 Date Received: 11/21/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello. I regularly walk the Tennessee Valley hike. I appreciate the stables there. The activity around the horses does not seem to disturb the visitors to the park or the wildlife. I am opposed to dogs in the area. It is because dogs are not allowed that more wildlife is protected in this park. I enjoy seeing and hearing the lessons going on at the stables there. It is nice to have the diversity of activities and uses in this way. I support having the stables remain in the park.

Years ago I saw a horse that had been hit in the road at the entrance to Muir Beach. This is a busy road and I do not know if horses still come out on it. That is my only comment about the Muir Beach area. I have a concern for safety of the horses and riders and drivers. As long as the needs for safety for all are met, I do not object to horses being in that area.

At the Marin Headlands, I have not seen that the horses have ever been a problem. I do not object to having horses in the park area there, again, as long as safety concerns are met. Thank you for including my comment in your study.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 8

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/22/2011	Date Received: 11/22/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The stables and resultant horse use have a massive negative impact on solitude and spiritual refreshment. The stables, trail destruction, user conflicts with horses, and noxious horse manure and urine on trails all significantly impact other users, and reduces the enjoyment of the park.

Horses are exotic animals that are not native to California, or even to North America. There is no basis for continuing to allow private stables to occupy and destroy our public park. The stables should be eliminated and the stable sites returned to nature. A tiny group of equestrians should not be allowed to negatively impact the enjoyment, health and safety of the millions of non-equestrians that use the Marin GGNRA every year.

Filthy deposits of horse feces and urine negatively affects all non-equestrians. More importantly, the health hazards related to animal waste makes trails inaccessible to those with compromised immune systems, and makes ADA access difficult or impossible to those in wheelchairs. Feces and urine catchment bags should be required on the horses, or the equestrians required to carry trench shovels and bags and to pick up after their animals. These measures must be required, and not merely recommended. Signs should be posted at trail-heads warning users of the health hazards of equine waste, particularly to those with compromised immune systems.

The existing stable areas should be cleaned of feces, equine pharmaceuticals, pesticides, paints, chemicals, lead paint, asbestos and fuel. Substandard water, sewer and power lines must be replaced, and the structures retrofitted to mitigate the risk earthquake collapse.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 9**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Petaluma, CA 94952
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/22/2011 Date Received: 11/22/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To whom it may concern,

In regards to sustainable enjoyment by multiple users of our parklands, it is my concern that horse owners and riders take utmost care not to cause erosion to trails (especially in wet weather) and sedimentation of our waterways.

I would also like to see equestrians take more care with the wastes/manure caused by their horses. Attention should be paid especially to stored waste near waterways or above them.

I would like to see more multi use trail programs in conjunction with trails serving stable areas where feasible and in the NPS lands in general.

Best regards.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 10**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/25/2011	Date Received: 11/25/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Use of equine feces and urine catchment bags should be required, not just recommended. Disease laden equine waste precludes trail use by those with compromised immune systems, and is in direct violation of ADA.

To reduce severe damage, horses should not be allowed on wet trails.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 11

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/25/2011 Date Received: 11/25/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Providing stables for a few well connected equestrians is not the Park's Mission. Horses are exotic animals that are not native to California or even to North America. Providing valuable Public Lands and facilities for horse boarding facilities, particularly at less than market rates, is unfair to taxpayers and to other user groups. Is the NPS also going to provide a bicycle skills facility, an archery range, a shooting range, playing fields, and/or facilities for other user groups?

Steel shod 1200 pound horses destroy trails. Horses are intimidating flight – fright animals that are dangerous and which are incompatible with other trail users.

Equine feces and urine ruin the experience of other trail users, spread disease, and pollutes streams and ponds. Germ laden equine feces on trails preclude use by those with compromised immune systems, in clear violation of the ADA.

The stables should be closed. Horses on trails must either be equipped with feces and urine catchment bags, or the riders required to carry trench shovels and bags and to collect their animal's waste for proper disposal, as dog owners are required to do.

Horses should not be allowed on wet trails.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 12

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Sandy Greenblat
Organization: Marin Horse Council and others
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 105 Bay Way
San Rafael, CA 94901
USA
E-mail: sandygreenblat@comcast.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 11/25/2011 Date Received: 11/25/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for the long time, long term effort to properly qualify the continued presence of the horse in the lands of GGNRA.

The owner/manager of the Golden Gate Dairy/Muir Beach Stables has exhibited the highest degree of proper manage practices before and during the park's BMP study and results. She deserves exceptional consideration.

It is primarily apparent that the interest of the public, additional to the interest of the equestrian community, in connected directly to the proximity of this facility to Highway 1 and the great number of interested tourists. The public can easily see the facility and the horses from the roadway. Therein lies the connection. One can visit the horses, interact with the horses, bring their children to an exceptional experience, and in the end, all of this occurs because the horses are visible from the road.

It is critica that the horses remain in front of the barn area, adjacent to the roadway. Failing this, relocation of the horses to an area behind the barn will simply identify the barn as just another barn with little interest to all, other than the occasional painter or photographer. The presence of the horses is the key.

As an side, I encourage you to continue the relationship with the present management, to continue to allow the rustic presence of the buildings as opposed to any redesign, and to allow this horse facility to contionue as a viable part of GGNRA; benefitting all.

Thank you.

Sandy Greenblat

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 13

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Adele Anthony
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 33 S. Forty Pier
Sausalito, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/29/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I have had the opportunity to review the Environmental Assessment for the Marin Equestrian Plan and would like to make the following comments:

Thank you for deciding to keep horses in all three locations on the GGNRA. Boarding stables are getting further away from urban settings, and it is great to have closer access along with the (with) wonderful trails on the GGNRA - which is truly an equestrian and hiker's paradise. I love seeing the horses on the trail. I eagerly await the completion of the Dias Ridge Trail that will connect to the Redwood Creek Trail to help get people off the narrow Highway One. Something should be done to help slow traffic along this route. Even the tour buses travel at too great a speed along this straight away.

I support keeping independent management at each stable(s) as each has its own unique needs and opportunities to serve the Park Service.

My primary concern, however, is the horse stables in Muir Beach. I would like to have them remain visible, and not be relocated behind the original buildings. They are rustic and blend with the weathered hay barn and are enormously popular with the public who stop to take photos along with the mail boxes. Upgrading the stalls to blend historically would be acceptable, but moving them entirely out of sight is not. They are part of the landscape of the Muir Beach community.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adele Anthony

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 14**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/29/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The Marin Horse Council, Inc. (MHC) founded in 1981, is a California non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the horse in the landscape and lifestyle of Marin County. MHC is pleased to comment on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan and the draft preferred alternative. We commend you on the very thorough environmental assessment of the four alternatives presented for the improvement and location of the stables. The best interest of horses, preservation of the environment, and preservation of our historic and cultural heritage has all been considered. We are especially glad that the draft preferred alternative chosen for public comment intends to keep horses at Miwok, Presidio Riding Club, and the Golden Gate Dairy.

On a personal note, for many years I had the pleasure of riding a horse at the Golden Gate Dairy stables at Muir Beach. I am familiar with how much Ocean Riders has invested both financially and in hard labor to protect the environment from run-off from the stalls one now sees as you drive in. It would be a shame to entirely relocate them. From the public's perspective, I can't tell you how many times during that period I talked to people who stopped their cars, or walked over from the Pelican Inn, to simply "see" the horses. Who among us doesn't appreciate the sight of horses being ridden on a trail, grazing, or turned out in a corral? Horses are such a natural and integral part of the American landscape - and it should stay that way. We hope that -- to use the words from a famous Beatles song, "Let It Be" that things will stay pretty much the way they are.

Thank you again for your good works and for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 15

Author Information

Keep Private: Yes
Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/03/2011 Date Received: 12/03/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for your thorough and conscientious work on the "Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment"

I have some comments that I hope will be helpful.

Horses in Marin play an important but often unappreciated role in public safety, community well being, and maintenance of historical and cultural perspective. It is important for horses and other equines to remain visible throughout Marin. It is also important for equestrian facilities to be safe, functional, and accessible.

My background -- I live in San Francisco and board my horse, Dude, at Willow Tree Stables in Novato. I have been a member of the Mounted Sheriff's Posse of Marin County for a number of years and am currently serving as captain. (The Posse is a group of volunteer equestrian experts that have agreed to help the Sheriff's office as needed. All members undergo a full background check and ongoing training.) Myself and Dude have participated in many mounted Search & Rescue operations in all parts of Marin and out-of-county in response to mutual aid requests. We and the Posse have also participated in many public service events such as parades, mounted honor guard to fallen public safety officers, patrol of the parking lot during the Marin Co Fair, and other situations intended to benefit the public.

West Marin is a special place in the world. People come from all over the nation and the globe to experience our unique mix of rural, coastal, urban, and cultural blessings -- and we lucky ones who live, work, and play in Marin need to keep all those blessings in plain sight.

My main comments on the "Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment" would be to keep the horses at Golden Gate Dairy in plain site from the road. The horses are one of the only living reminders in the area that a

large part of Marin's cultural identity continues to be nurtured by our rural economies.

I would also like to point out that the stables in the GGNRA have played host to command centers for Search and Rescue operations in the area. Most recently, Lower Tennessee Valley stables served as command post for ground and mounted searchers who were deployed at night to find a missing young woman in the area. The close proximity of urban and suburban areas to rugged rural areas means that all the GGNRA stables should be considered an important resource for public safety and emergency response.

Thank you again for your good and valuable work. I hope that my comments are useful and that they help keep equines and equestrian activities a vital part of our community.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 16

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Kirsti J. Rogers
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 723 Alta Vista Rd
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/03/2011 Date Received: 12/03/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

There is not room at Miwok stables for the Park Horse Patrol! This would be a bad move! It would disrupt the functioning of Miwok Stables.

The stable they are already located at, down on Tennessee Valley trail, is perfect for the Park Patrol. We visit that stable regularly to talk to the patrols and see the horses. We were just out there last week and stayed for about 45 minutes. It is so nice to spend time with the horses out there in a quiet spot along Tennessee Valley.

This is a regular spot on our walking trails to stop while walking in Tennessee Valley and visit and they keep this stable up nicely. If they destroyed this barn, it would be sorely missed. They have worked hard on this barn and it would be upsetting for them to be moved.

We are regular visitors to Tennessee Valley trail and consider the stables that the Horse Patrol is currently located to be a place that should stay. Please keep them there! Their stable is nice and spacious and located in the perfect spot for them.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 17**

Author Information

Keep Private: Yes
Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/03/2011 Date Received: 12/03/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am very concerned about the proposed change of the Volunteer Park's Horse Patrol which is to move to Miwok Livery. From what I understand, the PHP has worked very hard in effort and finances with their barn where it is. They should be allowed to keep it as is.

In addition, the disruption of Miwok Livery would be untenable. Please consider the youth and adult students' safety, which would be endangered by the over-crowding of Miwok Livery.

Most sincerely,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 18

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/03/2011 Date Received: 12/03/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I ride at Miwok every week. The idea of moving all the 4 police horses to Miwok is a very bad idea for Miwok stables, horses and riders. Loosing 8 paddocks means loosing up to 8 horses from our school horses which means many more riders will loose their chance to ride including myself. There is already not enough space or parking for Miwok riders and all the walkers and runners and cyclists who share the area around the stables.

Sharing hitching posts, portapots and water is just not going to work. I guess you can add another portapot and pay for that but you can't add more water to the well and you can't make more outside space. It's not just the 4 horses and the space they take, it's the 32 people who come with them that is the biggest problem. All those riders are able to have free rides on the police horses in exchange for volunteering to look after them and they will not know the Miwok rules and safety will be a serious concern. Miwok takes safety very seriously and it's only safe around horses if all riders know and obey the rules and customs which are currently stringently enforced.

The other horses are on a different schedule and that will upset all the horses when they see other animals being fed and they are not. Currently any rider at Miwok can use the rings/arenas but adding so many extra riders and horses will be very hard on everyone. Or will you say that they can't use the rings/arenas? I doubt that. It's already hard to find space for everyone riding in the rings/Arenas, but now it just about works most of the time. Horses need space, and it's already taken up.

My daughter, age 6, who also rides every week at Miwok also wants to add in her own words;

"I do lessons at Miwok and I really want to keep doing it. And if this happens I will probably have to stop and I really want to keep going. I really love all the school horses and will be very upset if some of them have to go. Most of the school horses are very nice and I really love them and I want to keep them all. And I really hope none of them will have to be sold. Any of them. They are just really special to me. I've been waiting for a long time to ride at

Miwok and it's hard to get lessons there because they are always so booked up. Now I have lessons and I want to keep them. I really don't want this to happen because there's no space for that many people who would come with the horses. And my favourite one to ride is Sugar" It will be a disaster if this happens. This just can't happen."

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 19**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/03/2011 Date Received: 12/03/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

NPS

i am writing to ask you to reconsider your plan to relocate the Park Horse Patrol stable in Tennessee Valley to MIwok stables. I believe it will overcrowd the area and make it less peaceful and safe for the children who ride there, and for the horses who live there. The existing Park Horse Patrol stable seems in a fine location. It seems unnecessary to crowd the two groups of horses.

thank you

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 20

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Bianca Stark-Falcone
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011 Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

It seems that the NPS should rethink their Marin equestrian Stable Plan. Moving the volunteer park patrol to Miwok stables is going to disrupt two wonderful, very valuable programs in the GGNRA.

The Plan to move 4 -8 more horses to Miwok stables will add more congestion to an already congested and over used part of the park, between park vistors, various races and events and the regular bussiness that goes on at Miwok Stables, the parking lot at the end of tennessee Valley Rd., as well as the trail Head for Old Springs and Marincello are already crowded and a bit chaotic at times. Adding one more program that involves over 30 individuals is going to creat complete chaos and create a potentially hazardous situation for the the animals, the staff and particuarly the public.

Miwok Stables is already a very busy facility enjoyed by many visitors reguarly. The programs they offer are wonderful for all horse enthusiasts and safe. The programs run smothly and efficiently, so the facility is used to it's maximum in a smoth efficient and safe manner. Poeple Love being there, the horses are well taken care of: healthy and happy, and Miwok Stables does many wonderful things for the community.

Adding another program to this facility, which is already used to it's potential will distroy the harmony that now works at Miwok Stables. Not only will it become a less enjoyable place to visit because there will be too much happening but it will become unsafe. Not only will it be adding another program to an already very busy facility but it will be adding another enity that does not run under the umbrella of Miwok Stables. Trying to get two seperate entities, that are running two completly different programs and are not directly managed under one hand, to share a space sounds like a disaster! If the park Patrol moves in, as the two programs try to figure out how to co-exist animals and people are going to get hurt. That would be unfortunate.

The Park Patrol has a wonderful facility right now, that works very well for the program. Why take away something that works, that they are happy with and is a charming part of the Park? The volunteers that work there, love being there, the horses are are happy and healthy and also love their Job. Moving the program to an already busy facility will not make either the hosrse or the volunteers happy. The seren environment that works at the present facility will

be more stressful at Miwok Stables. The park patrol volunteers will not enjoy it as much, and the horses will not be as happy. Horses need regular routine, they need space, and as much calm as we can give them to thrive, to be happy and do their jobs best. Moving the park patrol horses to Miwok will disrupt that for the animals, they could become irritated, and restless and potentially get sick, hurt themselves or the people that take care of them.

Moving 4 - 8 new horses at one time to Miwok Stables will also disrupt the routine for the school horses and Boarded horses that already live there. Again these horses, as they adjust to the new animals there and being shuffled around, could get sick, harm themselves or harm the hundreds of people that come weekly to take lessons on them and enjoy the park.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 21

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
mill valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011 Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Miwok stables is a very special and unique place. We have a particular way of running things for the horses' best interest. The size is small and that's what makes it so precious. With the NPS intruding on the barn, it may confuse the horses and it will no longer be as quite. The sanctuary it provides for horses and riders alike, would be completely demolished if the NPS brings their horses because it would disrupt the calmness of the barn and all around flow of things. Miwok is perfect the way it is and the NPS already has a place in tennessee valley so why intrude on another?

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 22

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011 Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please reconsider moving the NPS horses to Miwok Stables. The GGNRA has been an amazing success story of restoration and making the beauty of Northern California's chaparral ecosystem available, visible, comprehensible, and enjoyable for visitors and residents alike. Miwok Livery provides access to this wonderful beauty and the amazing outdoor space for people who seek the connection with a horse in this beauty on a regular basis, and for those who would not take the time to explore and enjoy without the opportunity for an adventure on horseback.

I grew up riding at Miwok and I have experienced the joy of the GGNRA since the mid-1980's on horseback, bicycle, and foot. As lovely as another meadow would be, the stresses that adding more horses to the already crowded space would be detrimental to the horses, the people who care for them, and the people whose enjoyment of the GGNRA is contingent on the maintenance of the horses at Miwok.

The NPS horses would also suffer from the change because they would not be on the same schedule as the Livery horses. This stress will inhibit their ability to work effectively and efficiently for the NPS. It would be highly detrimental for all involved.

Thank you for considering my opinion as you make your decision.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 23

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011 Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I've been taking riding lessons at Miwok Stables and recently heard you were thinking about moving your stables to Miwok. I was kind of amazed that this would even be considered. While taking my lessons today, I walked around thinking how can this work. This is a tiny space and to take on more horses, paddocks, etc, etc is perplexing to me, there simply is not enough space.

I like what you do and in fact thinking about volunteering for your organization so I can help patrol the hills around Tennessee Valley but the idea that you think more horses, paddocks, etc would fit in the space without causing a tremendous amount of stress is unthinkable.

Thank you for hearing my opinion.

Best regards

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 24

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
sausaltio, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011 Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing to petition against having a horse patrol in miwok, mill valley. I feel this will lead to overcrowding and other issues that will be harmful to the horses there. J.B. Sausalito

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 25**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Gary E. Appell
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011 Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: Yes ([Master](#))
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

We are very much against the move of the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables because it will cause overcrowding at the stables and will strain the existing limited resources at the stables.

Thanks for considering our opinion.
Gary Appell

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 26

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011	Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: Yes (Master)
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

We are very much against the move of the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables because it will cause overcrowding at the stables and will strain the existing limited resources at the stables.

Thanks for considering our opinion.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 27

Author Information

[Redacted]
Name: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/04/2011	Date Received: 12/04/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: Master
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

We are very much against the move of the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables because it will cause overcrowding at the stables and will strain the existing limited resources at the stables.

Thanks for considering our opinion.

[Redacted]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 28

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent: 12/05/2011

Date Received: 12/05/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No

Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

This is going to disrupt the ambiance and serenity of the stable and surrounding area. I am against this project!

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 29

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
San Rafael, CA 94903
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/05/2011 Date Received: 12/05/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This is a TERRIBLE idea! Spending money in a down economy to remove useful and functioning buildings, only to spend more money to move the operation to an already fully functioning horse stable, and cause more overcrowding. How is this benefiting the public? Is this meadow adding to the personal enrichment of the public the way Miwok stables does? Does it have any outreach for at risk children or breast cancer survivors the way Miwok does? I think not. Does it allow the public to learn and practice horse riding within Southern Marin, with close access to SF for city dwellers? Again, I think not. The PHP should keep the functioning buildings they have and avoid this costly and merit less move into Miwok Stables. If you want to add to the park, allow Miwok to expand their paddocks and offer more horses to the PUBLIC. Isn't that what the parks are supposed to be about...THE PUBLIC? Miwok can be very crowded at times and reducing the number of paddocks and adding more people when it is unnecessary is a huge WASTE of resources. Miwok uses a spring in the summer months of no rain for ALL water uses. Adding more horses/volunteers and operations will be extremely taxing of this scarce resource. The move of the PHP would unnecessarily complicate a smoothly functioning horse stable and riding school. There are limited arenas and adding another layer of bureaucracy to a public facility is just plain bad government. BAD IDEA. DROP IT ALTOGETHER. I vote do not merge these facilities.

A concerned equestrian

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 30

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Lisa Preger
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail: lpreger@comcast.net

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/05/2011 Date Received: 12/05/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am extremely concerned that the proposed move of the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables will negatively affect the horses, staff, riders and area of the stables, resulting in:

- overuse of the existing facilities, including water, lunge rings, hitch rails, mounting yard, portable toilets and parking

- overcrowding within the area of Miwok stables due to the additional, and separate, facilities that will be constructed for the PHP horses, including a manure pad and debris box

The management of Miwok Stables puts the safety of its horses, staff and clients first (most of whom are beginner to intermediate riders). The public lesson schedule optimizes the limitations of the site. For example, during the rainy winter months, there is only one covered arena to exercise all of the horses.

The PHP already has a facility for their horses, staff and volunteers in Tennessee Valley. It would be costly to move to Miwok Stables (including the renovation of the Lopes Barn) and convert their current barn area to another use.

I strongly believe the PHP and Miwok Stables should remain separate.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986 Correspondence: 31

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Donna M. Davidson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1755 Franklin Street, #502
San Francisco, CA
San Francisco, CA 94109
USA
E-mail: dmdinsf@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/05/2011 Date Received: 12/05/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Moving the PHP to Miwok Stables would be a disruption to a tightly and efficiently run riding barn for children and adults from Marin and San Francisco counties. This plan would cause 1) overcrowding of horses, people, and cars, 2) require different horse feeding schedules 3) require sharing the riding arena which is already occupied with paying students and private horse owners 4) new stall installation which will eliminate school and private horse space, and 4) creation of new manure pad and debris box.

Is creating another meadow worth the permanent interruption this will cause the existing PHP and Miwok barns? Miwok Stables is unique in its beauty, location, finely tuned program and ethos. As a rider and volunteer there, this plan feels like an invasion that no one wants.

Please let the PHP keep the barn that they like and save taxpayer money and human and horse disruption by shelving this bad idea for good.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 32

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011	Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Whomever It May Concern,

We are part of the public and private riding program at Miwok stables. Both my daughter and I ride horses there. I am strongly opposed to the moving of the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol moving into the Miwok Stables for the following reasons:

THE SAFETY OF THE RIDERS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN: horses are naturally unpredictable and large animals. Already with the activities of the parking lot, bikers etc, they can spook and riders may be vulnerable to falling and injury. I am especially concerned about all of the children who ride at Miwok. Moving in a different set of horses with so much added traffic, additional gear, debris box, different feeding times, etc can upset horses and increase the risk of the children and other riders getting hurt.

PUBLIC MONEY WASTED: The stables the VPHP are already in are lovely and it is my understanding that those who are involved there, are settled, like it, and don't want to move. A lot of public money was also put into those facilities rather recently and in these hard economic times, it would be a waste of resources. There is a lot of land to explore and appreciate in TV already, another field will be more of the same. The horse facilities are actually a point of interest and a lovely reminder of the old dairy farm. Its a beautiful thing to see the VPHP horses grazing there.

I am also on the Board of Aim High, the educational non-profit that has the yurt in the same current vicinity of the VPHP. We do a tremendous amount of environmental teaching and community service for the park in TV. The man who runs the program was one of the park's Environmental Heroes of the Year. I was also a site director for the program. All of the financially disenfranchised, inner city youth we bring to the park through Aim High love seeing the horses adjacent to the yurt. Many of them have never seen a horse before and are subsequently inspired to learn

about them. The horses being close to the yurt add to the kids' learning experience. PLEASE LEAVE THE LOCATION OF THE VPHP WHERE IT IS. The horse community is harmonious with this set up - please don't upset that.

Thank you very much, 

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 33**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Do Not move the PHP to Miwok Stables. Those who know, love and have frequented Miwok stables for years would be extremely inconvenienced. The expense would be enormous and the environment and appeal disrupted. The PHP has a facility which they love and want to keep. Let's leave well enough alone!

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 34**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/05/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: E-mail
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The Coastal Commission staff submits the following comments on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA states in Chapters 1 and 5 that once the EA is completed, it and a letter regarding consistency with the federal Coastal Zone Management Act will be submitted by the NPS to the Commission for its review. The consistency determination would need to include analysis of the project's consistency with the applicable Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act, including those regarding public access and recreation, water quality, marine habitat and resources, environmentally sensitive habitat, agricultural resources, visual resources, and hazards. Guidance in preparing a consistency determination can be found at the federal consistency section of the Commission's website. Please contact me should you have any questions regarding the federal consistency process for your proposed project.

Regards,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 35**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing to oppose the movement of the NPS Tennessee Valley Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables.

First, as a taxpayer and member of the community it seems like an amazing waste of money to abandoned a barn area that has been recently renovated and put to great use. It is my understanding that the NPS volunteers likes the facility, have put a lot of time and money into it, and should be allowed to keep it. There is so much land and open space, why dump more \$\$ into tearing down a barn to "restore" a meadow that is not really of use to people and is not acting as a detriment to the environment and animal life. The current NPS Horse Patrol Barn is a lovely little spot tucked away behind a row of trees. I actually appreciate its location for my own feeling of safety. I often walk to Tennessee beach on my own, and the presence of horses and NPS volunteers is both nice for a community feeling as well as a personal security feeling.

Second, the impact on Miwok Stables will be significant for the users of the stables, the animals, and the environment. There will be overcrowding of animals, equipment and people. It will stress the availability of water at the site, which all comes from a spring.

Please save our money and spend on a more worthwhile project that is needed, will not cause such disruption and is not so singular-minded.

Best,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 36

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I do not think it is a good idea for the Park Stables to move to Miwok. It will disrupt the program they have there and interfere with the routine they have.
It seems like an unnecessary and expensive move and in this time when the state is struggling financially it does not make sense to spend money on this initiative.
Do not move the park stables to Miwok.
Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 37

Author Information

Keep Private: [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

This is in regard to relocating the Park Horse Patrol horses for the Marin Headlands to Miwok Stables at Tennessee Valley:

The NPS makes possible the equestrian experience many of us enjoy at Miwok Stables, so I think it is appropriate for us to accommodate the reasonable needs of the NPS. While there may be a feasible way to incorporate the PHP at Miwok, this plan isn't it.

There are considerations -- such as adding eight paddocks and having different feeding times for the horses -- on which I have no expertise and leave to Linda Rubio and her staff to address. But the proposed new structures in the site plan are completely impractical.

While the area proposed for the new structures appears vacant, it is the main thoroughfare for horses going from from the arenas, pipe paddocks and most of the trail heads at one end of the property to the tack room, stalls and one trail head at the other end. Looking at the plan, I cannot see how any horses would get through there, much less several horses moving in opposite directions.

