

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

February 28, 2007

Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Attn: Muir Beach Creek and Wetland Restoration

Subject: Wetland and Creek Restoration at Big Lagoon, Muir Beach Draft
Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR),
Marin County, California [CEQ #20060514]

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA supports the purpose and goals of the project and believes the preferred alternative will help restore a functional, self-sustaining ecosystem in the project area while reducing flooding on Pacific Way and providing a compatible visitor experience. We have, therefore, rated this Draft EIS/EIR as LO – Lack of Objections (see enclosed "Summary of Rating Definitions").

The Draft EIS/EIR indicates that a spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC) plan will be developed before construction begins. It will be critical to minimize potential impacts from spills during construction/restoration activities in this highly sensitive project area. We recommend the SPCC plan be outlined in the Final EIS/EIR. The National Park Service's recent Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Draft EIS/EIR (p. 93) identifies several important elements of the SPCC plan for that project. We recommend those measures be incorporated into the SPCC plan for the Big Lagoon project, along with following additional measures.

- A spill kit with boom and sorbent materials should be on site at all times during construction;
- No vehicles will be fueled, lubricated, or otherwise serviced within 100 feet of the normal high-water area of any surface water body.

We also recommend you contact Peter Reich in EPA Region 9's Oil Program at 415-972-3052 to discuss the project's intended operations to ensure compliance with any oil spill regulations that may apply to the project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft EIS/EIR and request a copy of the Final EIS/EIR when it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C., office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3846, or have your staff call Jeanne Geselbracht at (415) 972-3853.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office

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Enclosure: Summary of Rating Definitions

cc: Marin County Community Development Agency