

L7617

December 13, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Park Service and California State Lands Commission have prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS/DEIR)/ **Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan** for Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. In 2000, the Park Service acquired the Waldo Giacomini Ranch for the purpose of wetland restoration. Because the Project Area is in the Northern District of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), it is managed by Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore).

This *Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report* (DEIS/EIR) evaluates four alternatives for restoring wetlands and wetland functionality and incorporating public access opportunities that do not impact wetland function, as well as the No Action Alternative (e.g. closure of the dairy and discontinuation of intensive agricultural management). The primary purpose and objectives of the proposed project include: restoring hydrologic and ecological processes and functions in a significant portion of the Project Area; emphasizing actions that would benefit the health of the entire Tomales Bay watershed and not just the Project Area; and incorporating opportunities for experiencing and enjoying the restored wetlands that do not conflict with the project's purpose. Alternative C is the lead agencies' preferred alternative, because it best meets the purpose of restoring wetlands while also providing opportunities for public access that answer some of the local community's needs. Alternative D would be the environmentally preferred alternative, because it provides the most restoration, although it also incorporates the least public access opportunities relative to the other action alternatives.

For more detail, see the enclosed Federal Register Notice and National Park Service press release.

The DEIS/DEIR is available on-line from the Seashore's website at [http://www.nps.gov/pore/parkmgmt/planning\\_giacomini\\_wrp\\_eiseir\\_draft\\_2006.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pore/parkmgmt/planning_giacomini_wrp_eiseir_draft_2006.htm). To spare precious natural resources and costs to the park, we encourage you to view the plan digitally. If you wish to obtain a CD or hardcopy version of the document, you may email [pore\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:pore_planning@nps.gov) (in subject line type: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan) and a copy will be mailed to you.

**A public information workshop will be held at Point Reyes National Seashore Park Headquarters on Thursday, January 25, 2007, between 6:30 and 8:30 pm in the Red Barn Classroom. The meeting will provide background information regarding the proposed plan and the alternatives for restoration of the former Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh.**

Persons who wish to submit written comments on the DEIS/DEIR are encouraged to do so. Written comments may be mailed to Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes, CA 94956, Attention: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Plan, or emailed to [pore\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:pore_planning@nps.gov). The DEIS/DEIR will be available for comments for a 60-day period. All comments must be postmarked or transmitted no later than Wednesday, **February 14, 2007**.

COMMENTS: Before including your address phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including our personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. As always, the National Park Service will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses. Anonymous comments may not be considered.

The comments and feedback received by the National Park Service from the public will assist us in refining the proposal and ensuring that public concerns and issues are included in the final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Thank you for your participation in conservation planning and environmental analysis.

Sincerely,

Don L. Neubacher  
Superintendent

Enclosures