There is also a safety issue. Recently, one of the stable horses kicked another in the large arena when they came too close together. The horses are kept in individual stalls & paddocks, so they are not used to close quarters. Because the animals are inherently unpredictable, we maintain safety by allowing sufficient space between them. I do not see how this would be possible if the proposal were implemented.

Have someone spend a few days at the stable -- particularly on a Saturday or Sunday -- and you will see what I mean.

I hope this doesn't sound like a Not in My Backyard message. I would like to find a way to accommodate the PHP if possible, but the traffic and safety issues that would accompany this plan make it severely impractical.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 38

Author Information

Keep Private: [REDACTED]
Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

NO, no, no, no on moving the horse patrol to Miwok Stables. I am most concerned about safety of the riders - Linda Rubio runs a wonderful, tremendously safe operation...adding more animals and riders not directly under Miwok's supervision disrupts the careful procedures and flows. Animals are unpredictable and this would upset the balance that has been maintained. There is already too much activity in the parking lots on the weekend. Adding more noise, activity, and logistics would likely be to the disadvantage of everyone - from the NPS to the Miwok riders.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 39**

Author Information

Keep Private:

Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I have been a horse owner at Miwok Stables for the past 11 years. I am opposed to the plan to add 4 additional horses to the stables as it will eliminate the paddock area my horse has occupied for years and add to the congestion in the area surrounding the red barn. Parking is also at a premium on the weekends and will only be impacted more with additional personnel on the premises.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 40**

Author Information

Keep Private: [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New

Date Sent: 12/06/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Contains Request(s): No

Notes:

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Received: 12/06/2011

Form Letter: No

Type: Web Form

Correspondence Text

I reject the NPS plan to move the Volunteer Horse Patrol to the Miwok Stables. They are just moving in and taking over other people's projects that have been built up over the years. It will cause crowding and excessive use of facilities that have been efficient only because the proprietors of Miwoke Livery pay extreme attention to safety and primarily their care is for the horse livelihood.

This is a rudeness and Anarchistic take over that should be DENIED

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 41

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Susan Allison-Litton
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1580 Waller St
San Francisco, CA 94117
USA
E-mail: susie61allison@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please don't move the Tennessee Valley/GGNRA Volunteer Park Ranger Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables. The Miwok Stables are a busy barn with the facilities in constant use by students who ride in the public lesson program plus boarders and stable staff. Horses are constantly moving around stalls to rings to paddocks to trails for lessons, shows, trips to the vet and other activities. People also trailer in outside horses to use the horse trails, adding to parking and traffic congestion in the Miwok Stables area. There is also a lot of car, bicycle and hiker traffic going through the Miwok Stables. Adding the Park Ranger horses and their nearly 60 volunteers to the crowd won't be good for the Park Ranger program or the Miwok program. Let the rangers and their horses and volunteers stay where they are. They have worked hard and spent a lot of money on recent upgrades to their facilities, which are nice and quiet, and unlike Miwok Stables, accessible only by approved Park Service vehicles or on foot or horseback. The Park Ranger program and the Miwok public riding program both provide valuable equestrian opportunities and services to users of the GGNRA, but they serve different needs. Trying to combine the two operations into a single facility will create overcrowding and be destructive to both programs.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 42**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I ride at the Miwok stables and the proposal to remove paddocks while adding more horses, buildings and people does not seem to make good sense.

The area where it is proposed that a new barn is erected, and where the rangers would have their headquarters, is in a very busy area of the stables - it's an area where horses, either with riders or being led in hand, frequently have to pass each other. It's also where riders prepare in groups to set out for trail rides.

When you're working with horses, you need as large and clear an area as possible for tacking up, mounting and leading animals past each other for safety reasons - the proposals would make that area less safe.

I believe the rangers have a great facility presently that they're very happy with and an additional meadow doesn't seem to be in such great demand in the valley that both the rangers' and Miwok's horses should be subjected to increased stress that the proposals would cause.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 43**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011	Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello, I am writing in regards to the Marin Equestrian Assessment to strongly urge you NOT to proceed with the plan to add the volunteer ranger program to Miwok Stables. I truly believe it would be a huge mistake and would most assuredly overcrowd and greatly disrupt this stable. The horses would suffer the most, from the added noise, activity and crowding. Presently the stable is like a big elegant dance that happens daily with these majestic creatures and devoted riders. Everyone has to shift and allow space and time for groups and classes. Miwok is devoted to the animals and also partakes in wonderful outreach programs to people overcoming trauma while experiencing horsemanship as therapy. This, along with daily classes for adults and afterschool programs for the children living in Marin. It is a rich, and busy environment that keeps that balance with all that it holds. Please don't disrupt Miwok.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 44**

Author Information

Keep Private: [redacted]
Name: [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident of Mill Valley and a frequent visitor of the Tennessee Valley park area, I do not believe that moving the horse patrol to the public stables is the right choice for either organization. Besides the already mentioned concerns:

- Overcrowding, especially the stable yard where the NPS plans to install the PHP horses, stalls and headquarters - in the busiest hub of the stables.
- Sharing Horse drinking water from the spring (all Miwok water comes from the spring; no Water District pipes)
- Sharing Utilities
- Another Manure pad and debris box
- Feed and Turn-in/out with two different schedules upsets horses - some in, some out, some fed, some not.

I feel that there are major safety concerns with having 30 untrained volunteers working around a different herd of horses which they do not know anything about. This is a recipe for disaster. All expenses paid by the park service? You mean all expenses paid by the tax payers, don't you? Why should the tax payers foot the bill to set-up another facility when they already have a perfectly functioning existing facility? I for one do not approve! The NPS should keep the volunteer horse patrol separate from a public barn...plain and simple.

Thank you for reading for comments.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 45

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Rachel A. Hawkins
Organization:
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 270 Morning Sun Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

The Stables at Miwok have always been a source of pleasure for me and my family. We love the Tennessee Valley Area and spend a good deal of time there on the weekends and exercising in the early morning and the afternoons. In addition in the past 3 years, my daughter has been riding at Miwok stables, and this has become a great passion for her. The stable is set up in such a way that my daughter is able to ride without owning her own horse, which would be cost prohibitive to our family.

This change will create two huge drawbacks in my opinion:

First, the traffic will increase in an area that is already plagued by terrible traffic and parking problems on the weekends. Many cars park along the street and this creates visibility issues as well as increases the opportunity for accidents.

The other change that will ensue is an adjustment to the offerings at Miwok which is a child - friendly riding experience and none other exist in Southern Marin.

Please leave the current barn as is!! This change would be a huge disruption both to the ecology and the current lovely stable...

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 46**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Christine Unruh
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
San Francisco, CA 94118
USA
E-mail: finnedit@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please do not move the NPS Horse Patrol to the Miwok Livery area. Miwok offers children from the city an opportunity to build their confidence by getting comfortable on large animals. The addition of the NPS horses will make the Miwok Stables too crowded and potentially could disrupt the opportunity for riding classes and summer camps for inner city children.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 47**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011	Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Please be thoughtful with your criteria for deciding whether or not to incorporate the horse patrol at Miwok. It is a very vibrant yet crowded stable and just barely works with the resources it has to make it a go with the current inventory of horses.

Please take a close look at what is being proposed. It could be dangerous and no doubt costly.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 48

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I don't believe the National Park Service should move their horses to Miwok Stables. The PHP is happy with their current situation, Miwok Stables is happy with theirs. Since neither constituency has a desire to change their stabling situation, I don't believe the NPS should intervene and interfere with the operations of two organizations that are in harmony now, which work together well as they are.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 49

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I do not think that the park rangers should move to Miwok Stables. There is already limited space and lots of horses, and this would only create more of a problem. One thing I like about Miwok is how it is very low key, and there are not too many people coming and going other than the riders. This would create more foot traffic and more horse traffic if the plan was put into action. It would also create more things for the horses to spook at. Miwok functions very well the way it is, and a change this big would drastically disrupt this system. No park rangers at Miwok!

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 50

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Betty Riess
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
San Francisco, CA 94118
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please don't move the PHP into the Miwok Stables. It is quite full already and adding more horses and people will make it overcrowded. Thank you. Betty Riess

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 51**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hi,

I have been taking adult riding lessons and riding the surrounding trails at the Miwok Livery off and on for approximately 6 years. While I am completely in support of the Horse Patrol, I think that stabling the horses at Miwok is a poorly-conceived idea.

Miwok has very limited resources. The existing infrastructure (barns, paddocks etc) just supports the minimal needs of the current equine population. (The horses are limited to paddock turnout with no access whatsoever to pasture.) Water is also a significantly limited resource. The physical plant has been carefully scrutinized to support a maximum number of horses while meeting their essential needs. Adding additional horses, without increasing the LAND AREA and WATER RESOURCES will place an extreme burden on the existing plant and equine population.

This is not about anthropomorphizing horses. The proposal would not only create a less than acceptable environment for the existing horses, but the Horse Patrol's horses as well.

Regards,

[Redacted]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 52**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/06/2011 Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear NPS,

Having taken lessons and ridden at Miwok Stables for a number of years, I can say with great certainty that moving the Horse Patrol from its current location to Miwok is a terrible idea. Miwok Stables has to be one of -- if not the - best-managed stables in a national park. It walks a tightrope between providing a high quality riding and boarding experience for serious riders (many of them children) while providing an accessible riding experience for "daytrippers" who just want to get out in the Marin Headlands beautiful trails. And it does this while respecting the natural environment of the park (limited water, etc. It's a very fine balancing act that will be thrown into chaos if Miwok suddenly has to accommodate the Horse Patrol 4 horses and 30 riders (a HUGE increase in the number of people regularly using the stable).

The idea of moving the Horse Patrol to Miwok may look good on paper but it will create a terribly overcrowded situation that will further tax the limited space and water supply that Miwok carefully utilizes.

Please do not go through with this disastrous plan. Thank you,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 53

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011 Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

We need to keep horses healthy and continue their access at the three locations affected by the plan. People don't turn out to visit cows. Horses connect people to the environment and ground them, improving our crowded city life.

We need to maintain and improve these facilities for the environment, but balanced with the needs of the facilities and their need to maintain the horses in a healthy, safe manner.

More specifically I agree with the following:

- National Parks General Management Plan is Connecting People to Parks... horses are the draw to bring people onto the site (GGD)... restored dairy buildings are not as much of a draw as the horses are so keep some horse stalls up front and visible. A non-isolation paddock/shelter (where a horse can see other horses) is important at each facility.
- Golden Gate Dairy has been an equestrian farm for over 50 years and the cultural landscape has 'evolved' from cows to horses.
- Community and public has overwhelmingly supported keeping the horses visible during GMP comment period. Center of Muir Beach and part of the landscape along with the mail boxes.
- Support for keeping the present (and independent) management that has already invested much into the protection of natural resources
- In restoring the historical buildings find ways to blend the stables with the existing buildings and keeping it rustic rather than a 'perfect model of the past'.
- Allow residence to go to either onsite manager or program director to streamline and coordinate better onsite oversight.
- Connect the Dias Trail; Phase II safety trail and Redwood Creek Trail without reducing the arena. Arena reduction by operators to enhance Natural Resource protection. Reduce the proposed reduction (20 feet) of the stables' arena

for trail and bus stop to
10 feet.

- Encourage construction of horse safe bridges for two of the Redwood Creek crossings to protect banks and salmon habitat and allow for safe horse crossing.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 54**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent:	Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Letter
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean,

My thanks to the Park Service for maintaining a horse presence in Southern Marin at each of the three barns, and especially the one in Muir Beach.

I am a visitor to Muir Beach from time to time, enjoying the trails, the Pelican Inn, and the sight of these beautiful animals. While often I just look at them as I go by, they bring great pleasure, and I am thrilled to know they are being allowed to stay.

Ocean Riders has seemed a very reasonable community. I have seen the time and energy they have put into their location over the years, and I am so glad they can stay and continue to keep these beautiful big buildings in use for their historic purposes.

Yours,

[Redacted]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 55

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Todd Werby
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Not Available
SF, CA 94123
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a member of the public, a member of the equestrian community of Marin County, and a member of the Golden Gate Parks Conservancy with regard to the Marin Equestrian Plan.

I want to commend the National Park Service for recommending that the current three stables continue operations as equestrian facilities. I'm glad that we have all recognized that the overwhelming majority of the public enjoy seeing and interacting with horses in the Parks.

With regard to proposals for the Golden Gate Dairy at Muir Beach, I have a few comments that I hope you would take into consideration while finalizing the plan.

1) The current configuration of the stalls allows the public to see the horses and the horses to see each other. I think it would be unwise to change this configuration in order to try to restore the facility to some historical ideal that no longer has any meaning to the public.

2) It's helpful to have someone available on-site in case of an emergency. To the extent that the farm house can be used for this purpose, it seems well advised.

3) The idea of having a covered arena is a good one. It enables the horses to be exercised in inclement weather while minimizing impact on wet trails.

Finally, I'd like to commend to you the current management of the Golden Gate Dairy. They are very dedicated to the Stables and the Park, and they are fully invested in protecting the natural resources and implementing Best

Management Practices.

Very truly yours,

Todd Werby

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 56**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011	Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

I definitely DO NOT want the horse patrol to be relocated to the miwok stables. The horse patrol already has an incredible facility and should stay where they are. If the patrol moved to the Miwok stable it would cause a lot of unwanted congestion and overuse of the facility. Why build and spend tons of money when the park service already has a beautiful facility. Furthermore one of the park service proposals is to build a turn-out area in the old "hunt Field", we at Miwok have requested a turn-out in that area and others for years, and have been denied for environmental reasons. Why not spend the enormous amount of money the park service is talking about on improving the quality of life for the horses, both park service and miwok stable horses. Both facilities could use more turn-out areas for the horses a humane and justifiable expense of funds.

People are amazed and pleased that there is so much of a natural horse presence in Tennessee valley, (both at Miwok and parkhorse areas). Many non barn related people over many years have enjoyed seeing, meeting and communicating with the horses. Many have been coming to see the horses with their children and grandchildren. Please, if you have the money to spend on improving the facilities and the quality of life for the horses and the humans spend it on improvement to the current facilities. The general public have enjoyed the natural horse environment for years, why change and congest things that already work.

Thank you for your consideration.. [Redacted]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 57

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Lynn Ichinaga
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 787 Atherton Avenue
Novato, CA 94945
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

As a long time resident of Marin County, I am appreciative that the Golden Gate Dairy stables will remain open to horses. My 5 year-old twin daughters and I have visited this site several times and they are captivated by the beautiful horses and love to explore the rustic stables.

I am writing in support of keeping some of the horse stalls up front and visible from the road. Most people would not know that there are horses at this location if we couldn't see them from the road. When we've visited, the people at the stable have been so friendly and informative. This is the only opportunity that my children, and I imagine many others, have to see horses in real life, up close. It has been very educational for them to see how the horses are cared for, trained, and how they live.

I feel that the horses add a lot of character to the Muir Beach area, even when just driving by and they are part of the scenery. More importantly, I think they will draw people in to explore the restored dairy buildings and provide an opportunity to strengthen the human-animal connection and also, our connection to the history of the area.

My only other request would be to explore ways to slow down traffic near the stables and intersection to Muir Beach. I have observed that people drive very fast and there have been a lot of pedestrians, bike riders and people on their horses when I've visited. It does seem dangerous to cross the street given the speed of the traffic.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope that you will find a way to meet your goal of restoring the Golden Gate Dairy, while keeping the horses visible from the road.

Sincerely,

Lynn Ichinaga

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 58

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent:	Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Letter
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Hello Superintendent Dean:

I will miss seeing the park horses down the Tennessee Valley trail-Miwok is so crowded with lessons and visitors, it is always nice to find a quiet place to talk to the park horses.

I totally understand the Park's mission to reach to the most people in the most sustainable way and want to work with you to keep all three Marin stables open to horses. Connecting People to Parks is a great plan and the horses are the draw to bring people.

Thank you again and I hope to work with you on this Parks General Management Plan Connecting People to the Parks.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 59**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Andrew Chandler
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 828 N. Queen Avenue
Tucson, AZ 86303
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am pleased to learn that the park service is working to keep horses visible at the Golden Gate Dairies. I am also pleased to learn of the plan to restore the buildings on site. I am not, however, in support of putting horses that are boarded there out of view of the public in order to do this. Visiting the horses is a wonderful experience and displacing them would be a loss to those who enjoy the park. I appreciate that this topic is open to public contribution and I wish you the best in reaching a compromise that works for both the public and the park.

Thank you,

Andrew Chandler

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 60

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Laura Pandapas
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 267 Sunset Way
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

As a resident of Muir Beach, I am pleased the Marin Equestrian Plan intends to keep the horses at the Golden Gate Dairy.

I have always enjoyed seeing the horses as I pass by. They are such an integral part of the feel of Muir Beach. I hope that the proposed changes include keeping the horse stables in front adjacent to the current arena. I believe that this would fit in ideally with the NPS General Management Plan's theme of "Connecting People to Parks", as the horses are the real draw bringing the public in to visit the Dairy. The rustic look of the old dairy buildings also provide charm, so I hope any restoration, or additional construction, done will keep the flavor of these old structures.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Best regards,

Laura Pandapas

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 61

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: James McLachlan
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 11 Sierra Court
Tiburon
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA
E-mail: seamusmcl007@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011 Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing to express my support for Alternative A - leave evrything as is. My rationale is that the EA highlights that there is no impairment of Park resources under this alternative. So basically everything, environmentally, is just fine as it is today.

So why the need for a change which will raise and concentrate congestion at Miwok Stables, limit the access currently enjoyed by the users of the Stables, and raise the risk of creek contamination from the higher horse count at the Stables. In the short term there is the potential risk of additional erosion from the work that would be done to raze the patrol's existing facilities.

All in all, having been through the documents, I can see no reason to support the NPS preferred alternative, B2, and again express my support for Alternative A which maintains the environmental status quo, assessed as being of no impairment to the Park resources or values.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 62**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011	Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Out of all the ideas the park has come up with, moving the park horses to miwok is probably the worst. spending thousands of dollars to destroy a perfectly good barn and rebuilding a new one is stupid. there is no need for another meadow in the park, the animals have PLENTY of room and are fine without one. i do agree, however, with putting the red barn and lopes house to good use. when people go to miwok stables, its either to ride a horse or to look at them, not to see a "historical milking house and barn". all of the money that would be used for this project could be used for something more necessary, like paving the roads and parking lot or something else that actually makes sense. moving the park horses to miwok will just complicate everything. the stables wont be the same anymore and the two different systems will clash and more and more problems will come. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!!

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 63

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Grace Towle
Organization:
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address:
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011 Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please do NOT send your horses to Miwok Stables. I am a rider on their show team, and I love Miwok the way it is. It is already crowded and there are already enough horses their. Also if you send your horses to Miwok us show team riders would have to pass by horses that we aren't allowed to ride, which let me tell you is hard enough already. If you put your horses there we would have to spend more money feeding and watering your horses instead of just taking care of ours. Please do not put your horses at miwok it would not make us very happy or proud of our park service and Miwok is fine the way it is.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 64**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011 Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear National Park Service:

I'd like to voice my concerns and objections to your possible plan for moving the Park Horse Patrol to the Miwok Stable location.

It seems the current barn used by the Park Horse Patrol serves their needs quite well and is a perfect location for their purpose. The Miwok Stable area is a busy, fully functioning barn and to add additional buildings and horses would, in my opinion, have a negative impact on everyone concerned: horses, people, and programs.

The important public outreach work being done at Miwok, as well as the superb public livery program should not be subjected to overcrowding, limited water supplies, and any number of other inconveniences that may result.

Please, make every effort to find another solution, or keep the Park Horse Patrol in their current location.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 65

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011 Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I have read NPS Equestrian Plan and as a student at Stables, a mountain biker and hiker at Tennessee Valley I must oppose the Marin Equestrian Plan for environmental reasons. Relocating the Park Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables would have a major environmental impact upon the area and create serious safety issues. It is a lose-lose situation. I see no benefit to move the PHP and open a headquarters and Volunteer Center to an already small and well-used area merely to reclaim a small meadow and overuse another. This is especially since the PHP, in its established location, and a Volunteer Center together can disperse congestion and be a safer environment for horses and people.

The PHP should remain in its current location to help disperse the already overcrowded Miwok Stables area. Two areas, the parking lot on Tennessee Valley and Miwok Stables, act as axes to the trails on Tennessee Valley road and through and above Miwok Stables. On any given day, the lower parking lot is completely full with automobiles, buses and trailers competing for anyplace to park along both sides of the road and up to Miwok Stables. Relocating the PHP to Miwok Stables would bring more cars and people into Miwok Stables. Parking is already limited at the stables. The move would not enhance the the cultural and natural environment but constrict the usage by overcrowding.

Stable design and management can have a direct impact upon the health of the horse. The space at Miwok Stables is small but has been organized to safely accommodate the current activities. New paddocks, more horses and riders with feed turnout/in, additional usage of the barn, house, arenas, utilities, more cars parked (where there is already limited parking), another manure pad and debris box are just a few examples of how the overcrowding will create major safety issues. Sharing of the limited spring water supply is a concern, especially given the dry summer and fall season common to the area.

Regarding usage, there are very young children and adults who walk horses to and from paddocks, stalls and arenas for classes. Classes are always sold out throughout the year. It is always busy at Miwok Stables. The Miwok staff have always emphasized safety of horses and people by being alert to noises and disruptions which might startle the horse, creating a dangerous situation for horse and rider. Riders are on alert by noises from parking lot while riding the larger arena (adjacent to the lower parking lot) and while walking or riding a horse within Miwok. A busier stable area with more people who do not share the importance of safety for the horses or students, young and old, will create unsafe conditions.

Having a Visitor Center and PHP at Miwok Stables will bring more people to the stables and it will be a safety issue for all. Visitors will roam unsupervised, pet and feed the horses and they could get bit, stepped on or kicked because of not knowing the disposition of the particular horse.

Visitors unaware and not use to an equine barn could also be exposed to respiratory symptoms. Refer to the study in the Oxford Journal, Feb. 2009 online.

Visitors will also have a direct impact on the health of the horses. Direct contact through hand feeding from horse to horse does spread disease amongst the horses. Equine Virus is real, as evident throughout the Bay Area this past March, 2011. The feeding schedule Miwok staff and students, the Visitor Center staff or the Volunteer Horse Patrol would not be able to educate all visitors, and that is a safety concern for horse and people.

I implore you to acknowledge the destructive environmental impact and real safety problems that will arise if the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol and a Visitor Center should be moved to Miwok Stables.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 66**

Author Information

Keep Private: [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011 Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

While all the options have pros and cons, it should also be noted that if any sites are eliminated there will be an impact to how many people may ride. Public programs are ONLY accessible at Miwok Stables (Tennessee Valley) at this time. As a 'public rider', I have been able to enjoy the GGNRA from horseback because of Miwok Stables for the last 14 years. Any changes as in reduction of public stables would greatly impact me. I enjoy the horses and the care they receive at Miwok. Please consider keeping what is present and perhaps adding other public places for those of us who enjoy the outdoors from horseback but don't have our own horse!

thank you

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 67

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Jill Anderson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 17 Eton Way
Mill Valley, CA
Marin County, CA, CA 94941
USA
E-mail: jajand@comcast.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/07/2011 Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

1. Thank you for the meeting tonight 12/7 at Tennessee Valley Cmu Center.
 2. I asked why the NPS needed horses in the park -- the answer was "it's a tradition" and "for parades." I believe this is not the time to stick to some traditions. The gov't can't afford it. Lease the horses to a community organization and save all the money the NPS is about to spend. We can get back to tradition later.
 3. It is frustrating that there are no rough cost estimates available for all the alternatives, or for upgrading the current facility. How can a person make an intelligent decision without factoring in the costs? What if, instead of disrupting what is currently working at the various stables, what if you put that same amount of money that you would be using to build, remove, remodel, etc. into fixing up the current location?
 4. The NPS wants to revert the current facility back to wetlands. But they are taking a huge, natural open area at Miwok and converting it into a turnout that will be trampled down and turned to mud. Doesn't make sense to me. Plus it is filled with gopher holes which is dangerous to horses. And the annual community easter egg hunt will have to be discontinued.
 5. Are visitors to Tennessee Valley complaining about seeing the NPS' horse facilities on their walk to the beach? I've been down there many times and you can barely see the facility from the road/paths. I don't think it is an issue for anyone other than the "grand plan" of the Park. Has there been a survey taken of the walkers (taxpayers!) of what they think of spending all this money?
 6. The potential loss of turnouts at Miwok is a detrement to the horses. There won't be enough for each horse, which means some will have to stay in their stalls on some days.
 7. My Conclusion: save all the money the NPS is spending on surveys, meetings, consultants, graphic designers, and the money that will be spent to move, design, build barns, stalls, etc. and use it to upgrade the current facility. Plant some tall trees around the current facility if there is concern about it being seen from the road/paths.
- THANK YOU

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 68**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/08/2011	Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Please do not burden the Miwok Stables with the addition of housing the volunteer horse patrol. I have ridden at Miwok for eleven years; and though I no longer live in California, whenever I come back to visit family I ride at Miwok. Miwok took me from a non-rider to an advanced intermediate equestrian and beginning jumper. Miwok enables children and adults to become adept equestrians with a very safe, technically skilled and creatively varied riding program. Within thirty minutes of a major metropolitan city you have a jewel of a riding school available to the general public; along with outreach programs for cancer survivors and at risk youth.

Presently the volunteer horse patrol and Miwok stables both have separate facilities, which support each of their respective charters to offer programs and/services to the public. Neither of these two organizations want this move to combine their facilities to take place. Listen to them; listen to your people who are on the ground day-in- day-out serving the public.

Please do the right thing.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 69**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/08/2011 Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

If I understand the Golden Gate National Recreation Area was created for the people.
This particular issue is pretty clear. KEEP THE HORSES IN THE FRONT.
Have you ever witnessed people approaching a horse for the first time in their life?
Well you should.
The beauty and awe is sometimes the greatest gift you can give a fellow human being.
This I have had the Pleasure of experiencing many times over.
When many people see a horse there is a natural spiritual attraction.
It is an uncanny Phenomena that is known the world over.
PLEASE KEEP THIS GIFT FOR THE PEOPLE.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 70

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Heather M. Millar
Organization:
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 35 Lopez Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
USA
E-mail: hmillar@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/08/2011 Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To whom it may concern:

I think it would be a great loss if Miwok Stables were to be converted to a stables only for the NPS Horse Patrol.

There are very, very few places left in the Bay Area where kids can learn to ride a horse. Connection with animals is key to fostering a love and respect for nature.

