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September 25, 2002

Dear Friend of Point Reyes National Seashore:

The National Park Service (Park Service) is beginning planning for a wetlands restoration project at the Giacomini Ranch in Marin County, California. The Giacomini Ranch was purchased by the Park Service in 2000 as part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. This portion of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is administered by Point Reyes National Seashore.

The first step in the public planning process for this project is to initiate public scoping. Public scoping is an early phase of the planning process, which is designed to obtain public input on issues and areas of concern related to the project, including a suitable range of alternatives, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts and benefits, and appropriate mitigation strategies. **To initiate the public scoping process, Point Reyes National Seashore will have a public scoping as an agenda item at the next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Commission for Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Saturday, October 19, 2002, at the Dance Palace Community Center in Point Reyes Station, California.**

As noted above, the Park Service is in the early stages of the planning process for this project and is requesting public input on a suitable range of alternatives. The Park Service anticipates preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. The draft environmental document is expected to be available for public review in winter 2003/2004. Please see the enclosed Notice of Intent and Scoping Document for more details on the project and the project planning process.

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited to provide comments or suggestions during this scoping period. **Written comments regarding the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project should be provided no later than 45 days following publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. The public comment period will close Friday, November 8, 2002.**

To provide comments or inquire about the scoping meeting, please contact Point Reyes National Seashore:

Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore
Attn: Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
Telephone (415) 464-5102
FAX (415) 663-8132d
Email: ann_nelson@nps.gov

Future scoping material will be posted primarily on the Point Reyes National Seashore web site at: www.nps.gov/pore/home_mngmntdocs.htm. Information may also be available on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area web site at www.nps.gov/goga/admin/planning/index.htm.

If individuals submitting comments request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There may also be circumstances wherein the Park Service will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always, the 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.

We appreciate your input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Don L. Neubacher
Superintendent

Enclosures

Brief Description of Project
Federal Register September 23, 2002 Notice of Intent