



August 4th, 2018

Daren Anderson
Division Manager- Open Space, Parks & Golf
City of Palo Alto

Dear Mr. Anderson,

On behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) and the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, we thank you for the opportunity to review the four proposed Preliminary Concept alternatives for the Palo Alto Baylands Renzel Wetlands and former ITT area. As expressed in previous public meetings, we are supportive of removing the obsolete buildings and infrastructure and restoring the historic wetlands to the largest extent possible.

Elements we are supportive of:

- Restored saltwater marsh – As depicted in alternatives #1, #4, including habitat restoration to replace ITT building footprint and impacted surrounding area.
- Freshwater pond and marsh within existing footprint - As depicted in alternatives #1, #4.
- Proposed new pedestrian trail (no dogs/horses) to the north and new pedestrian trail along existing maintenance roads; gates to restrict bike and domestic animal access as depicted in alternative #1.
- Tidal hydrological connection from Renzel marsh to remnant marsh and flood basin, as depicted in alternative #4.
- Observation deck/ interpretive signage opportunities as proposed in alternatives #1 and #4, including a lookout from Byxbee Park and interpretive sign for the former ITT site.

We are opposed to:

- Retaining or restoration of the building at the heart of the wetlands, and any infrastructure that would be needed to activate or even maintain it into the future, as depicted in alternatives #2 and #3.
- Access to the center of the Marsh (trail from Byxbee Park, Alternative # 3), which would fragment this remnant habitat.
- Retaining antennae since they use guide wired (collision hazard for birds) and can provide perches to raptors that prey upon endangered salt marsh species.

In addition, we hope that the restoration of the Duck pond to salt marsh, as proposed by Ms. Alice Mansell, will be incorporated into the next version,

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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