Miwok has run an excellent program for decades and it's a public service to have it where it is. Miwok's rates are reasonable and their instruction is top notch. We are not a rich family, but we make sacrifices so that our daughter can take lessons at Miwok. Please don't change this wonderful place.

Heather Millar

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 71

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/08/2011	Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

I strongly oppose the relocation of the Park Stable to Miwok. The Miwok facility is already full - both in terms of parking and # of horses. There is not room for additional horses, manure pads, paddocks, hitching posts, etc., and there is not enough water for all. The Park Stable is currently located at a nice facility, which was recently substantially upgraded, at substantial cost and effort of the park service and/or the volunteers. There is no reason for the change. In addition, this is not the time for the GGNRA to incur the substantial cost of effecting the proposed changes. It would be financially irresponsible to do so and would give fodder to those who would disband or substantially reduce the budgets of these agencies and departments. Finally, it should be remembered the the volunteer park patrol adds very little value to the GGNRA. There is random and occasional riding of the trails, but it is so infrequent as to provide little service to the citizens and taxpayers. So the proposed change would really just subsidize the hobby of a couple of park rangers/volunteers. On the other hand, Miwok serves the public in many important ways, through its many children's and outreach programs. What I am saying is that, if the Park Service wants to dismantle the Horse Patrol barn, it should terminate the volunteer horse patrol as well rather than unnecessarily burdening the Miwok facility. My recommendation would be to leave all as is. Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 73

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/08/2011 Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing to strongly object to your proposal to move the volunteer horse patrol into the Miwok Stables in Tennessee Valley. My reasons are numerous and enumerated as follows:

The Miwok Livery Stables and its public riding and outreach programs are a tremendous asset to our community. The summer riding program is taught to 300 children a week, in addition to ongoing adult classes. During the rest of the year they serve at least 250 riders a week, including 100 children in the after school program. With outreach programs and public events, such as Easter Egg Hunts and horse shows, they accommodate an additional 1700 visitors a year.

The Livery currently has one small, unheated, room, with a few child-sized plastic chairs and tables, where the summer session campers can eat their lunch or try to get warm in our cold and foggy summers. There's no warm place for the after school kids to wait for their parents, and the women from the Marin General Hospital Cancer Outreach program have to use those child-sized tables and chairs for their post riding discussions. Many of these women are in the midst of breast cancer treatments and would certainly benefit from a warm, dry room for their meetings.

If the NPS is willing to spend the funds to renovate the Lopes House then it should be given to the Miwok Livery whose staff, hundreds of students, volunteers and outreach participants would benefit from it the most. I believe they have asked the NPS for the use of the house many times in the past.

Additionally, turning the house over to the PHP means that the Livery will lose its trail ride staging area, which is currently in front of the house. It is the only place where Livery staff can safely assemble up to as many as 8 riders at a time.

Also, your plan for creating 4 new stalls and paddocks and using the red barn for hay storage could not have been given a worse location, since they are all situated in the busiest hub of the barn! It might look good on paper but it was not very well thought out in practical terms.

The red barn is much too small to use for hay storage and there's no way a hay truck is going to be able to maneuver into the front of it. The current hay barn, located at the back of the Livery is perfectly sized and situated, and was designed for the purpose of storing hay. It was NOT meant for horse stalls as it has no cross ventilation, just stagnant air. Any horse forced to live in it will surely develop serious respiratory problems.

This plan will also mean the loss of 8 paddocks for Livery and private horses. I don't see any other accommodations for these horses in your proposal. So, where are they supposed to go? Horses can't stand around in their stalls all day. They need room to move, fresh air, socialization with other horses. If you don't have paddocks for them, they will have to go, which means fewer horses for the public riding program. Does this make sense?

Your plan to turn an existing, thriving meadow into a PHP turn-out area again, might look good on paper, but is totally impractical. First, many years ago that same area was an open hunt field, which was actually not used very often by the Livery. Why? Because it is bowl shaped and turns into a wet bog in the rainy season. At some point, the NPS ordered the hunt field dismantled, so that the vegetation could be restored to its natural state. And now you want to turn it into an enclosed turn-out area? Please tell me, what is the purpose of dismantling the current PHP location if you are just going to trash another meadow somewhere else? Especially one with poor drainage that will basically be unusable for up to 4 or 5 months a year!

Equally as ill considered is the fact that the turn out area is located right next to a riding ring. All it takes for a serious accident is to have the PHP horses start acting up in their turn-out and getting the Livery horses bucking and snorting while they have kids on their backs! Horses are herd animals ... if they see horses acting up anywhere around them they will join in.

And speaking of herds, the Livery horses are all used to being fed and turned out at the same time every day. Since the PHP horses will be on a different feeding and turn-out schedule, it's going to get all the Livery horses riled up when their food doesn't show up at the same time, or if the PHP horses are put away earlier in the afternoon. They are very much creatures of habit and changes to their routine are very stressful.

Coordinating the safety of every adult and child, who ride at different levels and with differing skills takes a tremendous amount of organization and control, and is the number one priority at Miwok. Horses can be highly unpredictable and it is essential to have rules and regulations in place for the safety of everyone.

Adding the Park Horse Patrol and 30 volunteers into the midst of this is a recipe for disaster. Livery personnel will have NO control over the horsemanship of all these people. They will not be familiar with Livery horses and simply tying unfamiliar horses next to each other could create a very dangerous situation. Even walking some horses too close to others can elicit trouble.

The PHP is happy at it's current location but if the NPS insists on relocating them, then it should NOT be the Miwok Stables at Tennessee Valley due to the many reasons cited above.

The facility at Rodeo Valley has the space, far fewer and older riders, greater visibility

to people visiting the Marine Mammal Center and will require a minimum of expense in order to accommodate the PHP. I sincerely hope the NPS will weigh the pros and cons of this move and agree that it is by far the better of the two options.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 74**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/09/2011	Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Moving the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol to Miwok Stables is a bad idea. The impact on traffic, the environment and the people that use this area will be significant.

The management team at Miwok have done a fine job of responsibly providing a much-needed riding establishment for our community, and they do this while minimizing the environmental impact and also working collaboratively with bicyclists, runners, hikers and others that benefit from this incredible environment.

Moving the PHP into this facility will significantly stress and disrupt this working relationship, and I suspect will unleash a torrent of public outcry. Public ridership will decline, impacting the financial viability of Miwok Stables. With diminished financial resources, the viability of Miwok Stables, an important tenant of the park will come under pressure.

The PHP already has a fine facility for their horses, staff and volunteers in Tennessee Valley. I just don't see the logic in not continuing to utilize this facility. I am strongly opposed to this plan.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 75**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent:	Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Letter
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

I am writing in support of the natural beauty and practical history of seeing the horses when I come to visit Muir Woods. I think the horses add to the attraction and remind us of teh past when things were simpler - and the ecosystem was healthier.

In addition- the regular use of helicopter flyovers is not likely something John Muir would have approved of - and serves to further the wealthy from the majority of people.

[REDACTED]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 76**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

Thank you and the National Park Service for choosing to keep all three stables open as part of the Marin Equestrian Plan.

I am writing to urge you to also choose to keep the horses in view for the public at the Golden Gate Dairy.

I have a vivid memory of my 3 year old daughter being mesmerized by the horses at the Golden Gate Dairy Stables one day as we were walking by after a visit to Muir Beach. I have never been much interested in horses myself so she saw real horses for the first time at the Dairy Stables. From that point on she was fascinated with horses, and went on to ride regularly as a child and teenager (at another NPS facility - the Tennessee Valley Stables). She is now 24 years old, works as a certified veterinary nurse and is preparing to attend vet school. Her journey towards vet school and a life-long love of horses began with viewing the horses at the Dairy Stables.

Please keep the horses visible to other little girls and everyone else who passes by the stables. These majestic animals offer us all a powerful connection to Nature in a way that buildings, even beautiful old ones, never will.

[Redacted]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 77**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent: 12/08/2011

Date Received: 12/08/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No

Type: Letter

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Superintendent Frank Dean:

Thank you for keep(ing) the horses at Muir Beach!

When we vis(i)t California, seeing the horses on the Beach and when drive by on the road it is gorgeous and very picturesque to see the horses at Muir Woods.

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 78**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Birgitta McAlevey
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 248 Indian Ledge Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Superintendent Frank Dean:

Thank you for keeping the horses at Muir Beach we love seeing them when we drive by. When we walk in Muir Woods and on the beach we think it's so cool to see the horses there. The whole scene with the barn is idyllic. I understand helicopters might be allowed in the park soon - that would be a very disturbing addition to the environment there.

We love the park and appreciate all you are doing to conserve and improve our National Recreation Areas.

Most Sincerely,

Birgitta McAlevey

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 79**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent:	Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Letter
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Superintendent Frank Dean:

On our most recent trip to California we visited the Muir Woods and we were very impressed with their beauty and grandeur. We also saw the horses and the mix of the animals on the beach was breathtaking.

We hope to return to the Muir Woods every time we travel to the Bay Area and enjoy the majesty that is the Muir Woods.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 80**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent:

Date Received: 12/08/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No

Type: Letter

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I love visiting California, and my favorite thing to see is the horses in Muir Woods. I love being able to come from New Yourk and then be able to stop on the side of the road and see these beautiful horses right in the Redwood Forest. I do hope these horses remain visible, so when I visit California, I will be able to see them.

[REDACTED]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 81**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent:

Date Received: 12/08/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No

Type: Letter

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean:

I like to see horses at Muir Beach. I also like horses.

[REDACTED]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 82**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/09/2011	Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Do not move the horse patrol to Miwok. It is crowded enough and there is no room to accomidate more horses in the rings or grounds. Water is a concern too. I think this would grossly change the feel and enjoyment of the programs currently offered there.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 83

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

We are writing this letter to give our feedback on the National Parks Equestrian plan. To begin with, I would like to thank the NPS for keeping all three stables open to horses. As residents of Muir Beach for the past 12 years, the horses at the Dairy (GGD) stables are familiar faces and part of our family here at the beach.

We understand that a variety of options are being considered to include horses in the NPS GMP and we would like to provide our feedback.

To begin with, the NPS GMP is about 'Connecting People to Parks', and horses are a huge draw that bring folks to the Park and the stables at GGD. Everyday we walk our dogs in the areas around Muir Beach and the horses are a part of our day. We say hello, pet them, and they are a part of our life here.

It is a rare day when we collect our (mail) from our mailbox on Hwy 1 that I do not see a car or two pulled over either taking photographs of the horses or petting them. The stable buildings are of interest but the attraction is the horses. For this point, it is important to keep the horse stalls up front and visible. Restored dairy buildings are not as much of a draw as the horse are so keep some horse stalls up front and visible. The horses are part of the landscape and keep the feel of rural West Marin.

Additionally I would like to offer these points:

Horses are social animals thus an isolation paddock/shelter (where a horse can see other horses) is important at each facility for horse health, both mental and physical.

I encourage the Park to maintain the current independent management and not outsource the management of the horses and facility. The current management has already invested much into the protection of natural resources.

The current farm house (residence) should be allocated/rented to either an onsite manager or director to care for safety and care of horses in case of emergency.

While we understand that maintenance and restoration for the buildings must be done, we would like to see the rustic feel maintained and that the NPS should find ways to blend the stables with the existing buildings. They shouldn't be a 'Disneyland' perfect model for the past. It is important to remember that the historical included the Portuguese Dairy farmers and not a faux western hoedown camp feel.

We support the connection of the Dias Ridge Trail; phase II safety trail and Redwood Creek trail; however this can be done with reducing the area only 10ft and not 20 ft.

When bridges are built along the redwood Creek trail they should be done to allow for safe horse crossing. This protects the banks and salmon habitat.

It is wonderful that each stable has a covered area to exercise horses in inclement weather. As avid trail runners keeping the horses off the trails in the extreme wet weather reduces trail damage.

Sincerely,



**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 85**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Amy O'Connell
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2470 Chapin Road
Silver Creek, NY 14136
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean:

I was so very happy to see the decision you made to keep the horse at Muir Beach. Seeing them from the beach or while driving thru the park is such a joy.

I am writing to you today to encourage you to keep the horses in view. They are so wonderful and beautiful and me and my family love to see them when visiting. It is what makes Muir Beach so special.

The other issue I would like to encourage you to make a decision on is the whole issue of allowing helicopters/small planes to fly over the beach. This would be a huge mistake and would take away from the quiet, the beauty, the natural wonder of this place of beauty.

Amy O'Connell

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 86

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address:
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/10/2011 Date Received: 12/10/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear NPS,

I ride at Miwok stables and I would not appreciate if you board your horses there. There is limited amounts of space at Miwok and it would become a problem. It would be over crowded and it might spook the horses. I have had a hard experience with horses spooking. I broke my arm from falling off and I don't want others to get hurt. Please consider this. Thanks

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 87**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Liz Hume
Organization:
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 39 Eldridge Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am writing on behalf of the Ocean Riders in support of Alternative B: Enhanced Existing Option B2.

Keeping the horse stables as in the plan - continues to support the community - both equestrian and non-equestrian.

Thank you,

Liz Hume

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 88

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Alex Cobb
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 110 Rancho Drive
Tiburon, CA NA
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent:

We are all pleased that the Marin Equestrian Plan has been released for public comment. As an interested party, I applaud all the forethought and analysis applied to make the plan a workable document. Many people know that Ocean Riders share with NPS a common interest in the ecology of the stable area and its watershed.

Give the history of the Golden Gate Dairy at Muir Beach, I can testify to the public interest in the horses as a fundamental part of the Muir Beach "scene". Visitors to the Pelican Inn and the beach many times include a stroll through the stable area to show children the horses. Stable members often can add to this educational experience. Now that the new Dias Trail is completed, even more of the public is exposed to the horses.

As to the Plan, the undersigned encourages particularly that each stable have a covered arena for equestrian as well as environmental concerns; that the historical buildings on the property are restored, with the use of salvaged and re-used materials to keep the historical look; that the horse/pedestrian bridges across Redwood Creek be restored/built to protect the banks and improve public/horse safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alex Cobb

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 89

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Joanne Flemeng
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: PO Box 228
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Supt. Frank Dean:

I am a frequent visitor to Muir Beach and Muir Woods area and have come to love the experience of being able to see the horses at the Golden Gate Dairy. This is a highlight for so many of us who come to this area. We are thankful that the GGNRA in their Marin Equestrian Plan have decided to allow these wonderful stables to continue to exist. I understand that there will be some remodeling to the Golden Gate Dairy and hope it will remain very close to the existing rustic appeal and certainly allow the easy viewing of the horses in the front of the property. I strongly feel that moving all the horses to the back of the property would be a deterrent to the wonderful viewing experience that we all presently have. Please allow some of the horses to remain in the front of the property where they can be seen by all.

The foot route from the Pelican Inn to the Redwood Creek is quite dangerous on Highway One and we all hope that a safe trail can be established.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanne Flemeng

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 90

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Edith Forrest
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 122 Sunnyside Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: Reviewed Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am a 79 year old woman and resident of Mill Valley. Most weeks I accompany my daughter to the barn at Muir Beach where she has been a sponsor of a horse for 7 years. I am unable to get around without assistance so my daughter parks her car so that I can watch her get her horse ready to ride. While she is out on the trails, I can sit and watch the horses play and watch all of the activity at the barn. Every time I am there, in all kinds of weather, I see people stop their cars or come over from the Pelican Inn to look at the horses and ask questions about them.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many members of Ocean Riders. Even though the stables are rustic, they all work very hard to keep the barn up so that it is tidy and safe for the horses. I get a clear sense of community when I am out there. I can sit in the sunshine and read my book and chat with the hikers and mountain bikers and horse people that come by. I hope there won't be a need for the horses to move away from the current site. It is one of those special places that has remained the same for several decades. I hope that I can continue to enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Edith Forrest

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 91

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Lori Dodge
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 46 Plaza Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Park Service:

Please don't change the wonderfully bucolic and rustic setting of the Golden Gate Dairy.

There is now a good balance in the commercialization of Miwok Stables for those who can afford it. The rustic setting of the Presidio Riding stables for the trial riders, and the accessibility of peacefulness of the Golden Gate Dairy.

For twenty years we all go to lunch at the Pelican Inn because of the quiet serenity. The Park Service has done a good job understanding the balance between gentrification and leaving well enough alone.

Just as the three stables in Southern Marin each offer unique experiences, the same can be said for Cavallo Point and Presidio Yacht Club.

It is a beautiful balance.

All of the hard work at the Golden Gate Dairy has and should not be in vain. Years and years of making this stable an environment healthy to horses in harmony with the small village that is Muir Beach in not only visual but technical. It has isolation stalls and everything needed to address the horses needs and the local environmental needs. This wasn't by accident.

Thank You!

Lori Dodge

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 92

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Bill Railton
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: #6 Topside
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My goal today is communicating to you the interest my family and I have and have had in the ongoing existence of the horse stables at Muir Beach. The folks there are concerned that the National Park Services are going to at least move if not eliminate some of or all of the many buildings that make up this facility that I have grown to appreciate over the years. I hope that any relocation of this site will be delayed or rejected by you as a bad idea. I love this place and hope that it remains as a vital part of our local National Parks scene.

Bill Railton

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 93

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Dale Goldie
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 775 E. Blithedale
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean:

Thank you for keeping all three barns in Southern Marin; Golden Gate Dairy, Miwok Stables, and the Presidio Riding club from shutting down!

At Muir Beach, please keepo the horses in front, not in back, so that the public can appreciate their beauty, and so that children can experience the horses - which holds great values and childhood memories for the future.

Also, please connect the Dias Trial phase to the Safety Trail and Redwood Creek Trail without reducing the turn-out arena for the horses. Again, this is good for the horses well-being to have enough room to move around. The horses like the contact of the other horses and people.

Your anticipated attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Dale Goldie

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 94

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Bridget Edwards
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 715 Sir Francis Drake Blvd
San Anslemo, CA NA
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Attention of Superintendent Frank Dean:

My family and I have spent many beautiful days at the Muir Beach and are always admiring the natural beauty of the horses in front of the Goldent Gate Dairy.

We were happy to hear the new Marin Equestrian Plan will keep the horse preserve at the historic dairy site.

We have learned however that you are also planning on moving the horses to the back out of view as they are now.

Please don't move this natural beautiful setting. It would not be the same. It would not be keeping with the historical site that has been and should remain for another 50 years.

It is such a beautiful experience to view this landmark as it is and people remember the dairy site as it is.

Please reconsider the moving of the horses to the back and out of site. It would be a great shame.

Bridget Edwards

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 95**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent:	Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Letter
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

To Superintendent Frank Dean:

As regards the Marin Equestrian Plan, firstly I am so grateful the horse barns in Southern Marin will remain open in place.

I don't know what I would do without Miwok Stables, or seeing the horses passing Presidio Riding Club, or stopping to chat with those at Golden Gate Dairy right at Muir Beach. In fact, if the horses were not right out front, I'm not sure anyone would know they were there. Continued access to horses in our area is vital to residents and visitors alike. Therefore, thank you in advance for ensuring this.

As well, thank you for the decision to have covered exercise areas for each stable (Miwok already has this), keeping riders, equine, and trails safe in bad weather.

Respectfully yours,

NA

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 96

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Brain Haughton
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: NA
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Marin Equestrian Plan (Plan) Environmental Assessment (EA).

I am a resident of Mill Valley and agree with and support the Plan/EA's recommendation to preserve the stables at Golden Gate Dairy (GGD), Tennessee Valley and Rodeo Valley. As a regular visitor to the Muir Beach community, I agree with the Plan/EA's statements regarding GGD, at pp. 3-52 and 3-58.

Lost - or at least under-emphasized - in these statements, however, is what is most "valuable" and "attractive" about GGD: the horses are front and center, visible to the public. To me, and important part of GGNRA's mission is to provide visitors with a break from the hustle-bustle of their urban lives. One thing singularly lacking from urban life is interaction other than dogs and cats. To lay eyes on a horse - or, even better, several horses- takes me out of my everyday life, makes me think thoughts and dream dreams that I otherwise wouldn't.

It appears that the Plan/EA's preferred alternative would eliminate this important benefit of the current layout of GGD. Refer to p. 4-125 and 4-127 of Plan/EA.

Comparing the figures depicting existing conditions (fig 2-1, p. 2-40) and the preferred alternative (fig 2-7, p. 2-46) shows five stalls that are not front and center facing Highway One, Pacific Way Road, and the Pelican Inn area, would (under the preferred alternative) be moved up the hill, behind other buildings, so the stalls could no longer be seen from those vantage points.

While I understand the need to address the value of viewing historic buildings, I am puzzled by the Plan/EA's failure to consider the loss of horse-viewing opportunities as an impact of the preferred alternative at GGD. Elsewhere in

the document (see pp. 4-128, 129, 131, and 133) "horse viewing opportunities" are cited as worth consideration, and, as noted above, those opportunities are important to me and, I believe, other visitors.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you reconsider this one detail of an otherwise excellent preferred alternative. One way to address the problem would be to relocate one of the rows of new stalls and paddocks so that it would be situated along the northwest side of the trapezoid marked as "turn-out" on the two figures cited above. Doubtless there are additional ways that would be discovered during a re-review considering - as I believe the Plan/EA should - horse viewing opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Haughton

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 97

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Elaine Von Blohn
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 103 Filbert
Sausalito, CA 94965
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I so enjoy seeing the horses at Muir Beach and the rustic setting. I truly feel I am in the countryside when I see them.

I would like to see the Diaz Trail connect through to the Redwood Creek Trail as I feel the highway is very dangerous for horses, cars, and bicycles.

Sincerely,

Elaine Von Blohn

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 98

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Julie NA
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: NA
NA, CA NA
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Frank:

Please leave the horses where they are and have been as reference to history and local heritage. The discovery of horses along the trail is an attraction and gives dimension to the hiker's experience.

Why change this feature? I would also wonder why use funds in such shortage to create something unwelcome by the local folks?

Thanks for your careful consideration!

Julie

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 99

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Alice C. Steele
Organization: Miwok Stables Center
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 25 Monte Vista Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939
701 Tennessee Valley Road, Mill Valley, CA 94941
Larkspur, CA 94939
USA
E-mail: caldwellsteele@earthlink.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/12/2011 Date Received: 12/12/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Directors of the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan:

I write as an official representative of The Miwok Stables Center, the non-profit arm of Miwok Stables public programs, which has been running public programs in the GGNRA through the auspices of the National Park Service for 30 years. For the past six years, since our current contract with the NPS was signed, we have experienced harmonious management of these programs and of the daily routine of the 42 horses who live there. The newest proposal, known as "Alternative B, Option B2 Tennessee Valley preferred" threatens to disrupt this harmony by creating a number of (we think) negative impacts on the physical site and on the daily operation at the stable. Our physical site is too small to have two managements. In addition, the aforementioned Alternative B, Option B2 implies great cost to the NPS, and to our knowledge no cost analysis has been done to discover if there is a less expensive way to re-locate the Horse Patrol.

Our specific concerns with Alternative B, Option B2 are:

1. Overcrowding, especially the stable yard where the Horse Patrol horses, volunteers, stalls and headquarters would be. This is the busiest hub of the stable, 42 horses used by 250 visitors a week.
2. Loss of 8 paddocks by the public programs where the new barn for the Horse Patrol would be built (at great expense to NPS as well.)
3. Loss of recently renovated "red barn" to hay storage, rather than the original plan to use it as a self-guided walk-through public museum of local history (it is ADA accessible) with a docent program.
4. Problem of two different managements creating different schedules for the horses. Horses on the same site require shared routines, not different turn-out and feeding schedules for example.
5. Problem of cost and storage and removal of separate hay barns, separate manure pads and separate manure removal.
6. Problem of adding the four horse patrol horses creating more overcrowding to an already full number of 42 horses in existing 42 stalls.

Our first preference is to have the current Horse Patrol stay and maintain its site at lower Tennessee Valley. To

remove that site means moving the Aim High yurt, moving the wonderful natural NPS nursery, tearing down the recently rebuilt horse and storage barn at that location, and relocation the Horse Patrol horses, gear, and 30 volunteers. Those volunteers wish to stay at their current location! We feel the General Management Plan should reconsider the high cost and disruption to current public benefit of moving these volunteer-rich facilities and services to other locations from Lower Tennessee Valley.

Our second preference is outlined in the following letter sent on October 20, 2011 to GGNRA management. We offered an alternative proposal, full of positive ideas, which we feel would benefit both the NPS Horse Patrol and maintain harmony at Miwok Stables. Here again is the body of that letter.

We would like to propose a win-win plan for the re-location of the Park Horse Patrol at Miwok Stables. The move, proposed in both the Preferred General Management Plan and the Preferred Equestrian Plan, can be accomplished so that everyone would get what they want, and the operations would run without a hitch.

We propose the following:

1. Four Stalls, four Paddocks:

We will give up 4 stalls and paddocks, making them available to the PHP.

This eliminates the need to build a new 4-horse barn, saving the NPS a huge expense.

This solves the problem of finding space for 4 new paddocks to replace the ones lost to 4-stall barn.

2. Boarding

The PHP horses would be boarders, at a discount fee. To eliminate the insurmountable problems of running two separate ranch operations in one small site: We would provide the hay and bedding, feed three times a day, clean the stalls, and turn in/out their horses, daily, on the same schedule as all the other horses.

This could save the NPS money, as we buy hay and bedding at a bulk rate, we pay for the hauling of manure off site, all utilities, and include labor formerly required of the PHP volunteers. Otherwise, the problems are insurmountable: separate hay barn, separate bedding storage, separate carts, tools, hitch rails, different feeding and turn-out schedules aggravating the horses, and wear and tear on the facility we are paying a fortune to maintain – how, for example, to we decide how much water their horses drink, and be compensated for it?

Further benefits to the PHP: As boarders, the PHP riders would have use of our rings and arenas, and have the benefit of our 24/7 onsite staff, nightly horse check, daily observation. They need never worry about volunteers missing a feeding or cleaning. And, they would always have the option of calling on us in an emergency.

3. Docent Program

Free from cleaning stalls, the PHP volunteers can re-direct their time and energy to contributing more directly to public benefit: they can become docents on the ground, as well as having more time on the trail. We propose that they could become versed in local history, flora and fauna, etc. and give interpretive talks and tours of the stables. This gives the NPS a greater public presence, as the uniforms will be visible and the educational component will be of great benefit to the general public.

