

**Final**

**Programmatic Environmental Impact Report  
for the  
East Bay Watershed Master Plan**

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916/737-3000

February 29, 1996

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# **Chapter 1. Purpose and Format of the Final Environmental Impact Report**

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# **Chapter 1. Purpose and Format of the Final Environmental Impact Report**

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## **PURPOSE**

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (District) has prepared the East Bay Watershed Master Plan (EBWMP) to assist its staff in managing its watershed lands for the protection of reservoir water quality and the benefit of its rate payers.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the District is required to prepare a draft programmatic environmental impact report (EIR) evaluating the environmental impacts of the EBWMP before adopting it. After completion of the programmatic EIR, the District is required by CEQA to consult with and obtain comments from public agencies that have jurisdiction over the EBWMP and to provide the general public with opportunities to comment on the draft programmatic EIR and the EBWMP. The District, as lead agency for the project, is also required to respond to significant environmental issues raised in the review and consultation process.

This document has been prepared as an attachment or addendum to the draft programmatic EIR for the proposed EBWMP as allowed by Section 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This responses-to-comments document and the draft EIR, herein incorporated by reference, constitute the final EIR.

The draft EIR and EBWMP review period was from August 11, 1995, to September 29, 1995. Three public hearings were held before the District Board of Directors to receive comments on the draft EIR and the EBWMP. Two hearings were held on September 12, 1995, one at the District's headquarters in Oakland and one in Walnut Creek. A third public hearing was held on September 14, 1995, in Richmond.

All comments that were received during and after the close of the public review period were provided responses.

The District also invited extensive public and agency input into the EBWMP planning process by means of scoping meetings, project newsletters, a water bill insert, and the formation of a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising 24 individuals appointed by the District Board of Directors.

Because the draft programmatic EIR and EBWMP were circulated for public review together, the District has responded to all of the comments received on both documents. In general, CEQA requires responses only to comments on the contents of the draft EIR and not to comments on the merits of the project. However, because the District has integrated review of the proposed EBWMP with review of the EIR, this document addresses all of the comments received on both the EBWMP and draft programmatic EIR during the public review period. In some cases comments on the proposed EBWMP resulted in minor additions and revisions to the master plan's contents.

As part of the public review process, the District also evaluated two separate watershed planning documents, the District's East Bay Watershed Sanitary Survey (East Bay Municipal Utility District 1995) and the Fire Hazard Mitigation Program and Fuel Management Plan for the East Bay Hills (Amphion Environmental 1995) prepared for the Vegetation Management Consortium (VMC) for consistency with the proposed EBWMP.

### **East Bay Watershed Sanitary Survey**

The sanitary survey provided guidance primarily on methods to improve monitoring and control of watershed and reservoir water quality. The evaluation found that the EBWMP and the sanitary survey are consistent with each other. The sanitary survey report complements the comprehensive management guidance presented in the EBWMP and is considered a separate and independent part of the District's watershed management planning process. It was not evaluated as part of the EBWMP environmental review process.

### **Fire Hazard Mitigation and Fuel Management Plan**

The VMC plan focused mainly on vegetation management strategies on watershed lands inside and outside District property boundaries. The evaluation found that the VMC plan was consistent with the EBWMP in basic purpose and objectives regarding fire and fuels management; however, the VMC plan differs somewhat in the specific approaches to achieve these objectives. The VMC plan recognizes that agencies might choose different approaches to meeting common objectives. Therefore, the District has determined that the EBWMP is the vehicle for achieving fire and fuels management on District lands. The VMC plan guidance is separate from the EBWMP and was not considered directly during the EBWMP environmental review process.

## **COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE EAST BAY WATERSHED MASTER PLAN AND DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Most of the comment letters received on the EBWMP and the draft programmatic EIR contained comments on the contents of the EBWMP rather than the adequacy of the draft EIR. The District received only seven individual comments on the contents of the draft programmatic EIR. The remaining 287 individual comments dealt with the contents of the EBWMP. A variety of individuals, groups, and public agencies commented on the EBWMP and the draft programmatic EIR (Table 1-1).

### **FORMAT OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Chapter 2 of this final EIR contains all of the comment letters received during the public review period and responses to each individual comment. Comment letters are presented in order according to the date they were received, with the District's response to each comment following each letter. Hearing testimony is presented in a summary table (Table 2-1), with responses to speaker comments following the entire hearing summary.

