



Marin Audubon Society

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October 14, 2014

Suzanna Mahoney, Chair
Black Point Community Plan Advisory Committee
Community Development Agency
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

ATT: Kristin Drumm

RE: Black Point Community Plan

Dear Chair Mahoney and Committee Members:

First, we apologize for being so late getting these comments on the Black Point Community Plan to you and we appreciate your considering them as you deliberate the revisions to the Plan. As you know, Marin Audubon owns a large number of properties in the Black Point Area, most notably at Olive and Atherton Avenues, around Norton Pond in the Grandview Swale area. We have a major interest in ensuring their long-term protection. Our comments focus on maintaining and protecting natural resources of the Black Point Area and on our properties in particular.

We request the following:

1. That the land use designation and zoning for all of our properties be open space. We appreciate that our large holdings at Atherton and Olive Avenues are already zoned OS, however, we are interested in having our other parcels, particularly those surrounding Norton Pond, as well as other small parcels in the Grandview Swale Area, so designated. All of these properties were purchased with donations from the public, primarily to Marin Baylands Advocates, with the expectation that they would be protected as habitat/open space. We are interested in having them all protected as habitat.
2. That no policies be included in the plan that would allow uses/activities /or development on properties adjacent to those we own that would adversely impact our properties or the natural habitat systems they support. This concern is in accord with protecting and restoring habitat on our properties. We are concerned about possible adverse impacts of bike paths.
3. That habitat resources be protected in other parts of the Plan Area, i.e. wetlands, grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian/streams and other native habitats. Specific areas of concern include: Oak woodlands in Greenpoint, natural interface/ecotone along Bay

Petaluma River edge, oak woodlands/grassland habitats at Grandview Swale, and 100 foot buffer or larger along all wetlands as called for in CWP policies.

We note that the questionnaire from the public meeting addresses wildlife habitat in accord with the CEQA requirements, i.e. focusing on maintaining the ability of wildlife to move between habitats. We note that, while maintaining movement corridors for wildlife is indeed critical, it is also critical to protect the habitats themselves.

We have attached the relevant section of the questionnaire with our ranking of the environmental questions. To explain our ranking, we prefer action items over education as education may never achieve any on-the-ground improvements. Also, if residents "minimize impacts to wildlife habitat" as in question #1 and become "active stewards of the land" as in question #2, the actions in questions #3, 4, and 5 will automatically occur. Use native plants, avoid pesticides etc. are necessary components of being good stewards of the land.

Again, we are sorry to be so late with these comments; nevertheless, we request that you consider them for inclusion in the revised Community Plan. And thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,


Barbara Salzman
Conservation Committee