4. Red Barn Museum

We propose a joint use of the Red Barn. As there would be no need for separate hay storage barn for PHP hay, the Red Barn could be made into a walk-thru museum like the one at the Morgan Horse Ranch at the Point Reyes Visitor Center. Exhibit panels would outline local history- Indians, Spanish, Portuguese Dairies, etc., panels about horses and ranching, panels on wildlife, flora, conservation and environmental studies, etc. We could work with the PHP and the NPS in a cooperative effort to create a truly educational and interesting public asset, appropriately located in the historic Red Barn. Being at ground level, this is already ADA accessible – perfect for a walk-thru,

wheel-through public museum. The PHP volunteers can do interpretive talks there. This museum was in our Proposal in 2006; now that the Red Barn is standing upright again, installing the museum is easy.

5. The Lopes House

We propose shared use of the Lopes House. In addition to providing an office for PHP headquarters, the residence can also contribute in many more ways to public benefit: classes, meetings, events, a multi-use facility for stable students, guests, and the PHP volunteers. We have already put a great deal of work and contributed funds into the Lopes house, recently building new stairs, window casings, painted the exterior, and clearing debris and bats. It is the most visible of our buildings, and right in the middle of our programs. We'd like to share it. We would work with the PHP to mutually improve and schedule use of the house. The PHP office in the house would, of course, be theirs alone.

We would like meet with your staff and Park Horse Patrol volunteers and manager, Richard Kohn, to present our proposal. We have been at this stable for thirty years, through its various mutations as horseman's club, a cooperative, a recreational non-profit, and finally, as a Park Partner. For a few difficult years we had two entities demonstrating that this barn is too small to have two managements – the logistics of hay, feed, turnout, storage, use of arenas, and division of maintenance does not work unless it is under one operational management. For the PHP volunteers, life will be easier without cleaning stalls and feeding. For the National Park Service, there will be greater NPS presence by giving the uniformed volunteers opportunities to present interpretive programs. We save the NPS thousands of dollars by eliminating the need to build the 4-stall barn and hay barn.

We are willing to give up four of our stalls, at considerable cost to our programs, in order to help the NPS meet the criteria of the GMP and Equestrian Plan. We welcome the patrol volunteers into our stable family, and we will do everything we can to facilitate the transition for them.

Thank you for asking for our comments.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 100**

Author Information

Keep Private: Yes
Name: test N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:

USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/13/2011 Date Received: 12/13/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

none now.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 101**

Author Information

Keep Private: Yes
Name: test N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:

USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/13/2011 Date Received: 12/13/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

none now.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 102**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/13/2011	Date Received: 12/13/2011
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Thank you for planning to keep horses at Miwok, Presidio Riding club and the Golden Gate Dairy. Please keep horses in view of the public at the Golden Gate Dairy. People love seeing the horses.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 103

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Dee Mullen
Organization: former member Novato Horsemen/Marin Horse Council
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: P.O. Box 448, Covelo, CA 95428
Covelo, CA 95428
USA
E-mail: mullendee@aol.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/13/2011 Date Received: 12/13/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12 December 2011

Superintendent Frank Dean
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
Re: GGNRA Marin Equestrian Plan
Dear Superintendent Dean:

I know the GGNRA stables and locale well, having ridden there as a sponsor and boarder for 25 years from 1980 to 2005. I have also been a member of the Novato Horsemen's Association and the Marin Horse Council. I am a strong supporter of the GGNRA and the continued role of horses within the park. I am pleased to see that the preferred alternate proposes keeping horses at Muir Beach (Golden Gate Dairy), Tennessee Valley (Miwok Stable), and Rodeo Valley (Presidio Riding Stable). I am writing to comment on the plans I have seen on-line.

- The Muir Beach Stable has become an icon. By now it has become the rural image expected along Highway 1. The GGD has worked hard to mitigate drainage problems in their current location. The animated and friendly presence of a working equestrian facility would be missed if horses were hidden from view and replaced with a reference to the distant past dairy. There are many working dairies just north in Pt. Reyes. Signage (such as that used at the Letterman Digital Center in the Presidio) can be used to interpret historic changes.
- Moving horse to the back of the facility would seem to require more building and new mitigation problems. It feels like a lose/lose situation.
- The management of the Golden Gate Dairy has been the most proactive and generous of the equestrian facilities in their efforts to work with the park and generate a positive outcome for all. I hope they will remain in a prominent role. Their isolated location works best for a local user group. Wintertime access is a serious consideration.

- Improve trail connections (Dias Ridge Trail & Redwood Creek Trail) and construct bridges for creek crossings. This is necessary for the protection of the streams, the salmon runs, horses, and riders.
- Removing the PHP from the valley is a sad loss. A working barn does not preclude picnics in the meadow or a mid-level walking destination for park visitors. Many elderly and young walkers only walk down to the barn to see the horses and back to the parking lot.
- Moving 4 additional horses into the space at Miwok is not good for the environment or the health of the horses. The mental health of the horses is an important consideration. Turnout space for rest and exercise is necessary for horse health and the safety of riders. Pastures and larger paddocks have been whittled away over the years. Not enough open space remains. The new areas proposed for PHP takes up too much space and adds more activity in an already crowded area that includes multi-use trail crossings and parking. The proposed turn-out space for the park horses is a wetland during much of the year. The number of horses should not be increased even if the PHP are moved.
- The proposed NPS ranger presence at Miwok would be a healthy addition for the stable area and would not require additional buildings or take away needed paddock space. The Tennessee Valley trailhead has become extremely busy and often faces gridlock. The concessionaire at the stable has apparently been running the show without oversight or accountability.
- Simple coverings for paddocks could allow turnout during wet weather. It could be tied to better water/drainage management and would be a concession for the health of the horses.
- Increasing the number of horses at Presidio Riding Stable and then limiting their turn out/exercise space is not good equestrian management practice. Anxious and unhappy horses are not safe. It would be better to leave the existing number and keep the horses happy and relaxed.
- The Presidio Riding Stable should shed the "military" requirements and be encouraged to develop a more appropriate National Park presence and management style -- opening itself to non-military boarders, trail rides, and outreach programs. The rides from Rodeo Valley and Tennessee Valley offer unique and breathtaking views.

Thank you for reviewing my concerns. I am very pleased to see that horses will remain in the Park. In general, however, the efforts to increase the number of horses at Presidio and Miwok stables are pared with cutting back on appropriate space for the horses. That is not healthy or safe.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 104

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Patricia Swenson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: PO box 1010
Sausalito, CA 94966
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I have been involved with the Golden Gate Dairy since 1988 as an equestrian. First, as a sponsor and later and currently as an owner of a horse.

I first would like to thank the National Park Service for keeping horses at all three stables in southern Marin. I am pleased to know that the ranching history of this area will be preserved by the presence of the horses, barns, and in our case the historical dairy. What a refreshing scene to have this rural feeling in our modern hectic world.

With regard to the Muir Beach stable, I would like to ask that you consider keeping some horses in the front area by the arena. I have a very playful horse that has twice incurred injury (serious injury) by his enthusiasm to play with other horses. He now needs to be turned out alone. For his mental health, as they are herd animals, it would be best if there were other horses nearby. It could eliminate the feeling of panic they can have when alone.

In addition, it is a daily occurrence to have hikers, tourists, and even bikers come over to visit with the horses. If they were housed only behind the creamery, people would no longer have that experience.

Safety is of major concern to me. I would like to propose that some changes could be made to slow the traffic at the intersection from Highway 1 to the beach. We are experiencing increased public use of the area largely because of the Diaz trailhead. It has always been dangerous at this intersection, but now is even more so.

I am in favor of moving swiftly to create the Phase II Safety Trail to Redwood Creek because of above mentioned issues. I propose reducing the arena by 10 feet instead of 20 feet, if at all.

I support keeping the present management that has invested so much time and money into the protection of the natural resources.

Thank you so much for your consideration of these proposals. I look forward enthusiastically to a fine partnership of cooperation with the National Park Service.

Most Sincerely,

Patricia Swenson



Sincerely,



PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 110

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Irene S. Holmes
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2763 Filbert Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
USA
E-mail: ireneholmes@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/13/2011 Date Received: 12/13/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

My children have ridden at Miwok Stables, and our family walks in Tennessee Valley regularly. We are concerned about the extra strain on Miwok's facilities that the NPS volunteers' horses would create. Keeping the stables maintained and clean and safe is a constant and heavy responsibility. Use of the facilities by an independent group not answerable to Miwok management will present problems. Since the volunteers are happy with their current location, keeping them there should be given preference. Operating a stable requires a single chain of command to which all users are answerable. Splitting use of the facility between two unrelated organizations violates this principal.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 113**

Author Information

Keep Private: Yes
Name: test N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:

USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/14/2011 Date Received: 12/14/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

none now.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986 Correspondence: 114

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Linda Rubio
Organization: Miwok Livery Stables  Official Rep.
Organization Type: B - Business
Address: 701 Tennessee Valley Rd
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes: Comment was submitted in hard copy with a 7 page attachment (including map and information regarding proper ventilation for horse stables).

Correspondence Text

Dear Frank:

My here enclosed comments on the Equestrian Plan are given in the spirit of being helpful, in spite of weighing in on several negative aspects. Overall, the Plan is excellent, but there are several problems that may only be apparent to those of us on the job. My thirty years here has given me a pretty good idea of what can go wrong and how to fix it.

Any consessionaire coming into Miwok Stables would understand that adding the Volunteer Park Horse Patrol to the mix would cause a nightmare of congestion and conflict. Also, the overall cost of most of the proposals for Miwok would be so prohibitive that, unless the NPS plans to foot the bill, I cannot see anybody bidding for a consession with such a price tag.

Thank you for inviting public comment on the Equestrian Plan.

Best Regards,

Linda Rubio
Owner/Manager, Miwok Livery Stables

Tennessee Valley Stables
Park Horse Patrol moving to Miwok- It will not work
Congestion Nightmare:

PHP is to go in the middle of the hub of all traffic at the stable
This is the main

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 115

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: China (?)olland
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 11 Stetson Ave
Kentfield, CA 94904
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Frank Dean:

I am very pleased to learn that the horses have been approved for staying at all Southern Marin barns, and that so many ideas are being proposed for making the locations even better-covered arenas, a safety trail in Muir Beach, these are terrific news.

Thank you so much for ensuring the welfare of the equestrian community in the area. Horses bring so much joy, and the thought that they can stay on our trails makes me very happy.

I hope that whatever improvements are made in Muir Beach keep the horses in their current locations, also, just better. I know there are hopes for perhaps changing the orientation of the stalls, to put the paddocks toward the road. That would be great. But please don't let the play area be decreased further-watching the horses play in there I can see how much they enjoy-and need-the room they have, to run in.

It's my great hop htat we will see equestrians on the Souther Marin trails for all future decades.

Gratefully,

China (?)olland

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 117**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Nanette Grim
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 115 Pixley Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/06/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

Yes! And thanks for keeping all 3 stables open to the horses. The decision to ensure each stable has a covered arena so the horses can still exercise when it rains.

The horses have been around for years and deserve the best. Visitors and residents want to be able to see them!

I believe there are ways to protect the environment and give the horses & their fans what the need - I know the supporters will help in any way possible.

Here's to more of the right decisions.

Cheers,

Nanette Grim

change the ability to see history and natural beauty right before our eyes.

I look forward to continuing to enjoy the zen feeling I get when I see the amazing horses, barns, stables and community of horse riders in the few places that we have left in Marin County. The natural beauty is a treat to all who encounter the barns and will continue to be an attainable dream for our future.

Thank You,



**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 123**

Author Information

Keep Private: [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/14/2011 Date Received: 12/14/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I believe improvements should be at existing sites; therefore, no new Marincello location; unless this supplants Lower Tennessee Valley stable/residence.

I am concerned that additional vehicle traffic to lower Tennessee Valley location may create problem due to large number of people who use this road. Any improvements which create additional traffic should be kept to minimum.

Lower Redwood Creek location is best for any expansion, because this area is seldom used by public. Bridge across Redwood Creek from Heather to Redwood Creek trail should be maintained.

I am a lifetime resident of Marin County, 15 year resident of Mill Valley; and frequently use GGNRA Headland trails for biking, running and hiking.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 124

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Constance B. Berto
Organization: Marin Horse Council
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: San Anselmo, CA 94960
USA
E-mail: cberto3@sonic.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/14/2011 Date Received: 12/14/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Superintendent Dean and others: I attended the NPS Project Team meeting on Dec. 7, 2011, on the MESP Environmental Assessment. I want to thank the NPS for engaging the public in the process to keep the stables in the Headlands open and functioning. I also appreciated being able to comment in public.

Horses are native to North America. The earliest fossils of eohippus, the "dawn horse," dating back almost 70 million years, are found on this continent. Over the millennia, the herds spread northwest across the Bering Land Bridge and thence through Asia and Europe. The American herds died out during the last Ice Age some 10,000 years ago. Horses were returned to their native land by Christopher Columbus on his 2nd voyage. In preserving the stables, the Park Service is fostering the preservation of a native animal.

As I noted, horses and humans have been partners for 7,000 years. Gravesites in the Ural Mountains contain skeletons of humans and horses; the horse teeth show clear signs of wear from carrying a bit in the mouth. Since man's earliest days, civilization in all its forms advanced only as fast as horses or sailing ships could go. The history of the United States is inextricably woven with horses. By continuing the presence of the stables, the Park Service can recognize this unique partnership and historical place in our nation's past.

I support the preferred alternative, B2, providing for the keeping of each stable in its present location. By my own personal knowledge, each stable has worked very hard over the years to establish expertise in Best Management Practices. I differ with some aspects of B2 and I suggest some compromises with the plan:

- (1) It is important for the health of the horses that the respective arenas are kept at their maximum possible square footage. The larger exercise areas are also necessary for the proper learning of good equitation and for public programs.
- (2) It is important for good stable management that ample storage space is allotted for hay bales. The purchase of hay is best done in bulk for best prices, best quality standards, and best labor practices of stable workers. As a horsekeeper myself, I buy hay once a year for all these reasons. Adequate hay storage is critical.
- (3) The proposal to re-establish a pseudo-dairy presence at Golden Gate Dairy Stables by relocating the horse stalls behind the old dairy buildings and out of view of the public would be a mistake and, without cows and working

dairy facilities, misleading to the public. The stables have been operating there for 50 years. The history of the former dairy can easily be acknowledged by a plaque in a prominent place. It isn't as though there not other currently soperating dairy farms a few miles further up Highway One for the public to see. Having horses visible from the roadway attracts people to stop and learn more about the area.

Thank you for supporting the equestrian facilities in the Marin Headlands. I appreciate the work of Park personnel over the years in working with stable managers. When the plan is approved and contracts are signed, valuable plans for increased public benefits and partnerships can be implemented.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 125**

Author Information

Keep Private: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/15/2011 Date Received: 12/15/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

We do not believe that moving the park patrol is beneficial. The proposed area is too close to the existing stables and the two groups will most likely have difficulties co-existing, especially since the park patrol is run by volunteer staff which may be changing too often to learn the ropes well. It is difficult to maintain a peaceful barn with individual owners implementing their own care practices, and we anticipate it being even more stressful on all members and their horses with the two groups having completely separate goals in close proximity.
Thank you for considering our comments.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 126

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Kathleen Johnson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 226 Sunset Way
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/12/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am very pleased that the NPS Equestrian Plan includes keeping Miwok Stables, the Presidio Riding Club, and the Golden Gate Dairy in Muir Beach for the future enjoyment of equestrians and the public. Horses in West Marin have had a long history with all of these locations.

I'm writing in response to the Marin Equestrian Plan, specifically the plan regarding Golden Gate Dairy. I have been a resident of Muir Beach for 15 years and am a current member of the Ocean Riders.

The General Management Plan's theme is connecting People to Places, and I can't think of a more appropriate place to connect people to the rural history of West Marin as the Golden Gate Dairy. The old barn and residence are definitely quaint and beautiful. But the real draw from the public is the sight of the horses in the arena and stalls in front. As they stop to take pictures of the mailboxes, they also stop to look at the horses. People ask about the playing horses in the arena, parents teach their kids not to feed them, and the kids learn from us at the barn why horses play and roll in the mud.

The turnout arena is a focal point, but the stalls by the arena also serve an important purpose for the horses themselves. If we are to teach the public about the horses and their behavior, we need to display it as well. Horses are extremely social creatures, herd animals. They do not like being left alone. We cannot leave a lone horse in the arena without them at least visually interacting with another horse. There are situations when a horse cannot be turned out in the arena with others, be it health issues or temperament. Having stalls adjacent to the arena is very important in this regard.

The community and the public have been overwhelmingly supportive of keeping horses in sight, so I hope you take this into consideration.

I would also like to comment on the proposed connectoin of the Dias Ridge trail to the Redwood Creek trail along Highway 1. We are looking forward to having a safe passage there for not only equestrians, but hikers and bikers. I am concerned, however, that the 20 feet proposed would shorten the horse arena too much. Horses need room to run and they do play and I'm worried the shortened arena would not provide them the space to stretch out. I'm hoping the NPS can find anoption for a smaller reduction to the arena.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration,

Respectfully yours,

Kathleen Johnson

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 133**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Madeline Groneman
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 181 Sunset Way
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/12/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Since I am a resident here at Muir Beach and have had my horse at the Golden Gate Dairy and it was the greatest to have her so close. I am glad the Marin Equestrian Plan wants to keep the horses here at the dairy.

Many friends, neighbors, and tourists have commended on how wonderful it is to see the horses play in the arena and view the horses in their shelters. And what a great way to connect the Dias and Redwood Creek trails along HWY 1, making it a safer path, but a 20' reduction would make the arena too small of an area for the horses to interact, run, play. Hopefully there can be a smaller rreduction plan made. These horses are a part of Muir Beach.

Thank You

Madeline Groneman

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 136

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Jennifer N/A
Organization: Miwok Stables
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Tiburon, CA 94920
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/15/2011 Date Received: 12/15/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am concerned about:

- Overcrowding, especially the stable yard where the NPS plans to install the PHP horses, stalls and headquarters.
- Another Manure pad and debris box
- Feed and Turn-in/out with two different schedules will upset the horses
- A pasture set up next to the ring where classes are conducted is dangerous for those on the horses in the ring. Horses feed off of each other's energy
- Parking will be impacted
- Foot and vehicle traffic will increase

This seems like an unnecessary, and large, expense at a time when money is tight and budgets are being cut.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986 Correspondence: 137

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Nona B. Dennis
Organization: Marin Conservation League
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1623-A Fifth Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94901
USA
E-mail: mcl@marinconservationleague.org

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/15/2011 Date Received: 12/15/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

December 15, 2011

Superintendent Frank Dean
GGNRA
Fort Mason, Bldg 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Subject: GGNRA Marin Equestrian Stables Plan and Environmental Assessment

Dear Superintendent Dean,

Marin Conservation League appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan (Plan). We have reviewed the environmental and public benefits of the "Preferred Alternative" and the "Environmentally Preferred Alternative" and find that we can support Alternative B Option 2 as the Preferred Alternative, which maintains three existing viable facilities that can be managed in a manner that is sustainable (in accordance with the Plan's definition of that term), protects natural resources, and affords public access benefits.

MCL also appreciates the accomplishments of this comprehensive planning process. At a minimum, it brings together an impressive amount of data on the existing stables and their conditions as well as the conditions of other potential sites that could be considered in the future. It also establishes Best Management Practices and other natural and cultural resources standards that can be applied to all stables as appropriate; and it is consistent with the Draft General Management Plan's chosen mission to Connect People to Parks.

In keeping three stables in their present locations (Presidio Riding Club in the Headlands, Miwok Stables in Tennessee Valley, and the Golden Gate Dairy Stables at Muir Beach), the "Enhanced Existing" Alternative B Option 2 will preserve long-standing and traditional equestrian presence in the park and respect the work of those who have already committed their efforts to maintain and improve these facilities. It would appear to be a minor change to relocate the Park Horse Patrol out of Lower Tennessee Valley to the Tennessee Valley Stables under this alternative.

We recognize that Alternative C is identified as environmentally preferred in that it would remove both the Golden Gate Dairy Stables and Lower Tennessee Valley Horse Patrol facility, leaving only two stables with the potential for environmental impact. This alternative would eliminate most future concerns about protecting the Redwood Creek watershed from a possible source of pollution. At the same time, it would also remove a traditional public use that has been a recreational and cultural asset for almost 50 years, before the Park was established. Alternative D would allow for expansion of facilities and number of horses. We feel that the natural resources and sensitive habitats of the Park currently tolerate the present number of horses with minimal impacts, and that with improved BMPs, the existing carrying capacity is a good balance between animal use and resource protection. Therefore, we see no justification for expansion of facilities as proposed under Alternative D.

Recommendations

1. Although we support Alternative B Option 2 in most respects, we also suggest a possible variant. The National Park Service (NPS) has an effective Volunteer Mounted Patrol that offers many public benefits. These include increased visitor safety and resource protection and an opportunity for economically positive public relations. Park service horses and their riders can enhance the official presence of the Park officials and enhance the connection between people and the park (the theme of the Draft GMP's preferred alternative) by using horses as a magnet for visitors, especially kids. In order to expand the patrol and the number of horses, it would need an appropriate facility. The current location in Lower Tennessee Valley is nearly ideal. A new facility at the Marincello site would be even better.

2. The best management practices for manure storage and disposal outlined in Appendix B make no attempt to address the final destination of this valuable resource. Rather than hauling it away ("to some non-NPS composting facility"), the plan should encourage a more enlightened use within the vicinity of the GGNRA. One has only to visit the food growing fields of Green Gulch Ranch and their composting activities to fully appreciate the arrangement through which Golden Gate Dairy Stables' manure goes to Green Gulch for use in their gardens. Horse manure is not waste, nor is it toxic – it is a valuable soil amendment.

3. Table 2-11 (Description of Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Study) lists among others the option of "Grazing pastures at all sites – to revisit or allow horse grazing around stables," and the Reason Eliminated column responds as follows: "Prior NPS decision eliminates grazing pastures at these Marin sites due to erosion and sediment impacts." It is our belief that this blanket decision of many years ago was based on incomplete and now out-dated information. As a consequence, much of the parkland is covered in dense flammable brush.

This decision should be revisited with appropriate expertise. On the basis of observation, we believe that it is possible to have environmentally acceptable equine grazing programs (managed, rotated, seasonal, etc.) that enhance habitat for native species, particularly native grasses. Horses do not have the same habits as cattle. The downside is that monitoring grazing requires extra management. The benefit is that grasslands that have been invaded by brush may begin to resemble conditions before the wholesale removal of all grazing. The possibility of limited carefully-managed pasturing should be left open by the Plan for further study, rather than precluded forever. And from a public perspective, people DO like to see horses grazing on hillsides.

4. MCL has not studied the operational aspects of specific stable facilities that are considered in the Plan. However,

we have discussed in some detail the Golden Gate Dairy Stables, in that its location is in the particularly sensitive Redwood Creek watershed. The programs and best management practices implemented by Ocean Riders over the years are commendable and could serve as a model for other stables in the Park. Therefore, we recommend that you give close attention to their letter of comment. In particular, we support their request to upgrade the front stalls to blend architecturally with the historic buildings rather than relocate them. Using the existing footprint would reduce the need for further potential ground disturbing activities associated with rebuilding and is therefore the more economical choice. Further, the stall appearance could be improved from an historical perspective to complement the weathered hay barn or any chosen historical building. Above all, it would be a mistake to dismantle any waste or water management facilities that are now in place and compromise standards necessary to greatly reduce or eliminate impact on the Redwood Creek watershed. There are operational advantages of maintaining the stalls in their present location that serve the health and well-being of the horses themselves and also appeal to the public.

We want to thank you again for your work on this Plan, and we look forward to continuing to working with the Park on a range of resource management issues.

Sincerely,

Nona Dennis, Chair, Parks and Open Space Committee

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 138**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/15/2011 Date Received: 12/15/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am currently boarding a horse at Miwok Stables and have been riding there for over 15 years. I am vehemently opposed to the horse patrol moving into the stable grounds. Miwok is already an extremely busy facility, serving the needs of horse owners, students (both adult and child) show team riders, outreach programs and large public events such as horse shows and the annual Easter egg hunt. In addition to all this, the public is continually accessing trail heads by walking, biking or horseback riding through the stable area. Adding the horse patrol to this mix would seriously impact the enjoyment of all the current groups utilizing Miwok Stables and could create many dangerous situations. The resources for the horses are already very slim: limited water, limited paddock area and no pasture. On rainy days, the only place to exercise a horse is the small indoor ring that is overbooked as it is. Another concern is the well-being of the horses. Currently, all horses at Miwok are on the same vaccination and worming schedule which ensures the health of the herd. Having a separate entity of horses could introduce disease to the area. Also, differences in feeding and turnout schedules would upset the horses and create erratic behaviours.

The PHP currently has a lovely site that is perfectly suited to their activities. In no way does it negatively impact the surrounding area or the people and wild animals in the vicinity. They should be allowed to continue their operations in their current site. No one will benefit from merging these two incompatible groups together. Please do not proceed with this idea.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 139

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Karen Johnson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 123 Buena Vista East
San Francisco, CA 94117
USA
E-mail: krjdesign@mindspring.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

December 16, 2011

Attention: Marin Equestrian Stables Plan

Dear Superintendent Dean & MESP Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan EA. My perspective comes from riding the trails & owning a horse in the Marin Headlands for the past 14+ years. I have regularly visited all of the stables throughout that time, boarded at 1 of the barns, and am on the wait-list for 2 of the barns.

Overall, I'm excited that Option B does not reduce the existing number of horses in the Headlands. However, by adding more horses to some of the facilities and the proposed space reconfigurations, I am concerned about the living-space reduction for horses at 3 of the facilities. Reducing the already small living-space for the horses to stock-yard conditions will not enhance the experience for the visitor or the horses (health & safety).

Regarding Option B2, the Preferred Alternative, my comments are as follows:

1) Golden Gate Dairy - GGD has been a horse facility for at least half a century. I grew up riding horses through this facility some 35 years ago as a child. At that time there were herds of horses in what once were large pastures attaching to the facility, now these hillsides are over run with coyote brush (fire hazard). I'm very happy that horses will remain at this facility. Horses have been part of the landscape and charm of this area for so many years, and help connect people to the place.

This week, I visited and rode through Golden Gate Dairy. It is hard to imagine all the horses hidden in back - with the stalls and covered arena cramped into the darker canyon. Please keep the horses visible and inviting for the public to see/visit - find ways to keep some of the stalls/horses up front.

The current management of GGD should serve as a role model to all others -- a very approachable and positive presence that has worked hard to protect the natural resources. I hope the residence will go towards their programing needs, or onsite manager.