Table 1-1. Individuals, Groups, and Agencies that Submitted  
Comments on the EBWMP or Draft EIR

Date	Name	Letter No.	Page No.
September 12	Howard R. Fuchs	01	2-5
	Sarge Littlehale	02	2-9
September 14	Jean Dalton	03	2-17
	James and Lynne Collins	04	2-20
	David J. Holcomb	05	2-22
	Jeffrey A. Maddox	06	2-24
September 15	Michael Fuhrer	07	2-27
	Donald Herzog	08	2-30
	Mark Leonard	09	2-32
	Louis Mendelowitz	10	2-35
	Peter Bluhon, East Bay Area Trails Council	11	2-39
September 18	Ralph Kraetsch	12	2-45
	Richard Winefield, Orinda Union School District	13	2-49
	James W. Cutler, Contra Costa County Community Development Department	14	2-52
September 19	Roger McGehee	15	2-55
	Lily Pang	16	2-60
September 20	I. E. Anderson	17	2-62
	Norm Wolff	18	2-64
	Bobbie Landers	19	2-67
	Jane Bergen, League of Women Voters	20	2-79
September 22	Liz Strauss	21	2-82
	Walter E. Klippert	22	2-85
September 25	K.H. Westmacott	23	2-88
	Bob Flasher	24	2-91
	Brian Wiese, San Francisco Bay Trail	25	2-97
September 26	Emilie Strauss	26	2-100
	Brian O'Niell, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council	27	2-103
	Jerry Wendt, Orinda Trails Council	28	2-109
	Richard Benjamin	29	2-116
September 27	Michael J. Vandeman, Ph.D.*	30	2-119

Table 1-1. Continued

Date	Name	Letter No.	Page No.
September 28	Karl E. Geier	31	2-126
	Brian Lee	32	2-129
	Johan Langewis	33	2-132
	Helen Klebanoff, Regional Parks Association	34	2-135
	David Dowswell, Pinole Community		
	Development Department	35	2-139
September 29	Thomas Brumleve, Contra Costa Resource		
	Conservation District	36	2-145
	Ellen Williams, Alameda County Resource		
	Conservation District	37	2-153
	C.E. Hoonan	38	2-156
	Sally de Becker, East Bay Chapter, California		
	Native Plant Society	39	2-159
	Gene and Christine Hubbs	40	2-163
	Stephen Morris and Leslie Rosenfeld	41	2-170
	Anouschka Blik-Wardy	42	2-173
	James R. Wheeler	43	2-176
	Michael Kelley, Bicycle Trails Council of the		
	East Bay	44	2-178
	Joyce Hawkins, Mayor, Orinda	45	2-181
	Alan Carlton, Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay		
	Chapter	46	2-189
Preston Holland	47	2-193	
Ted Radke, East Bay Regional Park District	48	2-197	
Maxine Turner, East Bay Regional Park			
District	49	2-201	
October 4, 1995	Michael A. Dobbins, University of California		
	Berkeley	50	2-209
October 6, 1995	Richard L. Paulding	51	2-214
	Berkeley Hiking Club (form letter)		2-216
No date	Leo Black	52	
	Helen Wynne	53	
	E. Ankersnoit	54	
	Mike J. ? (signature is unreadable)	55	
	Doris and Al Brongeliton	56	
	Esther Baginsky	57	
	Norma Van Orden	58	

Table 1-1. Continued

Date	Name	Letter No.	Page No.
	Mary Meade	59	
	Betty Thornally	60	
	Kazire and Michael Granich	61	
	Rosemarie Hafford	62	
	Carmin Blocksom	63	
	Robert Grinstead	64	
	Ella Jane and John Skinner	65	
	Bert Freeman	66	
	Bonnie Davidson	67	
	Lottie and Paul Rosen	68	
	Rose Vivian Boch	69	
	Rachel and Leo Levinson	70	
	H. Rex Thomas	71	2-218
	Andrew Gunther	72	2-220
	Paul Popenoe, Berkeley Hiking Club	73	2-222
	Pierre R. LaPlant, Ph.D., and Margot Cunningham	74	2-224
	Ted Stroll	75	2-226
	Justus Wunderle	76	2-228
	Jim Cutler	77	2-231
	Howard R. Fuchs (also see letter no. 1)	78	2-237
September 11, 1995	Robert C. Stebbins	79	2-241
No date	David J. Holcomb (also see letter no. 5)	80	2-248
	Ted Stroll (also see letter no. 75)	81	2-250
	Gary Montante	82	2-252
	Dr. Ben Lee	83	2-255
	Justus Wunderle (also see letter no. 76)	84	2-258
	Renée Roberge	85	2-260
	Frank C. Blanchard	86	2-262
	Christopher R. Lucas	87	2-265
	Andrew J. Byde	88	2-268
	Vince Sciortino	89	2-270
	David C. Holtz	90	2-272
	Mike Gin, Team Wrong Way	91	2-274
	Cameron Oden	92	2-276
	Rory C. Vander Heyden	93	2-78
	Ron Bruckert	94	2-281
October 2, 1995	Stanley Pedder	95	2-284
October 3, 1995	Thomas A. Dewar	96	2-286
October 20, 1995	Gayle B. Uilkema, Mayor, City of Lafayette	97	2-288