As a trail rider, I hope the Dias Trail will be safely connected to the Redwood Creek Trail without minimizing the Golden Gate Dairy arena space. Also, that horse safe bridges will be constructed for crossing Redwood Creek.

2) Rodeo Valley Stables/Presidio Riding Club - I would like to see the Balloon Hanger rehabilitated and retained for the stable's use as an indoor arena. Option B2's proposed use of the arena as heavy equipment storage space will present unsafe conditions at the stables, and brings a higher risk of accidents to the horses and riders. Retaining the Balloon Hanger as the indoor arena would eliminate the need to create an indoor lunge arena in the stall area of Building 901. Allow those stalls to remain in use as stalls, instead of spending more money to rebuild stalls elsewhere.

Feed storage in Option B2 presents both horse health & financial issues for the stables. The proposed smaller storage space would require feed to be trucked in on a weekly basis - expensive for the operator, and unhealthy for the horses digestive systems to have the feed changed so frequently. Please reevaluate if the current hay storage space can be upgraded with sprinklers and fire walls to safely separate hay/feed from the rest of the building.

3) Lower Tennessee Valley (PHP) - It would be such a shame and waste to take down this barn. While riding the trails, I've often talked with families who delight in visiting the horses at this location. It is a peaceful place, and a destination for families to have positive interactions with horses. It is also helpful to have a Park presence further down the valley at this location. The cost to improve this facility and mitigate any environmental issues related to 4 horses would be much less than the cost of tearing it down. Please reevaluate ways to keep the Park Horse Patrol at this facility.

4) Tennessee Valley Stables/Miwok Stables - I do not support the further overcrowding of horses at Miwok by increasing the number of horses by 4. There is enough activity in this already crowded space. It has been sad to see Miwok lose so much space for the horses over the years. It now has the most stock-yard like appearance of any of these stables. Additionally, while it would be wonderful to gain turn-out space, the proposed area of the hunt-field will not prove usable for much of the year. To use this area as additional seasonal turn-out for the existing horses 42 horses would be an asset to their health.

Overall, in the "Final Option", and in contemplating Future Leasing Programs, I hope the NPS will:

- Spend money on improving the use of what already exists, versus spending even more money to tear down or build replacement structures.

- Keep in mind the costs associated with these changes and the burden it may place on the operators. For example, Miwok Stables has received the most upgrades in recent years. It is now one of the most expensive stables in Marin County! This limits riding opportunities to a diverse public.

- Encourage future programs to include trail riding and to participate in trail improvement.

- Find an accurate and clear way to chart programs. Example, regarding Miwok Stables outreach programs the MESP EA (p. 3-53) states, "Approximately 40 special needs participants (1500 hours of services)...", and regarding the volunteer Horse Patrol, "...8,500 volunteer hours." Does this mean these programs respectively provide 4 to 23 hours of services every day of the year? This manner of accounting is confusing and misleading. Clarifying these numbers would be helpful to perspective RFP applicants.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Karen Johnson

Member: Marin Horse Council, Bay Area Barns and Trails, San Francisco Horsemen's Association



PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 143

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Thomas Boss
Organization: Marin Trail Stewards
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 133 Lansdale Avenue
Fairfax, CA CA
USA
E-mail: tomboss@mac.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Marin Trail Stewards

A coalition of environmentally mindful trail users improving the outdoor experience in Marin County.

133 Lansdale Avenue □ Fairfax, CA 94930 □ 415-272-2756

December 15, 2011

Superintendent Frank Dean
Fort Mason Bldg 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
Attn: Marin Equestrian Plan

Subject: Marin Trail Stewards – Comments on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Dean,

The Marin Trail Stewards is a fledgling non-profit in Marin County whose mission is to improve the experience of trail users in Marin County by promoting cooperation between the local user groups, land managers, and environmental advocates. Our members are comprised of representatives from many of these groups, and we will foster safe, respectful and environmentally sustainable recreation for future generations of trail users. To this end, we have reviewed the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment and thank you for the opportunity to comment on it.

We would like to make clear that we fully support and praise your desire to keep all three stables in the park open to horses in a way that reduces their impact on the environment. If the National Parks General Plan is about connecting people to parks, then providing equestrians a variety of places to board and depart from must be maintained.

The trails of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area are loved by the equestrian community, for good reason – they offer spectacular scenic views, a variety of loop options and many take you right down to the coastline, where you can bask in the beauty of the Pacific Ocean. Horses have been a part of this landscape for over a century, from the farm horses at the Golden Gate Dairy to the military horses at the Rodeo Valley Stables. The sight of horses by other visitors instills a sense of place and reaffirms that one is on the edge of the continent, harkening back to the days of manifest destiny and the last frontier.

Our specific comments on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan (Plan) Environmental Assessment (EA) are detailed below.

1. We do not support moving paddocks, stalls and a turn-out as suggested in Golden Gate Dairy Alternate B, option B2 (Chapter 2 Page 46). We believe it is an unnecessary expense and creates a new environmental impact to the fragile habitat surrounding the stables. We encourage keeping the horse stables in their current location, so they remain a visible part of the landscape to passers by and remind park visitors that equestrians use and share the trails.
2. We support keeping the present (and independent) stables management that has already invested much into the protection of natural resources.
3. We support the Dias Trail; Phase II safety trail and Redwood Creek Trail with limited reduction to the arena. Proposed arena reduction (20 feet) of the stables' arena for trail and bus stop limited to 10 feet to accommodate a bio-swale.
4. We encourage construction of horse safe bridges for two of the Redwood Creek crossings to protect the banks and salmon habitat and to allow for safe horse crossing.
5. We praise the decision that each stable has a covered arena to exercise horses in inclement weather. This helps protect wet weather impacts to trails and is good for horses' mental health.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment.
Sincerely,

Marin Trail Stewards, including:

[REDACTED]

Tom Boss

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 144

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Betty Rappaport
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 115 Hawthorne Way
San Rafael, CA 94903
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/12/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am an avid hiker and bird watcher and love coming to the GGNRA, especially to Muir Beach and Tennessee Valley, to enjoy the trails. I'd like to take this opportunity to comment on the Marin Equestrian Plan which I recently reviewed. I would like to praise the NPS for choosing to keep horses at all three stables. Each location has its own charm and can offer different benefits to the GGNRA. I appreciate the fact that you've lifted the military requirements from the Presidio Riding Club as well.

I am disappointed in the decision to move the Park Police to the Miwok stables site. I love seeing them as part of my walk down to the cove.

The other concern I have is the proposal to move the stables at the Golden Gate Dairy to behind the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department. The stables are part of the center of tiny Muir Beach. These stables are so popular with the public who love to come to visit. While I understand the open space will still allow horses to exercise it will be a different feeling to just see a couple of horses standing in the arena instead of the wonderful funky stables that blends so well with the weathered hay barn. Along with the mailboxes, the horses are part of what makes a visit to Muir Beach visibly enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Betty J. Rappaport

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 148

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Jill Sideman
Organization: Tennessee Valley Mounted Patrol
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 14 Mara Vista Court
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA
E-mail: jillsideman@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

14 Mara Vista Court
Tiburon, CA 94920

December 16, 2011

Superintendent Frank Dean
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Subject: Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am submitting my comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan. As a long-time volunteer on the Mounted Patrol based in the Lower Tennessee Valley, I am dismayed by the adverse impacts that the Preferred Alternative (Alternative B, Option B2) would have on the mission and identity of the Mounted Patrol--adverse impacts that are ignored in the EA. The Mounted Patrol has always been an identifiable entity in the Tennessee Valley, and that identity will be lost if the Patrol is incorporated into the already crowded commercial Miwok Stables area. I believe that the Patrol should continue to be located in the Lower Tennessee Valley, where it currently offers easy access to the horses for all visitors, including children and those with disabilities, and where the volunteers can easily interact with the visitors for education about horses and the functions of the Mounted Patrol. I strongly disagree with the statement in the EA, page ES-3, that Alternative B, Option B2 provides the most advantages with regard to public access and public benefit; given the activities at the

Miwok Stables, the public, practically speaking, has little real access to interaction with the horses and riders. The area in and around the Miwok Stables is already congested and there is virtually no area in which casual visitors can be close to the horses and out of the way of riders and horse movement. This congestion will only be exacerbated by locating the Mounted Patrol in the Miwok Stables. From the EA analysis, it is unclear whether there even exists adequate space in the Miwok Stables area to build suitable stalls, turnouts, and other supporting facilities, and there is no analysis of how the various supporting facilities would be shared between the Mounted Patrol volunteers and the Miwok Stables users. It seems illogical to address the location of the Mounted Patrol facilities without considering how the Mounted Patrol activities would be managed --an issue that the EA states is "not within the scope of the Plan" (ES, page 1-9).

I note in Table 2-13, Environmental Consequences, by Alternative, that there is no difference between Alternatives B1 and B2--the impacts are identical and the majority are listed as minor to negligible. Therefore, a decision between them cannot be based on adverse impacts.

Alternative B, Option B1 would have the Mounted Patrol continue to be located in the Lower Tennessee Valley, with improved facilities and drainage. This would allow the Patrol to maintain its separate identity and to continue to contribute positively to public education and access to the Park Service Horses and the volunteers. Indeed, the Lower Tennessee Valley location would easily allow exhibits about horse breeds and management, shoeing, tack, and horse safety, such as is recommended on page 1-9 of the EA. There is really no space at the Miwok Stables for such exhibits.

Although the Lower Tennessee Valley site was apparently determined to have no historic value, in fact it is one of the former ranch sites in the GGNRA and the Mounted Patrol has been operating there since 1976. At the very least, it is recognized by the NPS, the Mounted Patrol staff and volunteers, and the public as a valuable existing resource partway down the Valley.

The EA, Table 2-12 provides a list of mitigating measures that would be applied to all action alternatives. As noted above, Alternatives B1 and B2 are virtually identical in the listing of impacts (Table 2-13) and the proposed mitigating measures would ensure that all impacts are mitigated to the point of minor or negligible level. The EA, page 2-4 states that the Alternative B2 was selected as the Preferred Alternative because it offers balanced financial investment, long-term benefits for achieving project objectives, and high resource protection and enhancement. There is no financial information about any of the alternatives, and resource protection is identical between Alternatives B1 and B2. It is unclear how Alternative B2 offers better achievement of the project objectives; in fact, it offers lesser achievement of Objective 5, page ES-2.

Thank you for considering these comments. I am hopeful that the Park Service will allow the Mounted Patrol to continue to function in the Lower Tennessee Valley for the benefit of all visitors, park personnel, volunteers, and the horses themselves.

Sincerely,

Jill Sideman

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 150

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization: Presidio Riding Club
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 901 Bunker Road
Sausalito, CA 94965
USA
E-mail: presidioridingclub@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Thank you for your incredible efforts in compiling the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment. It has been an honor to be involved with this process through the years.

The Marin Equestrian Stables Plan has interesting alternatives for the Rodeo Valley Stables/Presidio Riding Club, but the best use of the facility is to keep the existing layout and use. Unfortunately many of the ideas in the NPS' preferred alternative (Alternative B2: Enhanced Existing) do not work in a practical situation. Below we've highlighted the main points and ideas from that plan and why they aren't needed or don't follow best practices and have also provided recommendations for the categories.

Presidio Riding Club Summary Response to Alternative Option B-2

1. Horse Capacity at Existing Stables

-Issue: In all alternatives, the NPS plan calls for stabling capacity at Rodeo Valley to be 27. This includes 19 permanent year-round stalls, and 8 short-term visiting (Horse Hotel – HH) stalls, which are available to the public throughout the year. Under option B-2 all horses would be housed in building 902. However, building 902 only has space for 22 horses. Thus, this option would require extensive renovation to create five additional stalls, which may be difficult to achieve.

-Recommendation: Leave building 901 and 902 unchanged, and utilize building 901 and 902 to meet stabling objectives

2. NPS Utilizing Balloon Hanger for storage of heavy equipment for 10 years.

-Issue: Under this option, the Hanger and parking area will not be available for PRC use for 10 years. This presents a number of problems. Currently, this area is used to store horse trailers. These trailers are essential in the event that horses need to be evacuated in an emergency situation. In addition, heavy equipment moving in and out on the

access road presents unsafe and undesirable conditions for horses and Park visitors like hikers and bikers since the "access road" is part of the Coastal Trail. Many people use the Coastal Trail, and the daily presence of heavy equipment will undermine their cultural experience and their enjoyment of the Park's natural resources. It also increases the risk of accidents. Horses in particular may be frightened by loud heavy equipment, which will create dangerous situations for horses, riders, and others using the trail.

-Recommendation: Rehabilitate Balloon Hanger, retain as indoor arena, as per the Fort Barry Balloon Hanger and Motor Vehicle Sheds Abbreviated Historic Structures Report this would be a very compatible use for the hanger. The PRC would also like to propose fund raising activities in support of the Balloon Hanger rehabilitation, in addition our members would provide an onsite resource to support the historical and cultural experience involving the Hanger and Vehicle Sheds.

3. Hay and Feed to be placed in a Steel Container 25 feet south of building 901

-Issue: A 10' x 20' container would require feed to be replenished approximately every 4 days. This would NOT be a best practice. Horses' digestive systems are very sensitive to changes in their diet. The constant turnover required by this plan could have fatal consequences and is not recommended.

-Recommendation: The PRC currently utilizes approximately 2,500 sq. feet of floor space to store food and bedding. We recommend that this practice continue. Meeting plan objectives will only require the installation of sprinklers (fire detection is already in place) and fire rating the walls that separate the feed/bedding area from the rest of building.

4. Building 901 modified to create an indoor exercise ring

-Issue: Overhead clearance is insufficient to provide for safe environment for this purpose. In addition, as discussed above, it is important to maintain stalls in this building to achieve the NPS' objective of having 27 stalls at this location.

-Recommendation: Do not alter the building. Instead, retain the stalls the building contains to achieve NPS objectives.

5. Manure moved to building 902 (Gelding turnout covered area)

-Issue: Moving the manure to an undercover location in the north section of building 902 is contrary to the NPS's objective of keeping combustible materials outside buildings. In addition, it will eliminate use of an area that currently shelters horses from rain and wind while they are out of their stalls. Such shelter is essential to the health and well-being of these horses.

-Recommendation: Remove existing manure ramp. Relocate the manure container to a location adjacent to the south end of building 901, and build a low profile sliding roof system to prevent rain from falling into the container without impacting sightlines, again an objective of Park staff.

6. Reduce outdoor arena size/create additional turn out area

-Issue: There is no apparent benefit from this recommendation, and proposed reduction will significantly impact effective use of the arena.

-Recommendation: Current turnout space is sufficient, any benefit gained by one additional turnout does not outweigh the loss of the arena space.

7. Equine safety monitoring, including overnight Caretaker's unit

-Issue: This item is not clearly defined in the plan. Converting the stables to housing would significantly alter the historic use and appearance of national historic landmark buildings. Absent more concrete information, particularly with respect to a proposed housing unit, it difficult to respond to this proposal.

-Recommendation: While a 24 hour onsite caretaker presence would be best practice, creating a living space for a caretaker within the current building footprint is impractical, particularly in light of existing housing that is located in close proximity to the stable. Instead, we recommend using the Capehart housing for a horse caretaker, who

would be contractually obligated to check the horses every evening. Video monitoring/or security systems could also be introduced, but are not deemed necessary. Current monitoring includes a fire alarm system which is currently in place with fire department connections and telephone alerts. (Alternatively, if the NPS is determined to create a housing unit on-site, we recommend using building 901 on the North end closet to the parking lot. This would allow the caretaker to monitor the comings and goings of individuals into the facility as well as providing on site monitoring of the horses and barns. Any other location would not provide this oversight benefit.)

We'd like to be smart about resource utilization in these tough economic times and not waste taxpayer dollars. Keeping the facilities as is, with minor improvements for manure management, etc, will eliminate the need for other costly and unneeded structural changes (such as turning bldg. 901 into an indoor arena) – items that are not practical or needed. Keeping the Rodeo Valley Stables/Presidio Riding Club as is makes the most sense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 151

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Susan Hoey Lees
Organization: USDA - NRCS
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 744-A La Guardia
Salinas, CA 93905
Salinas, CA 93905
USA
E-mail: susan.hoeylees@ca.usda.gov

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Hello,

I was asked to review this document after a Livestock & Land presentation I spoke at in San Mateo County on Jan 29th where two NPS representatives were present.

I have not had an opportunity to do a complete review of all the materials in the report and understand the open comment period ends today. It would be great to have more time to review all the materials and give a more in-depth evaluation and comments if possible in the future.

Due to the deadline today I will limit my comments to BMP's at this time.

Perhaps I missed the listing of the agency or Standard that is being cited/used for the BMP's as each Standard is composed of different specification on utilized different construction methods. Each of these will affect how effective any given BMP is in the field. I believe having a set Standard rather than a loose description will ensure any reader of the plan is clear about what will be installed.

For the following categories of BMP's it is a bit unclear as to whether or not all possible BMP's for that category have been explored or considered for equine properties.

Also a key component of the success of BMP's is their selection and placement on to a site to address key issues. A fundamental component of planning and mitigating for equestrian sites is this selection and placement of BMP's on a site plan. I did not readily locate any site maps that indicated what type of BMP's would be used or where they would be placed in a graphical format to address specific resource concerns. I believe this report is missing this very

critical element and an evaluation of this Environmental Assessment cannot be considered without these plan view elements.

Following is a listing of several NRCS BMP Practice Standard's by Practice name and number that could be used as an agency Standard. As mentioned in the report, several BMP's will overlap into the multiple categories listed within the report:

Those Categories as listed in the report are:

1. Manage Storm Water and Runoff to Protect Water Quality:
2. Control Erosion and Sediment
3. Manage Manure
4. Manage Stables
5. Enhance Stable Safety
6. Additional Requirements

NRCS BMP's used on and recommended on equestrian facilities:

- Access Control (472)
- Access Road (560)
- Animal Trails and Walkways (575)
- Composting Facility (317)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342 A-I)
- Diversion (362)
- Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (373)
- Fence (382 A-C)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Fish & Wildlife Structure (734)
- Grade Stabilization Structures (410 & A)
- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Heavy Use Protection (561 & A)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Hillside Ditch (423)
- Land Smoothing (466)
- Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)
- Mulching (484)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
- Pipeline (516)
- Prescribed Grazing (528 A-E)
- Range Planting (550 A-B)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
- Rock Barrier (555)
- Roof Runoff Structure (558)
- Runoff Management (570)
- Stream Crossing (578)
- Streambank & Shoreline Protection (580)
- Structure for Water Control (587 A-B)

- Subsurface Drain (606 & A)
- Surface Drain, Field Ditch (607 & A)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612 A-C)
- Underground Outlet (620)
- Vegetated Treatment Area (635)
- Vegetative Barrier (601)
- Waste Facility Cover (367)
- Waste Storage Facility (313 A-C)
- Water Harvesting Catchment (636)
- Watering Facility (614)
- Waterspreading (640)
- Wetland Enhancement (659)
- Wetland Restoration (657)
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)

I would welcome the opportunity to have further discussions about Site Planning, BMP recommendations and implementations for equestrian facilities and parks if the opportunity presents itself with our agencies.

Respectfully,
Susan Hoey Lees

USDA - NRCS
Civil Engineering Technician
Livestock & Land Partner
744-A La Guardia St.
Salinas, CA 93905

Ph:831.424.7289 ext:122

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 152

Author Information

Keep Private:

[REDACTED]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am very concerned about the possibility of adding another organization, with new horses and riders, to the buildings at Miwok Stables.

For years, Miwok has hosted a program for men and women who have gone through treatment for Cancer. As the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], I have seen how much difference it makes for them to spend time with the horses. After the high-tech, sterile world of medical treatment, the quite safety of the barn, where all creatures are cared for gently, is a welcome respite. Those who attend the program talk to me about how kind everyone is, how much they learn, and how much better they feel in their bodies. I've been privileged to watch as the safety and mindful physicality of the environment lures weary patients back into the world of grass and trees and trustworthy animals. I've watched as they travel from their initial awkwardness and apprehension to the point where they can understand, and then influence and be responsible for the behavior of these big, beautiful animals.

The unique environment that Linda Rubio has fostered at Miwok is essential to the Horses As Healers program. Stables are inherently risky. I have never seen another stable with the laser focus on safety and developing safe riders that Miwok offers us. We have depended for years on their deep generosity with time, space, and splendid horses. Now, I realize that perhaps I took for granted the single high level of safety awareness that has also been essential. Please don't take that away from us.

For years, the Horses As Healers program at Miwok has been important at Marin Cancer Institute. It has offered cancer survivors a deeply embodied experience of growing physical competence. This challenge, met in the presence of constant and knowledgeable support, is an important part of shifting into survivorship, and at Miwok they pull it off every single time. I've got a list of men and women who hope to be part of Horses As Healers in the Spring. I need to know that the precious things we have counted on will still be there for us...

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 153

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Robert Eichstaedt
Organization: Alto Bowl Horseowners Association
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: PO Box 1954
Mill Valley, CA 94942
Mill Valley, CA 94942
USA
E-mail: re@well.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

December 16, 2011

Superintendent Frank Dean
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason – Bldg 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Superintendent Dean,

The Alto Bowl Horseowners Association ("ABHA") appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan Environmental Assessment ("Plan"). Our not-for-profit co-op manages the equine boarding at Horse Hill Open Space Preserve in Mill Valley, CA under a long-term grazing lease with Marin County Parks. We are grateful for the hard work that has gone into this plan, helping insure the continued and sustainable presence of horses in the GGNRA in Marin.

After reviewing the alternatives presented, we find ourselves most in agreement with Alternative B – Option 1, which provides for 4 facilities. We believe that the Park Horse Patrol program should have its own dedicated facility and that its current location (Lower Tennessee Valley) is well suited. Adding the Patrol's horses to the Miwok facility (Alternative B2) will limit future increases in the patrol program's size. It may also unnecessarily constrain future Miwok operators.

The PHP is a very effective public outreach program. It should be expanded with additional horses and volunteers. When a situation requires law enforcement, an armed officer in a Crown Vic is appropriate. When trail information, minor medical aid, environmental education and positive agency image is wanted, then a trained, uniformed volunteer with a radio on a horse works wonderfully. The current GGNRA Draft General Management Plan's preferred management concept is: "Connecting People with Parks," and as horse-keepers and trail riders on public land, we know that horses facilitate connections between people and with the land. Horses are ambassadors of right relationship.

It's our understanding that one goal of Alternative B2 is elimination of all structures and operations at the Lower Tennessee Valley site and restoration to a more natural environment. We feel that the LTV location should instead be improved for continued use by the PHP, and additionally enhanced to provide specialized public education opportunities, removed from the busy stable/trailhead complex at Miwok.

Other comment:

While the Plan is technically an environmental document, without the horse, there would be no stables and no Plan.

Strangely, the terms "welfare" and "humane" do not appear anywhere in the Plan. The horse is the whole point of the exercise. More than just a tool or cog, the horse is an extremely sensitive creature who willingly partners with us in a variety of activities. We believe that "Best Management Practices" should specifically incorporate the highest level of humane care, training and use.

Horses are, above all else, social animals. Management policies should address the equine's need for equine companionship, as is available in large group turnout.

Horses are active animals and need more than brief daily release from a small box into a slightly larger cage. Future consideration of a well-managed pasturing program should be explicitly allowed by the Plan so that such a program is not presumed denied forever. Among things we've learned at Horse Hill: a plan is both a guide and a constraint -- whatever is not mentioned in the plan's text is usually not allowed; open pasture is horse heaven; managed intermittent grazing can promote native grasses and maintain open grasslands.

The completion and implementation of the Marin Equestrian Stables Plan will yield much-needed parkland improvements, with multiple facilities and programs focused on the horse. It will be a model for other agencies with similar situations. NPS staff is commended for their continuing good work on behalf of the public and the horses.

Robert Eichstaedt
President,
Alto Bowl Horseowners Association

Box 1954
Mill Valley, CA 94942

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 154**

Author Information

Keep Private:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

First, thank you for the careful consideration you have given to the MESP, and the thoughtful options you have presented.

My comments regarding preferred options for the MESP come from my experience as a private GGNRA trail rider, a Tennessee Valley Horse Patrol volunteer, and a former president of the [Redacted].

The MESP states that its' purpose is" to provide for comprehensive improvement of equestrian sites, facilities, programs, and stables management... to improve visitor services and preserve, protect, and enhance park natural and cultural resources" consistent with NPS plans and policies.

Plan B1 is my preferred plan for doing so because:

- 1) It will be more efficient and effective to run the separate operations of Tennessee Valley stables and TVHP in separate locations in terms of management, operations and resource allocation among programs and horses. Safety issues increase with the challenge of "fitting in to one space" diverse programs with different purposes, different participants, and different rules and regulations as required by each program.

- 2) As the Bay Area grows more crowded and suburban, opportunities to experience open space, nature, and our heritage of "life with livestock" will grow both more rare and more important. Equestrian programs provide an important link to nature and our unique western heritage. Maintaining the TVHP barn at its current location allows for potential future growth of such programs there and at Tennessee Valley stables. Once the space is eliminated, it is unlikely to be re-created when the need arises.

3) The current TVHP property provides better facilities for maintaining horse health than the proposed plan at Tennessee Valley stables: the three paddocks allow sufficient space for exercise, grazing, and proper separation of horses. The calm, quiet location is a boon to horse/volunteer health and safety as well.

4) Budget differences may be minimal between plans B1 and B2 when "motivated volunteerism" is taken into consideration.

5) My suggested criteria for making decisions on the MESP options are: 1) Maintaining the option for future programs and opportunities where feasible; 2) Maintain separate facilities for separate programs to ensure best management practices. This helps ensure that 3) horse and volunteer health and safety are best provided for.

A preference for using historical sites instead of non-historical (such as the TVHP barn) should be low on the criteria list in comparison to the aforementioned criteria.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 155

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
Sausalito, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 12/16/2011 Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I have been riding at the Presidio Riding Club for about seven years as a sponsor. I don't really know the other sites but I know the Rodeo Valley site pretty well. I agree with all of the PRC's more detailed comments, which they have outlined well, I will cut and paste those below.

I feel that the No Action Alternative would be best. Option B-2 proposes increased turnout area which is not needed, and a new indoor arena - a change that would make the number of desired stalls impossible. Renovations of the Balloon Hangar are necessary regardless of the future use - I think it would be most practical to leave it as an indoor arena. Being able to use the Balloon Hangar in rainy conditions would also allow public programs to be scheduled regardless of weather, and its use as an arena is an approved use for this historic building. Using the building as storage would not allow people to view it and would impact the Coastal Trail. Some visitors already seem fairly upset over all of the changes in the Park recently.

In addition, the roofs on buildings 901 and 902 were just replaced in the past year (I think - recent), so only minor additional upgrades would be necessary in these buildings if no major changes were made. The manure storage could also be upgraded.

No matter which alternative is chosen, please consider that there is a core group of people who have kept their horses here for many many years. I have been to many work days and helped them build new walls, weld plumbing, weed nonnative plants, dig ditches and build water bars. This group has done a lot of work to keep up with these ageing buildings, sunk a lot of their own time, money, and sweat into it. They have complied earnestly with NPS regulations, and initiated public programs with war veterans who come visit the horses as therapy, which is going very well. All of the members are very warm and responsive to the public. They know the site well and they take great care of it. Please consider giving them as much time as possible if things have to change.

One last thought - it would definitely be wonderful for all of the stables to be as accessible to the public as possible - but horseback riding is an expensive hobby, no matter what. Horses are expensive animals to keep. In this location, and in these economic times, it will never be equally accessible to all people. And there will still be limited stalls at each site with a long waiting list.

Thanks for the chance to comment.

Presidio Riding Club Summary Response to Alternative Option B-2:

1. Horse Capacity at Existing Stables

-Issue: In all alternatives, the NPS plan calls for stabling capacity at Rodeo Valley to be 27. This includes 19 permanent year-round stalls, and 8 short-term visiting (Horse Hotel – HH) stalls, which are available to the public throughout the year. Under option B-2 all horses would be housed in building 902. However, building 902 only has space for 22 horses. Thus, this option would require extensive renovation to create five additional stalls, which may be difficult to achieve.

-Recommendation: Leave building 901 and 902 unchanged, and utilize building 901 and 902 to meet stabling objectives

2. NPS Utilizing Balloon Hanger for storage of heavy equipment for 10 years.

-Issue: Under this option, the Hanger and parking area will not be available for PRC use for 10 years. This presents a number of problems. Currently, this area is used to store horse trailers. These trailers are essential in the event that horses need to be evacuated in an emergency situation. In addition, heavy equipment moving in and out on the access road presents unsafe and undesirable conditions for horses and Park visitors like hikers and bikers since the "access road" is part of the Coastal Trail. Many people use the Coastal Trail, and the daily presence of heavy equipment will undermine their cultural experience and their enjoyment of the Park's natural resources. It also increases the risk of accidents. Horses in particular may be frightened by loud heavy equipment, which will create dangerous situations for horses, riders, and others using the trail.

-Recommendation: Rehabilitate Balloon Hanger, retain as indoor arena, as per the Fort Barry Balloon Hanger and Motor Vehicle Sheds Abbreviated Historic Structures Report this would be a very compatible use for the hanger. The PRC would also like to propose fund raising activities in support of the Balloon Hanger rehabilitation, in addition our members would provide an onsite resource to support the historical and cultural experience involving the Hanger and Vehicle Sheds.

3. Hay and Feed to be placed in a Steel Container 25 feet south of building 901

-Issue: A 10' x 20' container would require feed to be replenished approximately every 4 days. This would NOT be a best practice. Horses' digestive systems are very sensitive to changes in their diet. The constant turnover required by this plan could have fatal consequences and is not recommended.

-Recommendation: The PRC currently utilizes approximately 2,500 sq. feet of floor space to store food and bedding. We recommend that this practice continue. Meeting plan objectives will only require the installation of sprinklers (fire detection is already in place) and fire rating the walls that separate the feed/bedding area from the rest of building.

4. Building 901 modified to create an indoor exercise ring

-Issue: Overhead clearance is insufficient to provide for safe environment for this purpose. In addition, as discussed above, it is important to maintain stalls in this building to achieve the NPS' objective of having 27 stalls at this location.

-Recommendation: Do not alter the building. Instead, retain the stalls the building contains to achieve NPS objectives.

5. Manure moved to building 902 (Gelding turnout covered area)

-Issue: Moving the manure to an undercover location in the north section of building 902 is contrary to the NPS's objective of keeping combustible materials outside buildings. In addition, it will eliminate use of an area that

currently shelters horses from rain and wind while they are out of their stalls. Such shelter is essential to the health and well-being of these horses.

-Recommendation: Remove existing manure ramp. Relocate the manure container to a location adjacent to the south end of building 901, and build a low profile sliding roof system to prevent rain from falling into the container without impacting sightlines, again an objective of Park staff.

6. Reduce outdoor arena size/create additional turn out area

-Issue: There is no apparent benefit from this recommendation, and proposed reduction will significantly impact effective use of the arena.

-Recommendation: Current turnout space is sufficient, any benefit gained by one additional turnout does not outweigh the loss of the arena space.

7. Equine safety monitoring, including overnight Caretaker's unit

-Issue: This item is not clearly defined in the plan. Converting the stables to housing would significantly alter the historic use and appearance of national historic landmark buildings. Absent more concrete information, particularly with respect to a proposed housing unit, it difficult to respond to this proposal.

-Recommendation: While a 24 hour onsite caretaker presence would be best practice, creating a living space for a caretaker within the current building footprint is impractical, particularly in light of existing housing that is located in close proximity to the stable. Instead, we recommend using the Capehart housing for a horse caretaker, who would be contractually obligated to check the horses every evening. Video monitoring/or security systems could also be introduced, but are not deemed necessary. Current monitoring includes a fire alarm system which is currently in place with fire department connections and telephone alerts.

We'd like to be smart about resource utilization in these tough economic times and not waste taxpayer dollars. Keeping the facilities as is, with minor improvements for manure management, etc will eliminate the need for other costly and unneeded structural changes (such as turning Bldg. 901 into an indoor arena) – items that are not practical or needed. Keeping the Rodeo Valley Stables/Presidio Riding Club as is makes the most sense.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 156

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Shere Stoddard
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 85 Sunset Way
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/12/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Mr. Dean:

Let me begin by thanking you and the NPS for choosing to keep all three stables open to the horses. We greatly appreciate knowing that the NPS continues to value the partnership with our community as demonstrated by your decision. Thank you for affirming the positive benefits gained for the visitor experience, the environment and our community by allowing the horses to stay at Muir Beach. We feel the NPS and the Muir Beach community are in alignment concerning our collective responsibility to continue to care for the physical and mental health of our equine family.

We feel one of the best ways to connect people to our park is by having some horse stalls in the front that are clearly visible by the visitors. People love horses and many of our urban visitors especially children have never seen a horse up close. The public and the community overwhelming support having the horses up front and visible as was validated during the comment period.

While we appreciate the idea of the Golden Gate Dairy building being restored from a historical perspective, we feel the GGD will not connect as many people to our park as the horses will. We feel that maintaining the rustic nature of the stables and historical buildings with a seamless blend of the buildings will continue to support the horses' absolute need for social connection to humans, of which they are dependent upon for mental and physical health.

Besides horses' connection to humans for mental and physical health, they must also have paddock space that allows all horses to see other horses regularly. We know it is essential that the horses have their own communal quarters to prevent duress mentally and physically. If the proper habitat isn't provided for the horses they can suffer a myriad of ailments up to and including death.

We are thankful to the NPS and Superintendent Dean for the decision to allow each stable to have a covered arena for the use of exercise in inclement weather. The covered arena will help to protect the environment, the trails and the horses' mental and physical health.

Please consider the construction of horse safe bridges to allow for crossing at two of the Redwood Creek areas to protect our newly constructed banks and the continued growth of the coho salmon population and its habitat. Not to mention safe crossing for the horses. When we take care of all the wildlife we are responsible for we will connect people to our park.

The connection of the Dias Ridge Trail 2 with the Redwood Creek is important to our park, the visitor experience and the community. We respectfully ask the NPS to do so responsibly and not reduce the overall size of the horse arena. We feel that we can accomplish the connection of the trails without sacrificing the size of the arena. Please reconsider the proposed plan of reduction of 20 feet of the stables arena to 10 feet or less to accommodate the trail and bus stop.

The farm house residence we support being managed by on site personnel available to care for the horses' safety and health in an emergency. We continue our support for the present and independent staff that has invested much into our park, protection of the environment, the visitor experience and the community along with our beloved horses.

The horses, the mailboxes, the trails, the beach, the coho salmon, the red legged frogs are all equally important to the beauty and magic of our park at Muir Beach and the visitor experience.

The NPS and the Muir Beach community have a duty to protect our animal and human families as well as guard our partnership. A partnership built upon careful consideration, compromise, open to listen and always doing the right thing no matter what.

Sincerely,

Shere' Stoddard and Ming Hwang

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 161

Author Information

Keep Private:

Name: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New

Park Correspondence Log:

Date Sent:

Date Received: 12/13/2011

Number of Signatures: 1

Form Letter: No

Contains Request(s): No

Type: Letter

Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean;

I am writing as a local citizen who enjoys the Golden Gate dairy although I do not ride in the area, nor do I board a horse there. My purpose in writing is to express that one does not need to ride in order to enjoy the presence of the horses.

Far from being an eye-sore, I find that the horses make a positive impression on the property. Not only are they beautiful creatures, but they add a certain tranquility to the surrounding that I for one quite like. Numerous of my neighbors have expressed the same thing to me.

What makes the horses such a positive addition to the area is the fact that they are obviously cared for in such a professional manner. I applaud the efforts that have been made so far to preserve and enhance the equestrian areas. I wish to urge the District to consider the horses to be an important feature of the Golden Gate Dairy and to keep them prominently visible in front of any restored dairy buildings.

Thanks you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 162

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Judith Forrest
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 119 Sunnyside Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/03/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I have been a part of the horse community in Marin for the past 12 years; first riding at Tennessee Valley and for the past 7 years, a lucky sponsor of a beautiful horse at the Golden Gate dairy in Muir Beach. I appreciate having the opportunity to comment on the Marin Equestrian Plan and hope that you receive a high volume of letters as there are so many people who benefit from the horses that are in our community.

As a member of the Ocean Riders, I know first-hand how much care and consideration is given to maintaining the site and complying with all of the environmental requirements. We are blessed to have incredibly informed, conscientious and committed barn management and board members. All of the Ocean Riders participate in the upkeep of the barn and pasture spaces and there is enormous personal investment in the maintenance of the land. I urge you to maintain individual management for each of the sites.

I also hope that you will take into consideration the value of having the horses situated where the public can view them. I cannot count the times that have chatted with visitors, from the US and beyond, about the horses and the trails. Children brighten when they actually get to pet one of our lovely horses. I hear over and over what a special and beautiful place we have. The rustic barn and stables have such charm and fit so well into the natural landscape. Please don't move the horses away from the original site.

Thank you for your support of our stables and beloved horses.



3. Bridges over the creek are important.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

[REDACTED]

With gratitude and respect for all you do to steward this land,



EQUESTRIAN ISSUES

A stable is difficult business to operate: Along with the concern for the animals, there are large issues of liability and reputation that experienced stable owners (in this case, lease holders) will be capable of dealing with. The Park Service is not in the business of providing these services, and therefore should not be dictating to the lease holders.

COMPROMISE

It is suggested that the lease holders be consulted regarding various issues:

1. How a master plan for Marin Equestrian Environment might look.
2. That the lease holders leases be for a long enough time to allow them to plan ahead and build up their safety and land-care issues (the stability should be good for the quality of life in Marin County).
3. That grants be given to the lease holders for improvements that are desired by Water Quality issues, etc. Each lease holder will be able to complete the jobs as needed.

It would also allow for the continuation of the Park Service Horse Riding Volunteers. This service is apparently unable to stand on its own without tremendous subsidy from the park Service. Therefore it may be in the best interest of the Park Service to De-fund the Volunteers at Lower Tennessee Valley Barn.

FUND RAISING

There is tremendous crowding at the parking areas for all areas noted on the park documents. Foot traffic and car congestion is possibly ten-times greater than it was ten years ago. A small day-use fee for hiking and camping might be established to raise funds for Park maintenance. Since the stables are already paying for rent, this would place the cars and the horses on an even footing.

Thank you for your attention.

I look forward to seeing some accounting on these issues.



summer camps in the east bay. I see so much potential at the Golden Gate Dairy to uphold the values and goals of community outreach that reflects the 'Connecting People to Parks' plan. Once the Marin Equestrian Plan is in place I hope to participate in Ocean Riders program development that will allow for community outreach through environmental education and therapeutic experiences for the public.

Horses are natural co-therapists but in order to provide effective services their own mental health needs to be considered. Horses are naturally social creatures and it is important that they are not isolated when turned out for their mental and physical health so I encourage the plan to allow for a minimum of two, but preferably four, paddocks to remain in the arena: and to retain the isolation paddock where a horse recovering from an injury or contagious illness can still be within clear sight of its herd mates. I applaud the plan for supporting construction of a covered round pen at the Dairy site because it will not only allow for year-round outreach programs to be possible, but it will also support the horses' mental and physical health and help protect and maintain trail health during the winter months.

Marin is a very unique place and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been raised in an area with so much open space and a population dedicated to protecting its natural beauty. My hope is that future generations are as fortunate as I am to be "raised" by the horses at Golden Gate Dairy Stables and the land surrounding it. I appreciate NPS efforts in preserving this special haven.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 174

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Steven S. Shaffer
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 240 Pacific Way
Muir Beach, , CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

As a resident of Muir Beach, I am please the Marin Equestrian Plan intends to keep the horses at the Golden Gate Dairy and hope any changes you propose will be minimal.

I, like many others, have enjoyed having the horses as part of our community and frequently have taken children down to visit this wonderful resource. They are an integral park of Muir Beach and enjoyed by many who visit there. I hope the the proposed changes include keeping the horses stables in front adjacent to the current arena. I believe this would fit in ideally with the NPS General Management Plan's theme of "Connecting People to Parks", as the horses are the most important element in bringing the public in to visit the Dairy. Easy access to the horses is especially important for people with small children in that there seem to be fewer and fewer recreational opportunities available to them that are inexpensive, or in this case free. The horse corral and stables is an integral part of Muir Beach life and we hope you won't change that.

Thank you for taking my comments into considerations.

Best regards, Steven S. Shaffer

President, Muir Beach Board of Directors

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 175

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Carl Pabo
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 367 Molino Ave.
Mill Valley, , CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Frank Dean, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

As a visitor to Muir Beach, who lives just minutes away, I'm pleased the horses have approved for staying in their current location, and at all the Southern Marin barns, and to read of plans for covered arenas, for a safety trail off the highway in Muir Beach, and that the horses are being envisioned as a long term part of GGNRA's future, in choosing the "Connecting Parks to People and Places" vision for the area.

It is my hope that whatever improvements are made in Muir Beach will keep the horses in something close to their current set up. I would much rather look at stalls and horses playing out in front than an empty area fronted by a bus stop. This historical barn complex deserves a living future.

It's a fine outcome to this long process of past and future improvements that we will see equestrian on the Southern Marin Trails for all future decades.

Yours

Carl O Pabo

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 176

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Devon S. Tumgoren
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW 11th Floor
Washington DC, DC 20036
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Mr. Superintendent

I grew up passing the beautiful Golden Gate Dairy Stables on our way to and from the beach my entire childhood. The best days for my brother and I were when our family spent het morning at Muir Beach, went to the Pelican Inn for fish and chips, and then got to run across the street to pet the horses. Like most little girls, I decided that I wanted to be a have a pony of my own one day. That dream was eventually replaced by something else- I think it was to be a ballerina- but I have never lost my love and wonder for horses.

Growing up in Marin, You learn to appreciate nature at an early age. At Kumara Preschool our field trips revolved around exploring the woods of Tam Valley to study the mushrooms and wading through the tide pools in point Reyes to observe starfish and other sea critters in their natural habitat. Maybe it's because I've had to live on the east coast for almost five years now, but to me there is no better, more beautiful place on earth than Marin County. Luckily my New York-born and raised husband agrees with me and we're planning on to move back to Marin as soon as our jobs will allow it, probably in early 2013.

One of the first places I took my husband (while we were still just dating) was the idyllic hamlet on Highway 1 to show him Muir Beach and the horses across the street. I wasn't sure if the experience would be as remarkable to someone who didn't have the childhood memories of it, but my husband fell in love immediately. He couldn't believe that you could see horses right from the road – and that just anyone could walk in and pet one. Our hope is to one day take our own children to pet the horses at the stables and spend the day at Muir Beach.

I was obviously thrilled to learn about the decision to keep the Presidio Riding Club, Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy at their current sites. In addition as a former and future local resident, I feel the retaining the present independent management at these sites makes sense for the public as well – given that over the years they have proven to be committed to protecting the surrounding environment and improving our community as a whole.

Best, Devon Slattery Tumgoren

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 177

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Joe Stewart
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 3671 Sailors Ravine Road
Auburn, CA 95603
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

To whom it may concern at NPS:

It has come to my attention that the NPS is considering moving the Muir Beach horse paddocks to a less visible location. I am writing to request that you please leave the stable where it is.

I know GGNRA has a rich history and I appreciate that the NPS is highlighting that history in its renovations of the park. But as someone who grew up in the area, I consider the horses as an important part of that history! While, the paddocks are at a former dairy site, a plaque would suffice in sharing that information. Horses do a wonderful job of harkening back to dairy times while simultaneously evoking the important recent history of Muir Beach: they have been here many years and are part of the history themselves!

I have also been impressed over the years by the active stewardship of the stable community. While a population of large mammals (horses in this case) in the watershed have an environmental impact, the stable is thoughtfully managed, nice to look at, and its members have been vitally involved in the restoration work being done in the area. In addition to the historical connection for the locals and the advocacy received by the park, I believe the paddocks present visibility imparts important human lessons to all who see it. The message it gives: here is an example of sustainable transportation. As a science teacher in the area for over 18 years, I consider these to be critical lessons. Move the paddocks, and lose the lessons.

As a member of the public, it is my desire that the horse paddocks stay where they are. I am reminded of my childhood every time I drive by. In addition to this personal benefit, all visitors to the area and the park ecosystem as a whole benefit from the presence of the stable members as advocates. Please keep them where they are!

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Joe Stewart

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 178

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Kathleen Wasley
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 10936 Lovas Ct.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Superintendent:

My very good friend Judith has her horse boarded at the Muir Beach stables and I understand there is a possible plan to move them to a different location. Please Don't. I have been hiking the trails through the Muir Beach, Tennessee Valley and Headlands area for years on my frequent visits to the Bay area and it would absolutely NOT be the same without the beautiful, gorgeous horses that can be easily seen. The horses contribute immensely to the charm and natural beauty of the three sites this letter is in reference to. It would be heartbreaking if these horses were hidden away from view of the public who enjoy this magical spot year round.

Thank you,
Kathy Wasley

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986 Correspondence: 179

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Charlene Modena
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 59A Seascape Dr.
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2012
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

To Whom It May Concern.

First, thank you for choosing to keep all 3 stables open.

In your plan to connect People to Parks please consider the importance of maintaining horses and continuing horses as a part of the plan.

Please consider the importance of having stables where the horses can see one another- horse health.

Community support- overwhelming support for keeping the horses. They are a long term – many years – part of the community spirit of Muir Beach

Encourage restoration of historical buildings, horse safe bridges, farm house as onsite manager residence and continuation and implementation of covered horse exercise arena.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Charlene Modena

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 180**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Carey Behel
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 992 Copper Vista Drive
Prescott, AZ 86303
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Superintendent Dean,

I grew up in Northern California and enjoyed many trips to GGNRA. The presence of horses was key to my enjoyment in the park lands: Specifically, the Golden Gate Dairy at Muir Beach. I understand the desire to restore the historic look of Golden Gate Dairy and hope that it will be accomplished while allowing the horses to remain visible to the public.

The visual presence of these horses is part of the rich cultural heritage of this area. I encourage you to preserve this vital part of the parks program.

Sincerely,

Carey Behel

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 181**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: none Duewi
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 880 Alvarado # 142
Davis, CA 95616
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean,
I am originally from China but visit Mill Valley with my fiancé and my favorite part of the trip is the time spent with the horses at Muir Beach.
You can imagine that I have never been able to touch a horse before and this barn is so educational for me.
So I am writing to praise the NPS for choosing to keep all 3 stables open to horses! What a wonderful gift to the people and visitors to Marin.
Thanks you again and I hope they will always be there when I come visit with my family.
Sincerely,
Duewi.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 182

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Cynthia Saunders
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 321 Tennessee Ave #A
Mill Valley , CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

I have just been informed about the possible relocation of the horse stables located at Muir Beach on Marin County. This stable has always been one of my stops when visiting Muir Beach, Stinson Beach and the Pelican Inn. I have always cherished the time spent watching the hoses at the stables and in the fields and always looked forward to this event. The horses and stable have added so much to this Muir Beach community that I feel it would be tragic if this horse stable goes away. On many of my visits, I would often see cars stop by to admire the horses making this stable a huge draw to the community. The visibility of this stable allows this to happen. Isth the high volume of people that visit the Pelican Inn, on many occasions I have encountered families walking over to view the horses as well as individuals. I honestly hoe you can find a way to keep this stable open in the location it is in now. It would be very sad to see this stable go away and would take away some charm from this community.

Thanks you for listening.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Saunders

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 183

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Robin Allen
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 849 Nicasio Valley Road
Nicasio,, CA 94946
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Superintendent Dean,

For four decades my family and I have enjoyed our Muir Beach experience in the large part because we have enjoyed the horses and the old dairy facilities. Because it is an important landmark and destination for us I have been following the progress of the Marin Equestrian Plan.

I want to praise the NPS for choosing to keep horses at all three stables. I hope the operators at these sites will be able to continue with the good work they have clearly been doing over these past years. I appreciate the fact that you have lifted the military requirements from the Presidio Riding Club.

While I have great appreciation for the restoration of historical places, I would urge you to find ways for keeping the stables rustic and not too "perfect". A huge part of the charm, from our perspective is seeing the stables with its weathered hay barn and quaint mail boxes. The horses have become part of the cultural landscape since the days of dairy farming and I hope you will rethink your proposal to move them out of sight. Both the stalls and the horses are a draw to the public for whatever other programs you wish to initiate and are an asset to the community of Muir Beach.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robin Allen

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 184

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Theodora Bates
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: POB 2443
Mill Valley, CA 94942
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

Thank you all for your decision to keep all three barns in Southern Marin. IN my experience the horses in Muir Beach draw people to Golden Gate Dairy. They bring their children over from the Pelican Inn. Stop in cars, they ask if the can rent horses to ride! The public loves seeing the horses in the Barn at Muir Beach or on the trails. People like to come by and just spend time around the horses. We need to keep the horses out where people can see them. Also the old Dairy is lovey the way it is. With the Hay Barn, I think a Rustic look is good or would be good to keep that look.

(Phase II Safety Trail) It would be wonderful if you would consider a connector trail or complete it without reducing the arena from 20 feet to 10 feet.

I think it would be a good idea to build two bridges for the two Redwood Creek crossings it would protect the banks and salmon habitat and allow for safe horse crossings...

And to have a covered area to exercise the horses in Bad Weather would be good for the horses and the trails.

Thank you for your time, Best wishes,

Theodora Bates

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 185**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Ben Anderson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: POB 822
Mill Valley, CA 94942
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To: Park Service

The Ocean Riders barn is truly historical part of Muir Beach's history. It would truly be a great loss to the community to have it reconstructed into a modern barn. Preserving this area is of great value not only to those involved with it but to those that visit the area. Tourists don't want to see a modern barn they can see that anywhere. Tourists come to experience the rustic beauty of coastal Marin County. With Muir Beach already becoming modernized, doing so the barn would significantly reduce its appeal to those looking for something other than pavement, industry + city lights. Please preserve this gem of Marin and allow it to remain as is.
(Signature)

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 186

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Debra Allen
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1853 Shoreline Highway
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Mr. Dean:

I sell real estate in Muir Beach and have lived here for 20 years or so. Seeing the horses is beautiful and calming for residents as well as future residents. Please don't hide the horses from us, our visitors our tourists our potential new owner/neighbors. It's the best part of the day to see them when I get my mail and to talk to them when I walk the dog. I miss knowing there is a caretaker family in that old house and worry about the horse's safety. Please allow a horse caretaker to live in that old house again. The horses need a nice big arena covered areas for rain and on-site caretaker, better bridges to get over creeks, trails that continue and connect for safety for our mental health, the horses mental health and the beauty of our area. I don't see any purpose in huge bus stops as they will just attract garbage and ugliness and won't be used. Feel free to have someone call, Debra Allen 415-279-3751. 1853 Shoreline Highway MBCA 94965

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 187**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Sophia Stewart
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 3671 Sailor's Ravine
Auburn , CA 95603
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/15/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Park Service

Please don't move the stables where nobody can see them. If you move the stables where nobody can see them, people who don't know about the move will not be able to visit the horses and now visitors would the horses and the people unhappy.

Sincerely,

Sophia (age 9) [address]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 188**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Hannah McGrath
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1712 E. Madison St
Petaluma, CA 94954
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Park Service:
I have always enjoyed watching the horses play at Muir Beach.
I love the rustic atmosphere, it transforms you to the past.
Please consider not uprooting this community of horse people from our view and keep the horses in front.
Big changes mean big money. Keep plans simple and the feel of Ocean Riders simple.
Hannah [address]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 189

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Ruth Gerson
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: POB 245
Agoura Hills, CA 91376
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

The Recreation & Equestrian Coalition is an organization that works to inform the public and policy makers about access to and the use of diverse recreational opportunities. We strongly support Alternative B with Proposal 1. We feel that keeping the Golden Gate Dairy Stables at Muir Beach is important and vital for the equestrian community as well as for the general public.

We believe that some of the horse stables should be allowed to remain in front of the historic buildings with fewer stalls needing to be built in the back. Some stalls are needed in the arena for the stable's operation, for the horse's mental health and so the general public will have better access and viewing of the horses. The isolation should remain because it serves as a quarantine site when needed and also for farriers and veterinarians to handle horses under shelter.

There have been many changes at the stables over the years and the Best Management Practices that have been implemented by Ocean Riders indicate a strong sense of responsibility for the environment and should serve as a role model for other facilities.

Golden Gate Dairy was in operation when I lived in Marin from 1946 to 1954. At that time the Wheelwright family had Green Gulch Ranch, now the Zen Center. Many of us rode horses at the ranch as kids on weekends and through the summers. The dairy, too, remains in my memory file. It is absolutely wonderful that the Golden Gate Dairy has been preserved and is now a riding stable providing enjoyment for many equestrians and visitors.