Table 1-1. Continued

Date	Name	Letter No.	Page No.
No date	Walter Byron	98	2-290
October 27, 1995	Jesse A. Dizard	99	2-292
	Larry Schmidt	100	2-294
	William A. McGee	101	2-296
No date	Dale Sanders, University of California at Berkeley	102	2-299
	Joel A. Medlin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	103	2-307

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\* Response is actually to EBRPD and Recreation Equipment Company; EBWMP is not referenced in the comments.

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**Chapter 2. Responses to Comments on the EBWMP and  
Draft Programmatic EIR**

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## **Chapter 2. Responses to Comments on the EBWMP and Draft Programmatic EIR**

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### **OVERVIEW**

The District received a wide variety of comments on the EBWMP and several comments on the contents of the draft programmatic EIR. The District also received a large number of comment letters expressing opinions for and against bicycle access on District trails. Because of the large number of letters related to this issue, the District has decided to summarize the content of these comments and provide a general response. In individual comment letters that identify bicycle access as their main concern, the reader is referred to the District's general response. One copy of 19 form letters is presented, and the response to this comment letter identifies the signatories.

The District also received many comment letters that were related to a variety of other issue areas and guidance presented in the EBWMP. For comment letters that expressed a variety of comments on the EBWMP, the District has responded to each comment individually, with the commenter's original comment letter followed by responses.

### **GENERAL RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON BICYCLE ACCESS TO DISTRICT TRAILS**

#### **Summary of Comments**

The District received 33 comment letters on the EBWMP that requested mountain biking or bicycle access to District-owned property and 41 comment letters requesting that the District maintain its current bicycle access policy, which is to restrict bicycle access to a limited number of paved and gravel roads at San Pablo, Chabot, and Lafayette Reservoirs. Comments received on this issue presented a variety of reasons for allowing bicycle access, including:

- fairness for all user groups and ratepayers,
- lack of evidence for environmental and safety concerns,
- volunteer trail maintenance and monitoring benefits,
- regional environmental benefits from reduced dependence on automobiles, and
- regional and local multiuse recreation benefits.

Other comments on this issue presented reasons for not allowing bicycle access, including:

- possible water quality effects on watersheds and reservoirs,
- safety concerns for allowing bicycles on equestrian and hiking trails,
- need for dedicated hiking and equestrian trails, and
- reservations concerning expanding recreation use on District watersheds.

### **Response**

The District acknowledges all of the comments related to bicycle access on watershed lands and appreciates the importance of this issue for individuals, groups, and agencies. The District's position on use of mountain bikes or other wheeled vehicles on watershed lands has been influenced by its experience managing current recreation areas, high priorities for water quality and watershed protection, public opinion and debate, and its role as a regional recreation provider. The District currently provides a substantial amount of recreational opportunities for Bay Area recreationists at San Pablo and Lafayette Reservoirs, on hiking and equestrian trails throughout the area, and at Chabot Reservoir facilities managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). The District does permit limited bicycle access on some gravel and paved roads at Lafayette and San Pablo Reservoirs and access to all dirt fire roads at Chabot Reservoir. The District has historically provided this benefit in response to its unique opportunity to help supplement the regional recreation supply in the Bay Area. The District operates and maintains these facilities with a combination of user fees and ratepayer revenues. Existing recreation user fees are not sufficient to cover operation and maintenance costs for recreational use of its facilities. Given the District's current fiscal condition and its primary emphasis on protecting water supply, greatly expanding recreation facilities and use for any user group is considered a low priority.

Considerable debate exists regarding watershed and safety effects associated with mountain bike access on multi-use trails. No definitive studies, including the Seney study (Seney and Wilson 1994), address the effects of mountain bikes on the natural environment. The District is concerned about the cumulative effects on the watershed of allowing bicycle access on watershed trails to a large and growing population of recreationists. Trail use on District-owned property has historically been low intensity, and user numbers have been relatively small (currently, there are approximately 4,500 trail permit holders). The current level of recreation use and facilities operation is acceptable given the District's emphasis on its natural resource management programs. Expanding recreational opportunities would require the District to devote additional resources for operation and maintenance of recreation facilities and management and administration of trails; these resources could otherwise be used to support higher priority programs that directly benefit water quality, watershed protection, and water supply.