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the GGNRA Marin Equestrian Plan.

Sincerely, Ruth Gerson, President [address]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 190**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Glenn Hammonds
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2036 Norfolk Road,
Berkeley , CA 94705
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Sup. Dean,

I am very pleased to find that the NPS will be keeping all three equestrian stables open for the foreseeable future. I would however like to voice my strong support for continuing to keep the horses "Front and Center": visible upon entry rather than relegated to a back of the barn [space?].

Keeping the [renters?] as they are presently situated is as much a preservation as attempting to recreate a past era, and in fact likely to represent a much more accurate picture, as time passes, but the renters remain.

In this [?], keeping the present arena size is important, horse safe bridges, and maintaining the current excellent management. Thank you for your consideration, Glenn Hammonds

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 191**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Renee Posner
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 15496 Lakewood Lane
Grass Valley , CA 95945
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Mr. Dean,
I am writing to request that the stables at the Golden Gate Dairy continue to be visible to the public. My family has enjoyed seeing the horses in the park as we pass by for years.
Having access to seeing the horses as one passes by evokes people's passion for the beauty and uniqueness of the area. It is an integral part of the beauty at Muir Beach.
Please continue to allow the horses to remain visible to the public.
Thank you, Renee Posner

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 192**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Chris Farmer
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1972 Curtis Street, #2
Berkeley, CA 94702
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Whom It May Concern and Frank Dean

I often visit the stables every time I bring friends and family to tour beautiful Muir Beach, Muir Woods and surrounding areas. Seeing, and what's more, being able to walk up to and touch a real horse is a unique experience for most people.

I also grew up on a horse farm in Kentucky and know firsthand the estrangement and isolation horses experience when they are not in each other's view and company.

Please allow the stables to remain as they are.

Thank you, Chris Farmer

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 193

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Leida Schoggin
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 897 Noe Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am a relatively new member of Ocean Riders at Golden Gate Dairy. My daughter and I have been there for about eight years. What we found here is unique among horse barns anywhere – a place where people work together to make a place where horses can be as content and happy as is possible when they are not allowed to roam free. Horses are herd animals. They are social animals. They need contact with other horses. At Golden Gate Dairy, with limited space and much volunteer labor our horses live a pretty good life. They are not, as is so often the case, confined to a twelve foot indoor stall space. All of them have protected stall space and an outdoor paddock area. All of them are in physical proximity to other horses. And all of them get to spend at least some time every day in an open arena usually with other horses. Some horses cannot "play" with others because they may injure themselves or another horse, but even if they are out alone they are right next to other horses. The time, thought, care that goes into the scheduling of these turnouts is one example of the understanding of the needs of the horses that is demonstrated here on a daily basis.

This concern for the health and happiness of the horses is also evident in the care that each of the Ocean Riders member offers to the horses of other members. Whether it is feeding a special diet, giving medication when an owner can't be there, putting on or taking off a blanket, noticing that a horse isn't feeling well and letting the owner know, each of us does what we can to respond to every horse's needs. This is a rare and wonderful experience in the world of horses. I value this experience not only for myself, but for my daughter, who came here when she was ten years old and therefore has experienced this approach as normal for the past eight years.

Another unique aspect to the Golden Gate Dairy is that its mode of operation has permitted people of limited means to own horses. Horse ownership in the rest of the urban world is the opportunity of a privileged few. At Golden Gate Dairy horse owners are students, yoga instructors, gardeners, dog walkers, painters, veterinary technicians, and others earning a living in ordinary ways and sharing their horses with others of like mind and experience. As a group we are eager to share our horses with others by offering both riding and non-riding programs to children, young people and adults who want to learn more about horses or want to get over their fear of horses, or want to know how

to be around horses with their dogs or bikes. There is much that horses and their relationships can teach a person and we hope to be able to offer that opportunity to many others in the future.

The market rate for boarding a horse in most places is about twice what Ocean Riders' members pay. Whether that can continue into the future is unknown. What experience shows us is that the current management approach makes the most of the resources that we have, creates an atmosphere of cooperation and concern for one another and for the broader community in which we live and makes the equine experience available to as many as possible under the current permit. As a member, I hope that the new plan will allow for some flexibility in the number of horses that are permitted in this location if that means that process can remain reasonable and more options for future public programs can be provided.

I am very grateful that the preferred alternative in the Marin Equestrian Plan keeps horses at Golden Gate Dairy. I hope, however, that consideration will be given to keeping horses visible in front of the property. The long history of this place as a haven for horses deserves some consideration in how it should be viewed by the public. Its history as a dairy barn for fifty years is equaled by its history as a horse barn. The horses are what draw people in to learn about the history, as we find out almost anytime we are at the barn. People are curious about the horses, want to introduce their children to the horses, and want to just stand and look at the horses and be near them. They are a source of pleasure and calm in an often crazy world. Once people are there, they are curious about the history of the barn and the other buildings and we tell them about that history. It is hard to believe that an open view of the central core would draw as many people to find out more as will beautiful horses looking out at the arena, sleeping in the sun, rolling in the arena or playing with one another over the fences.

The thought and consideration of many competing interests that have gone into the preparation of the Marin Equestrian Plan are impressive. I hope that the open-minded approach to the Plan will continue as it enters its final phases.

Sincerely, Leida Schoggin

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 194

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Katherine Randolph
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 14 Magdalena Court
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/11/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Sir,

I am excited about the new Marin Equestrian Plan for GGNRA. I have used both Miwok and Golden Gate Dairy in the past and visit each of them often. I also like to hike the Redwood Creek Trail. I would like to support the following options:

Please keep the current administrators as they have been good stewards in the past and have a great commitment to their facilities.

Please keep the emphasis on horses, not the historical buildings by keeping horses part of the mix.

Please keep the horses at Golden Gate Dairy out front where we can visit them.

Isolation paddocks are important for each facility.

Keep onsite houses available for stable management or help to be available in emergency. This is especially important given that the stables are open to walk in public 24 hours and are not secure. Keep covered exercise rings available.

Provide a safe trail for horses along the Redwood Creek Trail.

Provide safe horse bridges for the 2 Redwood Creek Crossings.

Thanks for all your work.

Katherine Randolph

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 195**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Lyn Gatti
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2226 Mar East
Tiburon , CA 94920
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing this note to express my concern over the proposed relocation of the horses at the Golden Gate Dairy. It has always given me great pleasure to go out there and watch the horses at play. I have several friends who keep their horses and have for the entire life of these horses. It would be such a shame to see them moved- for us as for them.

Sincerely, Lyn Gatti

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 196

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Tristan C[?]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: POB 822
Mill Valley, CA 94942
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Park Service,

I have been a member of Ocean Riders for years. I was so happy to have my horse close when I moved back to Southern Marin after years away, living in Oregon and studying equine management and agriculture/Animal Science at Oregon State. If I did not have this barn, which feels like a family, I would not live here.

The proposed plan makes little sense. The Isolation stall is crucial for the heard health; we have used it in the past for horses with contagious pathogens and for new horses coming in. All barns should have an isolation space. If we relocated 11 stalls to the back not only would the public not know they were there but you would have to make the stalls much smaller. While many horses live in stalls we have the luxury of having stalls with runs which is so much healthier for the horses physically and mentally. Moving stalls away from the arena makes turnouts difficult. Not all horses can go out in groups and they also have trouble being alone because they are a herd animal. We need to keep stalls close to the arena.

I know our barn is not fancy. It needs some aesthetic improvement. But of all the barns I've boarded/worked/visited this is the happiest group of horses.

They have room to move freely in their stalls, everyone gets daily turnout, our quality of feed is outstanding.

We are a family. We have a simple barn that cares for the animals, they are not just for riding they are our friends.

Do not change us to the point where we loose our culture.

Tristan

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 197

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Sophie Conti
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 60 Sunset Way
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sophie Conti and I live in Muir Beach and I am also a member of the Golden Gate Dairy Stables. The stables are part of our community, and I can't stress enough how the horses are such an important part of Muir Beach- Our kids (and their visiting friends) know about horses because every day they see them at the stables- even if we don't stop to feed them a carrot- If the same horses are tucked away, it won't be the same and this special connection to horses will be lost. In additions, as a member of Golden Gate Dairy Stables, I am aware that a lot of money was spent in drainage around the arena to make sure that the surrounding nature is protected- It would be a shame and waste of money to do it all over again in a new location.
Sophie Conti

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 198

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Marion Shippey
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: PO Box 21
Lagunitas, CA 94938
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/14/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/14

Dear Superintendent Dean;

I appreciate the opportunity to comment of the Marin Equestrian Plan. I would like to praise the NPS for choosing to keep horses at all three stables. Each location has its charm and can offer different

Benefits to the GGNRA. I appreciate the fact that you've lifted the military requirements from the Presidio Riding club as well. But I am disappointed I the decision to move the park Police to the Miwok Stables site. I love seeing them as part of my walk down to the cove.

The other concern I have is the proposal to move the stables at Golden Gate Dairy to behind the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department. The stables are a part of the center of the tiny Muir Beach. These stables are so popular with the public who love to come and visit. While I understand the open space will still allow horses to exercise it will just not be the same just to see a couple of horses standing in the arena compared the friendly group feeling of the horses interacting over the fence?

Along with the mailboxes the horses are a part of my families "things to do on Sunday" to visit the horses and I would be very disappointed to see the feeling of the stable change. Some changes are not for the best and this would definitely be the case in this situation. Sincerely, Marion Shippey

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986 Correspondence: 199

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Persia Matine
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1 Weatherly Dr, Apt 307
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/14/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/14

Att: Marin Equestrian Plan

This is in response to the matter of the horses at Muir Beach located at the Golden Gate Dairy.

It has been such a wonderful part of the visual character and love of our landscape to have been able to see these beautiful horses along the roadside at these three stables. And I love that everyone there takes such an effort in keeping the old rustic feeling of it as well.

When I drive past there now these 31 years, I always feel a sense of comfort that these amazing creatures get to live here in our community, and add so much to the coastal area.

So I hope it will continue to be there for generations to come, just as it has been for me.

Persia Matine
Mill Valley, CA

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 200

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Thea Chalmers
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2959 Mar East
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/14/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Mr. Frank Dean superintendent

I have been at Muir beach stables for over 30 years now. I am always out in front of the old barn and happy all day to greet visitors, and there are many. They stop by all day long because they see horses! They want to get out of their cars and walk around which gives us at the barn a chance to tell them about the area and share the horses with them.

There have been many times that after a family has been up the coast for a drive or a walk on the beach with their children that they stop to see the horses and ask if they can just pet one of them. We are pleased to let them touch, pet or kiss a horse. To see a child's face light up in complete happiness after they touch a horse, sometimes for the first time, makes my heart take flight. I have had many people over all these years tell me that their children have told them that the best part of their outing was to experience a visit with the horses.

I feel that having the horses in view at Muir Beach is a wonderful thing. Without them the people just pass by. I hope you will consider this and with our help we can keep the horses in front and in view.

Thanks you for your consideration, Thea Chalmers

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 201

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Pam Barlow
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 105 Sunset Way
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/14/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/14

Dear Superintendent Dean

I have lived in Muir Beach for the the last ten years. Having intended to move to Marin in general after an absence of 20 years, it was the horses, 25 viewed from Shoreline Highway in the fields, and especially the privileged of watching them from the windows and lawn of the Pelican Inn, that drew me to this community. There is nothing so lovely as a herd of grazing horses. My favorite memories of my time here include observing families most especially children- from infancy to teenagers and everything in between – who have spent hors falling in love with the heard of horses that graces the arena and the paddocks attached to it. (As herd animals it is essential to their well-being and therefore their generous natures towards all people who visit the park). It's a wonder to watch children seeing/petting/falling in love with these majestic animals for the first time. They belong here. As a life-long horse-lover, I've been pleased to hear from many on our community (who have no further relationship to the equine species than viewing or bringing their children down to feed them carrots or apples). How [?] they feel the horses are in maintaining the historical beauty of the Golden Gate Dairy. Hoping you will not remove this beauty. Pam Barlow

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 202

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Patti Painter
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 23 Heilmann Ct
Nevada City, CA 95959
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 11/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Superintendent Dean,

In regards to the rumor I've heard about moving the area where the horses are boarded in the Muir Beach area, it really makes me sad to think I may not drive up and see their beautiful faces. I love driving up and seeing the barn, corrals and the loving owners of the horses. These people work hard in keeping care of the area. I see how hard my sister Judith works out there and how much she loves her horse. I was raised on a ranch and remember how hard we had to work to take care of the horses and barn, but the happiness I had and will always remember is priceless. I have seen how children get so excited to drive by the stables and stop and the first thing they want to see is the horses.

Please take into consideration to not move these beautiful animals so we can't see them when we come out there. There is too much negative and sadness in our world now. The horses are such a positive and peaceful way to spend your day with. Thanks you, Patti Painter

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 203**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Shuwei Wang
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 880 Alvarado Ave., #142
Davis, CA 95616
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/16/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/16

Dear Superintendent Dean,

I am writing to praise NPS for keeping all 3 stables open to horses! What a wonderful gift for the people and visitors to Marin.

I am originally from China but lived with Lisa Smith for a year in Mill Valley while I attended Tam High as an exchange student. Imagine my delight at finding horses so close by and to be able to touch them and watch them close up is a thrill for me.

Thanks you again and I hope they will always be there when I come to visit with my family.

Sincerely, Shuwei Wang

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 204

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Alex Cobb
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 110 Rancho Drive
Tiburon, CA 94956
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/09

Dear Superintendent,

We are all pleased that the Marin Equestrian Plan has been released for public comment. As an interested party I applaud all the forethought and analysis applied to make the plan a workable document. Many people know that Ocean Riders shares with NPS a common interest in the ecology of the stable area and its watershed.

Given the history on the Golden Gate Dairy at Muir Beach, I can testify to the public interest in the horses as a fundamental part of the Muir Beach "scene". Visitors to the Pelican and the beach many times include a stroll through the stable area to show children the horses. Stable members often can add to this educational experience. Now the new Dias Trail is completed, even more of the public is exposed to horses. As to the Plan, the undersigned encourages particularly that each stable have a covered arena for equestrian as well as environmental concerns; that historical buildings on the property are restored, with the use of salvaged and re-used materials to keep the historical look; that the horse/pedestrian bridge across Redwood Creek be restored/built to protect the banks and improve public/horse safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Alex Cobb

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 205

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Joanne Fleming
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: POB 228
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/09

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

I am a frequent visitor to Muir Beach and Muir Woods area and have come to love the experience of being able to see the horses at the Golden Gate Dairy. This is a neighbor for so many of us who come to this area. We are all thankful that the GGNRA in their Marin Equestrian Plan have decided to allow these wonderful stables to continue to exist. I understand that there will be some remodeling to the Golden Gate Dairy and I how it will remain very close to the existing rustic appeal and certainly allow the easy viewing of the horses in the front of the property. I strongly feel that moving all the horses to the back of the property would be a detriment to the wonderful viewing experience that we all presently have. Please allow some of the horses to remain in the front of the property where they can be seen by all. The foot route from the Pelican Inn to the Redwood Creek area is quite dangerous on Highway One and we all hope that a safe trail can be established.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Joanne Fleming.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 206

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Edith Fleming
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 122 Sunnyside Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean,
I am a 79 year old woman and resident of Mill Valley. Most weeks, I accompany my daughter to the barn at Muir Beach where she has been a sponsor of a horse for seven years. I am unable to get around without assistance so my daughter parks her car so that I can watch her get her horse ready to ride. While she is out on the trails, I can sit and watch the horses play and watch all of the activity at the barn. Every time I am there, in all kinds of weather, I see people stop their cars or come over from the Pelican Inn to look at the horses and ask questions about them. I have had the pleasure of meeting many members of Ocean Riders. Even though the stables are rustic, they all work very hard to keep the barn up so that it is tidy and safe for the horses. I get a clear sense of community when I am out there. I can sit in the sunshine and read my book and chat with the hikers and mountain bikers and horse people that come by. I hope there won't be a need for the horses to move away from the current site. It is one of these special places that has remained the same for several decades. I hope I can continue to enjoy it. Sincerely, Edith Fleming

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 207

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Lori Dodge
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 46 Plaza Drive
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/09

Dear Park Service

Please don't change the wonderfully bucolic and rustic setting of the Golden Gate Dairy. There is now a good balance in the commercialization of Miwok Stables for those who can afford it. The rustic setting of the Presidio Riding stables for the trail riders and the accessibility of peacefulness of the Golden Gate Dairy.

For twenty years we all go to lunch at the Pelican Inn because of the quiet serenity. The Park Service had done a good job understanding the balance between gentrification and leaving well enough alone.

Just as the three stables in Southern Marin each offer unique experiences, the same can be said for Cavallo Point and Presidio Yacht Club.

It is a beautiful balance. All of the hard work at Golden Gate Dairy Stables has and should not be in vain Years and years of making this stable an environment healthy to horses in harmony with the small village that is Muir Beach, is not only visual but technical. It has isolation stalls, and everything needed to address the horses needs and the local environmental needs. This wasn't by accident! Thank you! Lori Dodge

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 208**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Bill Railton
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: #6 Topside
Tiburon, CA 94920
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/09

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

My goal to day is communicating to you the interest my family and I have and have had in the ongoing existence of the horse stables at Muir Beach. The folks there are concerned that the National parks Services are going to at least move if not eliminate some of or all of the many buildings that make up this facility that I have grown to appreciate over the years. I hope that any relocation of this site will be delayed or rejected by you as a bad idea. I love this place and hope that it remains as a vital part of our local National Parks scene.

Bill Railton

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 209**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Dale Goldie
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 775 E Blithedale
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/09

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

Thank you for keeping all three barns in Southern Marin: Golden Gate Dairy. Miwok Stables and the Presidio Riding Club from shutting down!

At Muir Beach, please keep the horses in front, not in back, so the public can appreciate their beauty and so that children can experience the horses- which holds great value and childhood memories for their future.

Also please connect the Dias Trail and Redwood Creek Trail without reducing the turn-out arena for the horses.

Again, this is good for the horses well-being to have enough room to move around. The horses like the contact of the other horses and people.

Your anticipated attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Best Regards, Dale Goldie

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 210

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Bridget Edwards
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 715 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
San Anselmo, CA 94951
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/09

To the attention of Superintendent Frank Dean,

My family and I have spent many beautiful days at the Muir Beach area always admiring the natural beauty of the horses in front of the Golden Gate Dairy.

We were happy to hear that the new Marin Equestrian Plan will keep the horse presence at the historic dairy site.

We have learned however that you are also planning on moving the horses to the back out of view as they are now. Please don't move this natural beauty setting. It would not be the same. It would not be in keeping with the historical site that have been and should remain for another 50 years.

It is such a beautiful experience to view this landmark as it is and people remember the dairy site as it is. Please reconsider the moving of the horses to the back and out of the site. I would be a great shame. Bridget Edwards.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 211

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Dana R
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1001 Bridgeway
#709
Sausalito, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/09

To Superintendent Frank Dean,

As regards to the Marin Equestrian Plan, firstly I am so grateful the horse barns in Southern Marin will remain open and in place. I don't know what I would do without Miwok stables, or seen the horses passing the Presidio Riding Club, or stopping to chat with those at Golden Gate Dairy right at Muir Beach. In Fact, if the horses were not right out in front, I'm not sure anyone would know that they were there. Continued access to horses in our area is vital to residents and visitors alike. There, thank you in advance for ensuring this. As well, thank you for the decision to have covered exercise arenas for each stable (Miwok already has this), keeping riders, equines and trails safe in bad weather. Respectfully yours, Dana R[Rich?]

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 212

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Patricia O'Keefe
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 3118 Anza St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Interim lunging ring is not feasible for our needs. Roofline is too low- structurally not viable. In addition current use of stalls are "Best Practices" for larger (15-17 hand) horses. They need to be able to move. Keeps blood flowing and decreases risk of hocks "stoving up". (Swelling) Would rather not replace/alter stalls in building/meeting room. Large hay storage facility (as currently layed out) is "Best Practice" for horse health. Buying hay in large quantiites ensures quality and consisistency of product. Horses sicken everytime their feed changes. Mine will stop eating for three days until his stomach becomes used to the "new" grass. In addition, buying in large quantiites allows us to negotiate for best price. When we purchase a semi-truck load (18 wheeler) full of hay, we also hire a crew and forklift to move hay into the storage area. We do our best to get high quality hay at the best cost.

Shortening the arena (outdoor) The current riding arena is a standard size for Western Pleasure and English Dressage riding. Shortening the arena does not allow horses to fully develop movements like circles, lateral, squares, diagonal that are required movements in the development of a horse's gaits! Please don't shorten the arena- horses need the space to walk.

don't reduce the size of the arena. This also will keep the horses as highly visible as possible. And speaking of the Redwood Creek Trail, please consider constructing two new bridges capable of equine as well as foot traffic. This would save much wear and tear on the creek banks and the salmon pools.

As a resident of Muir Beach, I know that my neighbors, and not just our visitors, appreciate viewing the horses while driving, hiking or biking by.

And finally, I would like to note that we Ocean Riders take pride in being good park partners, are always striving to protect the environment, enjoy our contact with park visitors and hope to continue our management of the stables at Golden Gate Dairy in the future.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 221**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Buck Farmer
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 897 Noe St.
San Francisco, CA 94114
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Daughter rides at Muir Beach Stable. It seems that the removal of the front stables would diminish the opportunity for pleasurable contact between casual visitors and horses that are now seen in their "homes" in the front stable. Are the other more historic Dairy buildings really visually apparent as a former dairy? Please reexamine.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 222

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Leah Scoggins
Organization: Ocean Rider ;  Member
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 897 Noe St.
San Francisco, CA 94117
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Ocean Riders

I have written a letter specifically about Ocean Riders/Golden Gate Dairy that addresses our concerns about removing from the front stalls so I won't repeat that. Presidio Riding Club is not something about which I have written. Their concerns about hay storage are real. We have experienced this ourselves because we don't have that much storage space. And having a full size arena in this area is a godsend. It would be a shame to lose that especially for a small turn-out. The concern for historical buildings is admirable but buildings can be retained/restored without destroying the usefulness of the space that surrounds them.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 223

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Connie Berto
Organization: Marin Horse Council ;  Member
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 70 Crane Drive
San Anselmo, CA 94960
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

These stalls have been operating with model BMPs for many years. They are all assets to the Bay Area and Marin in particular. I urge the NPS to do whatever it can to assure the long-term operation of these valuable presences. I also urge the NPS to look into more public programs such as outreach to "inner" city youth in San Francisco. I also ask NPS to consider carefully any plans to diminish turn-out areas, ring size areas and hay storage areas. Hay is bought in large quantities and adequate storage is extremely important.

I personally appreciate the NPS policy restricting Mt. bicycles from riding on footpaths, for safety's sake and to preserve the environment.

While there was a dairy at Muir Beach, the horses have been there longer. The "model dairy with no cows" option would seriously and negatively impact the horse operations, and indeed, make it less healthy for the horses. It isn't as though there aren't any dairy ranches in West Marin for people to visit. I support the preferred option B2. Thanks you so much for carrying through this process.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 224**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Susan D. Scannon
Organization: Miwok Livery ;  Member
Organization Type: B - Business
Address: 176 Edgewood Ave.
No City, CA None
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I ride at Miwok Livery. I support Miwok Livery + we do not want the NPS to stable horses at Miwok – and get physically in the middle of the Miwok Livery School- the Miwok Livery is a well-run school with great attention to safety and should be left to run as a school/Livery as is.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986 Correspondence: 225

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization: Miwok Livery ;  Member
Organization Type: B - Business
Address: N/A
N/A, CA N/A
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Concerned rider

Ride at Miwok. In this time of economic downturn and dwindling budgets I am shocked that the financial cost of each option is not addressed at the stage so a viable and affordable option is chosen. Keeping the PUBLI and the HORSES as the priority should be the #1 concern. Merging Lower Tennessee and Marincello in NOT in the horses best interest due to overcrowding and concentration of space. Marincello has lost the use of its outdoor pasture, to reduce space, paddocks and arenas by adding another facility will compromise the health and space available for the horses. I believe leaving areas intact and improving each will increase the diversity and allow for more interaction with the public and keep the historical aspects intact. Having tow different facilities at Marincello will be more complicated with different feeding, turn out, and usage. It is complicated enough in the summer with the public horse camp without reducing paddocks, and adding more people. Option A NO CHANGE. Thx

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 226

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Marguerite DiGiorgio
Organization: Presido Riding Club ;  Member
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 102 Elm Avenue
Larkspur, CA N/A
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Rodeo Beach stables horse sponsor

1 Water planning: include early in your planning process to have composting toilet facilities at the stables. These work surprisingly well, and are a very easy introduction to park facilities where stall bedding and other compostable material is already at hand.

2. The Balloon Hangar

The steel structure is extremely valuable and could be the basis for restoration for horse use and look much like its historical form. Vehicle parking does not mix well with barn/riding areas- and what a waste of a fantastic steel structure that adds great value to the boarding facility.

I can provide you with composting toilet info. I have been a planner (BSLA) and have been to places where there were exclusively composting toilets at high quality 5 star resorts. Ask Me! B

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 227

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Susan Stark
Organization: Miwok Stables ;  Member
Organization Type: B - Business
Address: 338 Starling Road
N/A, CA N/A
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

It seems that the safety and well-being of the horses are not being considered in the Plan. The one facility that has been kept up the best, because it has a Public Program is being asked to support other programs in the park at expense of the horses well-being. The GGNRA park horse patrol which is a volunteer run operation and a working business can not coexist.

Miwok Stables has become a wonderful facility over the past decade thanks to fund by both the Park and Private Entities, not a co-op program which ran it before and nearly ran the facility into the ground. To keep up the horse facilities in the Park, Private Entities must be brought in to support these facilities. Do not force Private Entities out by asking them to support other programs. This does not seem like a good idea.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 228

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Peter {Unknown}
Organization: Ocean Riders ;  Member
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: POB 1010
Sausalito, CA 94966
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/07/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Park Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

First, thank you for keeping the 3 stables in the park and the presence of horses for all to see.

At our location we have so many people stop to visit with the horses. If the stalls were all in the back, people wouldn't know they were there. Also we could never use the arena for a solo turnout in that these are herd animals that can panic without seeing other horses. I also think that the disruption environmentally would be significant, not to mention the costs.

My suggestion is that we instead "remodel" what is there to have the stalls in front resemble the other historical buildings.