The District has provided considerable opportunity for public input regarding the master plan's contents in the form of CAC meetings, public hearings, and the review period on the draft programmatic EIR. The District has given particular attention to issues raised regarding trail access

and mountain bike use and has seriously considered these issues during the EBWMP planning process in the context of other master plan programs. The proposed EBWMP is the result of weighing all the factors and priorities needed to ensure that District property is managed in a manner that benefits the largest number of District ratepayers.

The District believes that its EBWMP guidelines regarding recreation use and its contribution for regional recreation opportunities are appropriate given its role as a water supply district. Bay Area recreationists are fortunate to have well-established multi-use recreation facilities and trails provided by the EBRPD and other entities whose primary mission is to provide recreation opportunities. The District believes that the EBWMP provides a flexible and equitable vision for the future management and use of District watershed lands that will ensure that a high-quality, affordable water supply is available for future generations.



Howard R. Fuchs  
655 Glenside Drive  
Lafayette, CA. 94549  
September 6, 1995

Mr. John Coleman, Director  
EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA. 94623

Dear Mr. Coleman,

This month the Board is again addressing trail access for mountain bikes on EBMUD watershed land. It is a subject in which I am very interested and last year wrote to the board on the same subject. I am a 51 year old businessman who owns a small construction company and pays his share of taxes. My favorite recreation is mountain bike riding and participating in related activities.

One of the activities is a program called "Rides for Kids". The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay sponsors this bi-monthly event and hosts various underprivileged boys and girls clubs throughout the East Bay. We would love to take these kids for a ride on the beautiful lands in the EBMUD watershed.

Bikes do not harm the environment, leave no waste, trod lightly on trails and provide great recreation for many folks. On a recent ride, I saw some novice riders huffing and puffing up a hill to a rather remote area of Mount Diablo. I am sure that they would have never seen or visited this area if it was not for mountain biking, I know I wouldn't have.

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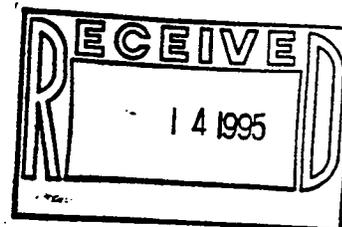
Mountain bikers have been characterized as a bunch of crazies. This is not the case. We are responsible, have a "Bike Patrol" to patrol trails and encourage other riders to be responsible, spend our time on trail maintenance and try to give the greater outdoor enjoying community a sense that both we and our bikes can be good citizens.

I respectfully request that you and your fellow board members look favorably on the idea of allowing mountain bikes on EBMUD land fire and access roads. You control some of the most scenic land in the East Bay. Please let all trail users have access.

| 2

Thank you,

*HRF*  
Howard R. Fuchs



Howard R. Fuchs  
655 Glenside Drive  
Lafayette, CA. 94549  
September 6, 1995

Ms. Mary Selkirk, Director  
EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA. 94623

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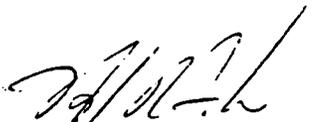
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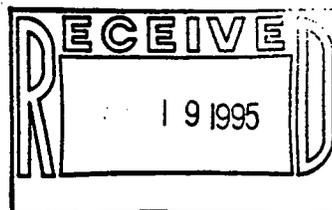
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I respectfully request that you and your fellow board members look favorably on the idea of allowing mountain bikes on EBMUD land fire and access roads. You control some of the most scenic land in the East Bay. Please let all trail users have access.

Thank you,

  
Howard R. Fuchs



## RESPONSES TO INDIVIDUAL COMMENT LETTERS

### Responses to Comments from Howard R. Fuchs

1. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the discussion of mountain bike impacts on pages 8-1 through 8-19 of the draft programmatic EIR.
2. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



TO: EBMUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SUBJECT: Watershed Master Plan Area Specific Management  
Directions--Orinda

02

Sept 12, 1995

COMMENTS:

Under the Interjurisdictional Coordination Section 5 of the Master Plan, there is the statement:

"Almost the entire city of Orinda lies within the San Pablo Reservoir or Upper San Leandro Reservoir Basin". Orinda is a city of 17,000 in population, with an assessed valuation of \$1.9 billion, and is vitally interested in this Master Plan update.