I am opposed to having a concrete trailer pad beside the beautiful hay barn. In all the years that I have been there, we have never needed so many trailers. They would block the viewing of the beautiful hay barn.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 229**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Liz Hume
Organization: Ocean Riders ;  Member
Organization Type: H - Recreational Groups
Address: 39 Eldrige Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,
I am writing on behalf of the Ocean Riders – in support of Alternative B: Enhanced Existing, Option B2.
Keeping the horse stables as in the plan – continues to support the community- both Equestrian and non-equestrian.
Thank you, Liz Hume

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 230

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Brian Haughton
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 350 California St
2nd Flr
San Francisco, CA 94104
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Marin Equestrian stables Plan (Plan) Environmental Assessment (EA).

I am a resident of Mill Valley and agree with and support the Plan/EAs recommendation to preserve the stables at Golden Gate Dairy (GGD), Tennessee Valley and Rodeo Valley. As a regular visitor to the Muir Beach community, I agree with the Plan/EA's statements regarding GGD, at pp. 3-52 and 3-58:

The stables are considered a valuable cultural asset by many residents and visitors in the Muir Beach community. The horses and stable are felt to provide a valuable feature for artists and help contribute to the charm and character of the landscape.

...

The site is considered an attractive visual resource, with its historic Hay Barn and other structures, equestrian uses, and natural features, such as the dramatic rock outcrops and the mature native shrubs and trees. Rolling hills, an intermittent stream and associated resources surround the stables.

Lost – or at least under-emphasized – in these statements, however, is what is most valuable and attractive about GGD: the horses are front and center, visible to the public. To me an important part of GGNRA's mission is to provide visitors with a break from the hustle-bustle of their urban lives. One thing singularly lacking from urban life is interaction with animals other than dogs and cats. To lay eyes on a horse – or, even better, several horses – takes me out of my everyday life, makes me think thoughts and dream dreams that I otherwise wouldn't.

It appears that the Plan/EA's preferred alternative would eliminate this important benefit of the current layout of the GGD. The Plan/EA states on p. 4-127:

As Common to All, the front central open area (Historic Core Area) would have existing stalls ...removed... The visual change would be unimpeded views of the Creamery and Milking Barn Buildings from Highway 1, Pacific Way Road, and the Pelican Inn area.

(Emphasis added). See also, Plan/EA, P. 4-125 ["non-historic stalls would be removed from the front center...of the site, a minor beneficial impact"]. Comparing the figures depicting existing conditions [Figure 2-1 p. 2-40] and the preferred alternative [Figure 2-7, p.2-46] shows five stalls that are front and center facing Highway 1, Pacific Way Road, and the Pelican Inn area would, (under the preferred alternative) be moved up the hill, behind other buildings, so the stalls could no longer be seen from those vantage points.

While I understand the need to address the value of viewing historic buildings, I am puzzled by the Plan/EAs failure to consider the loss of horse-viewing opportunities as an impact of the preferred alternative at GGD. Elsewhere in the document (e.g., pp. 4-128, 129, 131, 133), "horse viewing opportunities" are cited as worth consideration and as noted above, those opportunities are important to me and, I believe, other visitors.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you reconsider this one detail of an otherwise excellent preferred alternative. One way to address the problem would be to relocate one of the rows of new stalls and paddocks so that it would be situated along the northwest side of the trapezoid marked as "Turn-out" on the two figures cited above. Doubtless there are additional ways that would be discovered during a re-review considering – as I believe the Plan/EA should – horse viewing opportunities. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Brian S. Haughton.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 231**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Elaine Von Blohm
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 103 Filbert Ave
Sausalito, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/09/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean,
I so enjoy seeing the horses at Muir Beach and the rustic setting. I truly feel I am in the countryside when I see them.
I would like to see the Diaz trail connect through to the Redwood Creek Trail as I feel the highway is very
dangerous for horses, cars and bicycles. Sincerely, Elaine Von Blohm

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 232**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Julie [?]
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: NA
NA, CA NA
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Frank.
Please leave the horses where they are and have been – as a reference to history and local heritage. The discovery of horses along g the trail is an attraction and gives dimension to the hikers' experience. Why change this feature? I would also wonder why use funds in such shortage to create something unwelcome by local folks? Thanks for your careful consideration. Julie [?]

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 233**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: David Lyle
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 424 Headlands Court
Sausalito, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

To Superintendent Frank Dean:

I am a frequent hiker and biker to the Muir Beach/Diaz Ridge trail adjacent to the Golden Gate Dairy. I have come to learn that the Golden Gate Dairy will remain as a horse stable as part of the Marin Equestrian plan. I would like to commend you and the GGNRA for this decision because we all thoroughly enjoy seeing and having contact with the wonderful horses at the Dairy. As a mountain biker we have a great working relationship with the stables. The horses are a wonderful site to behold to all visitors and passersby. Please don't remove all the horses to the rear of the property and out of public view. A safe connecting trail is surely needed from the Diaz Ridge trail along Highway 1 to the Redwood Creek Thank you. David Lyle

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 234**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Amy O'Connell
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2470 Chapin Rd
Silver Creek, NY 14136
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

I was so very happy to see the decision you made to keep the horses at Muir Beach. Seeing them from the beach or while driving through the park is such a joy. I am writing you today to encourage you to keep the horses in view. They are so wonderful and beautiful and me and my family love seeing them when visiting. It is what makes Muir Beach so special.

The other issue I would like to encourage you to make a decision on is the whole issue of allowing helicopters/small planes to fly over the beach. This would be a huge mistake – and would take away from the quiet beauty, the natural wonder of this place of beauty. Thank you for your time. Amy O'Connell.

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 235**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: John McAlevey
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 2470 Chapin Rd
Silver Creek, NY 14136
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I am writing in support of the natural beauty and practical history of seeing the horses when I come to visit Muir Woods. I think the horses add to the attraction and remind me of the past- when things were simpler- and the ecosystem healthier. In addition –the regular use of helicopter flyovers is not likely something John Muir would have approved of- and serves to further the wealthy from the majority of the people.

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 236

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Tracy Haughton
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 32 Thalia St.
Mill Valley, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

Thank you and the National Park Service for choosing to keep all three stables open as a part of the Marin Equestrian Plan.

I am writing to urge you to also choose to keep the horses in view for the public at Golden Gate Dairy.

I have a vivid memory of my three-year-old daughter being mesmerized by the horses at the Golden Gate Dairy stables one day as we were walking by after a visit to Muir Beach. I have never been much interested in horses myself so she saw real horses for the first time at the Dairy stables. From that point on she was fascinated with horses, and went to ride regularly as a child and teenager at another NPS facility- the Tennessee Valley Stables. She is now 24 years old, works as a certified veterinary nurse and is preparing to attend vet school. Her journey towards Vet School and a life-long love of horses began with viewing horses at the Dairy stable.

Please keep the horses visible to other little girls and everyone else who passes by the stables. These majestic animals offer us all a powerful connection to nature in a way that buildings, even beautiful old ones, never will.

Tracy Haughton

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 237**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Phoebe McAlevey
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 248 Indian Ledge Rd.
Voorhiesville, NY 12186
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Superintendent Frank Dean:
Thank you for keep the horses at Muir Beach!
When we visit California, seeing the horse on the Beach and when drive by on the road it is gorgeous and very picturesque to see the horses at Muir Woods. Thanks again, Phoebe McAlevey

Removing the PHP from the valley is a sad loss. A working barn does not preclude picnics in the meadow or a mid-level walking destination for park visitors. Many elderly and young walkers only walk down to the barn to see the horses and back to the parking lot.

Moving 4 additional horses into the space at Miwok is not good for the environment or the health of the horses. The mental health of the horses is an important consideration. Turnout space for rest and exercise is necessary for horse health and the safety of riders. Pastures and larger paddocks have been whittled away over the years. Not enough open space remains. The new area proposed for PHP takes up too much space and adds more activity in an already crowded area that includes multi-use trail crossings and parking. The proposed turn-out space for the park horses is a wetland during much of the year. The number of horses should not be increased even if the PHP are moved.

The proposed NPS ranger presence at Miwok would be a healthy addition for the stable area and would not require additional buildings or take away needed paddock space. The Tennessee Valley trailhead has become extremely busy and often faces gridlock. The concessionaire at the stable has apparently been running the show without oversight or accountability.

Simple coverings for paddocks could allow turnout during wet weather. It could be tied to better water/drainage management and would be a concession for the health of the horses.

Increasing the number of horses at Presidio Riding Stable and then limiting their turn out/exercise space is not good equestrian management practice. Anxious and unhappy horses are not safe. It would be better to leave the existing number and keep the horses happy and relaxed.

The Presidio Riding Stable should shed the "military" requirements and be encouraged to develop a more appropriate National Park presence and management style – opening itself to non-military boarders, trail rides, and outreach programs. The rides from Rodeo Valley and Tennessee Valley offer unique and breathtaking views.

Thank you for reviewing my concerns. I am very pleased to see that horses will remain in the Park. In general, however, the efforts to increase the number of horses at Presidio and Miwok stables are paired with cutting back on appropriate space for the horses. That is not healthy or safe.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.

I also hope that the turnout arena will not be reduced in size. In order for the horses living in stalls to be healthy and happy, they need their play time to socialize, stretch legs, run and buck and have some aerobic fun. A smaller arena would jeopardize this essential component of responsible horse keeping. With our allowed number of horses, one way we maximize the time a horse can be out is by putting some of the more compatible horses out in groups. The current size allows this, anything smaller curtails it.

I very much hope that our current cooperative and non-profit-status community, along with current management, can remain the concession holders in the long run. No one knows this site as well as Ocean Riders-many of our members, including myself, have been here for decades. And we of course have invested our time and labor and hearts in preserving this stable, keeping in mind, ever since we assumed the provisional lease, not only our own interests but those of the environment and human community as a whole. We are eager to continue.

We are also eager to keep the historic aesthetics of this stable we all so love, and to be allowed to make any needed changes using recycled materials in keeping with the traditional buildings.

I do very much hope that whatever the fate of the beautifully restored former Pervier House is, that whoever lives there may be someone with horse-knowledge, in case of night-time emergency.

I am pleased that a connector trail is being envisioned to remove horses from Route One on their way to Redwood Creek Trail. This is a safety issue for cars, riders, bicyclists, and horses-especially as the roadside verge in the homebound direction has been allowed to overgrow the off-road edge, driving horses into the lanes meant for cars. (Horses of course are supposed to legally travel with traffic, not against it.)

Similarly, I hope that in the long run horse-safe bridges might be built across the places where our horses must currently ford Redwood Creek. One of the current creek crossings is borderline dangerous due to erosion, and for each of the crossings, a bridge would eliminate sediment from scrambling up and down the banks and be healthier for the creek and its salmon. But this trail is absolutely essential for horse use-it was built, long ago, by riders from the Golden Gate Dairy, and is an essential access path to many of our other trails. Plus, some of us, including myself, are now doing volunteer patrol for the state park on this trail. We hope to be able to serve in that function for the GGNRA as well in the future.

It is fantastic that the plan envisions covered arena/round pen for each of the barns. This would be a huge improvement during rainy season for all!

Thank you again for your support of equestrian presence in Southern Marin. For decades, I have seen the pleasure that the horses bring to many on the trail-more often than not, as I pass and talk with hikers, they comment , "Beautiful horse!", with lit up faces.

Yours,

██████████

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 241

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Sarah Farmer
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Unknown
Unknown, CA 94941
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/15/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Mr. Dean:

My name is Sarah Farmer. My family has been involved with Ocean Riders at Golden Gate Dairy for several years now, and it has recently become home to my sister's horse, Tiger. It has come to my attention that the GGNRA has potential plans to change some things at the Dairy. I am writing to express my concern about these changes and to ask you to consider the needs of Ocean Riders.

Moving the horse stalls that are visible from the road presents numerous problems for the barn, not the least of which is financial. It is a very small, volunteer-run facility, and lacks the funds needed to re-route the drainage system necessary to keep those stalls from flooding. Should they be moved, it seems counteractive to the "Connecting People to Parks" initiative-it has become clear over the years that seeing horses from the street is one of the biggest (and often only) way to draw people into the dairy & surrounding areas.

I am sure you have been informed by people more knowledgeable than myself on the subject that horses need both access to open space (the front paddock) and optional cover from rain (the stalls), and that they are herd animals, meaning they need other horses nearby when they are in the paddock.

Overall, it seems the GGNRA's funds could be put to better use somewhere other than somewhat ill-planned construction of Golden Gate Dairy. Public opinion has thus far dramatically supported keeping the horses visible from the road. Perhaps money could be spent elsewhere, such as on horse-safe bridges for Redwood Creek. Please consider the need of the amazing, though small, community.

Sincerely,

Sarah Farmer

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 243

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: J. Thomas Soltesz
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 1801 Shoreline Hwy
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/15/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I have lived and painted the landscape of Marin for almost 30 years. In that amount of time I have seen many changes to our county, some good and some not so good. Good in the sense that success has been made in the conservation and preservation of open space and trails; bad in that little has been done in keeping things in a more "natural" state, too much change for the sake of change.

As an equestrian and artist that paints the Marin Landscape, I am involved in many organizations to preserve the beauty that supports my livelihood. I am a member of the Baywood Artists, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, and the Marin Horse Council.

The decision to keep the horse facilities with their current management and location is a good one. All the stables are unique with their own individual issues and members to deal with. Marin County boasts a thriving community horse community, people from all over come to enjoy our cool coastal trails, and children from the city consider the horses their first contact with agriculture and rural world.

Horses are the major draw to the Golden Gate Stables not the buildings, if the people cannot see the horses they will not stop by because they think it is a private residence. The horses give us a chance to talk to people about the area and the history of the stables. Horses by their very nature are sensitive and frightened animal; they need a safe and secure environment with their herd visible to them. Many of the horses at the stable have been together for over 20 years and should never be separated.

Having a horse competent person on the property is essential for the safety of the animals and to give the place a lived in look rather than an abandoned farm which is how it appears now. Rogue cyclists and trail safety will always

be an issue especially without connecting a trail on Shoreline.

In the past 17 years that I have been involved with the Marin Equestrian community I have seen how hard each individual stable has worked to be compatible with the land and work with those managing it. I also feel that keeping the restoration very simple and rustic will preserve the historic and timeless beauty that all the residents, visitors and fellow artists love about Marin County.

Sincerely yours,

J. Thomas Soltesz

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 246**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Birgitta McAlevey
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 248 Indian Ledge Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/8

Superintendent Frank Dean

Thank you for keeping the horses at Muir Beach. We love seeing them when we drive by. When we walk in Muir Woods and on the beach we think it's so cool to see the horses there. The whole scene is idyllic. I understand helicopters might be allowed I the park soon- that would be a very disturbing addition to the environment there. We love the park and appreciate all you are doing to conserve and improve our National Recreation areas. Most sincerely, Birgitta B McAlevey

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 247**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Myra McAlevey
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 248 Indian Ledge Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/8

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean

I love visiting California and my favorite thing is to see the horses in Muir Woods. I love being able to come home from New York and then be able to step on the side of the road and see these beautiful horses right in the Redwood Forest. I do hope these horses remain visible, so when I visit California, I will be able to see them. Sincerely, Myra McAlevey

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 248**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Mollie McAlevey
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 248 Indian Ledge Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/8
Dear Superintendent Frank Dean
I like to see horses at Muir Beach. I also like horses.
From, Mollie McAlevey

**PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986
Correspondence: 249**

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Scott Schroeder
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 248 Indian Ledge Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
USA

E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 01/08/2012
Number of Signatures: 1 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Letter
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/8

Superintendent Frank Dean

On our most recent trip to California we visited the Muir Woods and we were very impressed with their beauty and grandeur. We also saw the horses and the mix of the animals at the beach was breathtaking. We hope to return to Muir Woods every time we travel to the Bay Area and enjoy the majesty that is the Muir Woods.

Sincerely, Scott, S

PEPC Project ID: 14568, DocumentID: 43986

Correspondence: 250

Author Information

Keep Private: No
Name: Paul Brunner and Coleen Curry
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 280 [?] Way
Muir Beach, CA 94965
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: Date Received: 12/08/2011
Number of Signatures: 2 Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No Type: Fax
Notes:

Correspondence Text

12/8

Dear Superintendent Dean

We are writing this letter to give our feedback on the National Parks Equestrian Plan. To begin with, I would like to thank the NPS for keeping all three stables open to horses. As residents of Muir Beach for the past twelve years, the horses at the Dairy (GGD) stables are familiar faces and part of our family here at the beach.

We understand that a variety of options are being considered to include horses in the NPS General Management Plan and we would like to provide our feedback.

To begin with, the General Management Plan is about "Connecting People to Parks" and the horses are a huge draw that brings folks to the Park and the stables at GGD. Every day we walk our dogs in the area around Muir Beach and the horses are a part of our day. We say hello, pet them, and they are a part of our life here.

It is a rare day when we collect from our mailbox on Hwy 1 that I do not see a car or two pulled over either taking photographs of the horses or petting them. The stable buildings are of interest but the attraction is the horses. For this point, it is important to keep the horse stalls up front and visible. Restored dairy buildings are not as much of a draw as the horse are so keep some horse stalls up front and visible. The horses are part of the landscape and keep the feel of rural west Marin.

Additionally I would like to offer these points:

-Horses are social animals thus an isolation paddock/shelter [where a horse can see other horses] is important at each facility for horse health, both mental and physical.

I encourage the park to maintain the current independent management and not outsource the management of the horses and facility. The current management has already invested much into the protection of natural resources. The current farm house [residence] should be allocated/rented to either an onsite manager or director to care for safety and care of horses in case of emergency.

While we understand that the maintenance and restoration for the buildings must be done, we would like to see the rustic feel maintained and that the NPS should find ways to blend the stables with the existing buildings. The area

shouldn't be a 'Disneyland' perfect model for the past. It is important to remember that the historical included the Portuguese dairy farmers and not a faux western hoedown camp feel.

We support the connection of the Dias Ridge Trail; phase II safety trail and Redwood Creek Trail; however, this can be done with reducing the arena only 10 ft. and not 20 ft.

When bridges are built along the Redwood Creek Trail they should be done to allow for safe horse crossing. This protects the banks and the salmon habitat.

It is a wonderful that each stable has a covered arena to exercise horse in inclement weather. As avid trail runners keeping the horses off the trails in extreme wet weather reduces trail damage.

Sincerely Paul Brunner and Coleen Curry

On the other hand, if the intention is to replace the horse facilities with another park operation, which is suggested by the reference to "site specific future planning" on pg 2-13, that is simply trading one operation with accompanying structures for another at the same site. Restoring some vegetation does not seem like a sufficient reason, in and of itself, to relocate the Mounted Patrol. This is especially true where the alternatives pose so many problems. In any event, there are significant negatives, both environmental and otherwise, that would result from moving the Patrol to the Miwok Stables area as contemplated in Alt B-2.

The EIS states: The NPS has identified certain issues associated with these facilities that need to be addressed including site capacity, facility improvements, management, public benefit, and the protection and enhancement of important park resources." The NPS concludes that Alt B-2 "provides the most advantages with regard to the evaluation factors of public benefit, public access, and cultural and historic resource protection when compared to the other action alternatives." (ES-3)

Although the EIS purports to have considered the size and best location for the volunteer horse patrol program (pg 1-13), it has not given adequate consideration to many issues such as site capacity. In fact, Alt B-2 is not the best choice and appears to be the result of an outcome-determinative analysis.

The biggest problem with Alt B-2 vis-à-vis the Mounted Patrol is congestion and lack of space. The Miwok Stables area is already home to two commercial enterprises: a public livery and a horse boarding operation. As admitted on pg 1-9, the EIS does not contain detailed design or construction drawings of the new Mounted Patrol facilities. Without dimensions for the stalls and paddocks, it is impossible to tell how much space they will actually take up (let alone whether the stalls will be comparable to what we already have in Tennessee Valley). Placing the stalls and paddocks between the white house and the round pens will necessarily displace open paddocks (30-35) that are presently located there and perhaps others as well (36-43). Presumably, the displaced horses will go somewhere else on the property, adding to the congestion. Boarders and student taking riding lessons, and their horses, will have to walk right by the Patrol facilities to get to the big arena, resulting in a significant amount of foot traffic. Not to digress, but the EIS states that it has not even been determined who will get the new stalls (pg 2-13). This seems odd given the premise that the Patrol would be housed in that location and has a distinct identity.

The overall congestion of the area will be worsened if the GMP proposals to build a food kiosk or a visitor center at the parking lot are realized.

The EIS states that there is a need for enhanced visitor experience and public benefit (pg 1-9). The EIS envisages that putting the Patrol in with the stables will afford the public greater opportunities to learn about horses. It points out that the Morgan Horse Ranch at pt. Reyes has "exhibits about horse husbandry, shoeing, breed information, tack, buggies, and the horses themselves to see and enjoy' (pg 1-9). The difference is that the Morgan Horse Ranch has the space for these displays at the present lower Tennessee Valley location but it does not seem feasible to do so at the Miwok Stables site.

The location in lower Tennessee Valley is a far better location for visitors. In fact, many visitors currently stop by on their way to and from the beach when they see the horses. Given the cramped quarters at Miwok, where exactly would visitors stand to visit the horses without interfering with public or private operations? Given the proximity to the arena, there are always a lot of horses moving about in the barnyard. As shown by photographs in the Mounted Patrol's 2010 Annual Report, the present location enables visitors, even those who are wheelchair bound, to get up close and personal with the horses (Annual Report pg 16).

The large summer turnout area in the field next to the arena would be wonderful for the horses, except for its location right next to the arena (tables 2-5, pg 2-10). People use the arena to exercise their horses, not to mention the riding lessons that include cantering and jumping. Horses have been known to become excited when they see other

horses galloping around-they have even been known to jump over fences! I doubt this eventuality has been considered. Horses need turnout, and one of the best features of the lower Tennessee Valley site is the large corrals.

Furthermore, the EIS states that potential long term effects such as increased soil erosion could result from adding a new horse turnout area or a new stables site (pg 1-13). So, it appears that there would be greater adverse effects from moving than staying in the present location.

Management of the Patrol activities is not within the scope of the plan and is not discussed (pg 1-9). But it was always understood that the Patrol, as an NPS LE program, would maintain its separate identity. Putting it into the middle of a commercial enterprise is at odds with that principle. And it raises the significant issue of whether the cost of utilities, manure storage, and other expenses will be kept separate between the livery and the Patrol.

No plans have been provided for the interior of the house that would be restored to serve as the Patrol office and tack room. Thus, it is impossible to tell whether it would be suitable for the intended purpose. The EIS claims that the Project Manager studied stable designs and made a list of minimum facilities (and facility sizes) for a stables operation on NPS lands (pg 2-1), but this office-tack room is not like any similar facility that I have ever seen. What is clear is that the main entrance appears to be five and a half to six feet off the ground, accessible by a steep stairway. When you work around horses, you are always going in and out. Having to climb stairs and lug heavy saddles and other tank in and out through a narrow doorway is not safe. The entryway to an office and tack room should be ground level and wider than a normal doorway.

Another practical issue has to do with where the farrier would park his rig when he shoes the horses? His rig is about 25'-30' long and additional space for the horse and holder to stand (all on level, dry ground) is required for several hours. The space between the office and the red barn might be suitable in dry weather, particularly if it were paved, but would not work under rainy conditions. In the case of inclement weather, the farrier presently backs his rig into the barn and shoes the horses inside.

According to the EIS, manure must be stored on a contained (curbed) slab that has at least three walls and a roof (pg 2-27 and 4-31). No separate space appears to have been planned for the Patrol. Again, this raises the question of whether the Patrol is going to share facilities with the Livery and whether the expense is going to be shared and in what proportion. The same is true of utilities and water. As noted above, the guiding principle has been that the Patrol would have separate identity.

The EIS states that horse urine has a negligible-to-moderate adverse impact on soil nutrients (table 4-1, pg 4-9), but that would be true wherever they are. It is a fact that horses urinate. But one would think that it would be better to disperse it over a wide area than have it confined to a much smaller area.

According to the EIS, water quality could be improved by installing improved toilets (pg 4-35), but there is no apparent reason why that could not be done at the lower TV site without relocating the Patrol.

Under option B-1, the plan calls for the construction of a new residence where the Virgil Hollis house once stood. The purpose of this residence and who will inhabit it is not disclosed, but it appears that this has nothing to do with the Patrol. Any additional impacts to the environment caused by the construction of this building should be discounted in assessing whether to relocate the Patrol.

According to the EIS, the NPS adopted option B-2 because it was identified as having "the best combination of a balanced financial investment, long-term benefits for achieving project objectives and a high level of resource protection and enhancement" (pg 2-4). No financial information has been provided, so it is impossible to evaluate that claim. The project objectives remain vague. One consequence of adopting the B-2 option is to reduce the

number of stables from four to three, but that only matters in the context of some larger viable objective. The EIS is vague as to what that objective might be. Under B-2, it is left open whether the barn, yurt, or nursery would be removed. So the object is just to get rid of the horses. As the EIS shows, there is essentially no adverse environmental impact from leaving the Patrol where it is.

If the NPS is determined to relocate the Patrol, then Alternative D is a superior option. Build a new facility and do it right. This would preserve the separate identity of the Patrol, provide access to the public, provided real facilities the NPS can be proud of rather than a slapdash afterthought of a facility tucked into a private commercial operation.

Another collateral issue is, for want of a better word, sign pollution. The EIS would make the Valley into a sign "farm". Proposals include "interpretive signage explaining the unique history of these public lands" and "public programs and access need to be clearly signed and explained with office hours" (pg 1-6); "informational and cautionary signage to direct the public to safest route(s) and to educate the public about horse etiquette and safe behavior around horses" (pg 1-7); and signage to reduce off trail traffic" (pg 4-8). Another intriguing proposal is "Trail Etiquette Recommendations posted at the stables/trailheads to increase equestrian awareness and consideration of other users and the leave no trace ethic." The signs could include recommended use of equestrian sanitation sack, noise kept to a minimum, public safety around horses, protection measures concerning natural and cultural resources and efforts not to disturb visitors, etc. I have never heard of an equestrian sanitation sack. Is this something attached to the horse to catch manure? Or are riders expected to dismount and collect the manure and then what do they do with it?

Some signs, such a cautionary off-trail signage no doubt serve a good purpose. But there are already too many signs in TV, particularly around the parking lot. If the Valley is not to resemble Times Square, the NPS has to make an effort to keep signage to the bare minimum. Otherwise, it is no longer a wilderness area and it defeats the whole purpose of giving visitors access to the natural environment.

Very truly yours,



">