On pages 5-16 and -17 and also on Figure 5-1, the references to Orinda include a total of 8 items; for the County it is 5 items and for Moraga 2 items. For your information, I offer a brief discussion of the Orinda items for perspective in this Master Plan document.

1. El Toyonal Interface: Development in this area is extremely limited in the Orinda General Plan. We have mutually inclusive goals for a) fire and fuels management and b) emergency access and egress. With EBMUD's purchase of Sullivan Ranch, development has been limited and the planned access road from El Toyonal to Camino Pablo is uncertain. The critical item will be the re-connection of El Toyonal Road in the unincorporated area to Wildcat Canyon Road. A joint effort to provide an EVA is essential, but it must be noted for the record that the existing 50' bridge is a County structure and the County roadway with the approximately 300 ft. washout section is on EBMUD property. A program to provide such access will be endorsed by the City and receive our cooperation.

2. California Shakespeare Festival facility lease:

The Festival makes a unique contribution to the area and provides a valuable cultural resource for the entire region. This facility is in the Orinda planning boundary and the City is supportive for its success. There will be concerns if adverse impacts are introduced--i.e. excessive traffic contribution.

3. Review of Gateway and Bear Creek parcels based on District's Master Plan priorities:

A. District owned Gateway parcel: Discussions have been held with Staff as to potential regional recreational uses for the 27 acre portion adjacent to SR 24 where there is a relatively level section. This was the result of filling ravines during the BART and SR 24 expansions 25 years ago. There is continued interest in this portion.

B. The Gateway Valley Development Plan (approximately 1000 acres within City Boundaries) was the subject of a referendum in 1993. This matter was under litigation, but a revised development plan was adopted by the City Council, which was incorporated into a Development Agreement approved in a settlement decision by a Contra Costa Superior Court in December 1994. The Management Plan indicates an intent to revisit this proposed development to determine consistency with EBMUD's guidelines. However, it must be noted that EBMUD was fully involved in the environmental and planning process leading up to the approved Development Agreement. The City endeavored to consider the issues raised by EBMUD during the planning reviews and reflect the concerns in the plan (i.e. no water reclamation plant).

C. Bear Creek Property (reference page 5-4): This 43 acre parcel (which is in the City limits) has a long history; sale to the Acalanes School District, a proposed Duffel town-house development and re-purchase by the District. The Orinda General Plan of 1987 designates the parcel for park purposes. Also, the Park and Recreation Master Plan of 1989 gives further details for possible uses as a Community Park. There is continued interest in this parcel for community and regional uses.

4. Caldecott Tunnel Land Bridge: There is general agreement with concept and implementation plans. Orinda has no contiguous land area, but the developer of the Gateway Valley plans to deed an estimated 442 western acres to EBRPD as open space. This is the portion adjacent to Sibley Preserve and the District's

Gateway parcel. Coordination will be important for the preservation of the wildlife corridor.

5. Arterial Street from SR 24 Gateway interchange past Gateway parcel to southern Orinda: The proposal for a through arterial street to south Orinda was deleted from the Orinda General Plan and the Gateway Valley development plan in 1993. This item could be considered for deletion in Area-Specific Management Direction as any further interjurisdictional matters will be handled under the Gateway Development Plan.

6. Castlegate Area Development: The Castlegate development is now underway. An assessment district was formed in 1994 and roadway and infrastructure improvements are in the course of construction at this time. There is a total of 31 single family residences under planning for the new portion of this property. Fire management and access are critical items. The developer is coordinating provision of service directly with EBMUD.

7. Coordinate Development on the Black Hills and Mama Bear Ridges: For the most part, this area is built-out with single family homes on large lots. There is only a limited amount of building potential remaining. Fire management and access again are primary concerns.

8. Coordinate nonpoint-source control programs: Orinda, together with Moraga, Contra Costa County and EBMUD, have developed objectives for management practices consistent with the County group NPDES permitting process. A major concern in our area is SR 24 with its current 160,000 vehicles ADT. An overall cooperative effort is essential for reduction of damaging pollutant items.

Other comments on the Watershed Master Plan and the DEIR will be covered in more detail in Orinda's written response. At this time, wish to emphasize that our community is strongly interested in general area of recreation activities and trails.

I 3





DAVID WOO BLOXBERG/Special to the Times

BOBIN BARRENS stands on a closed bridge that he and others in his neighborhood say should be opened as an alternate route. The bridge previously connected El Toyonal with Wildcat Canyon Road.

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### DISASTER TRAINING

To sign of up for Oct. 12 training sessions, call Lorie Haney, Orinda disaster preparedness coordinator, at 254-6820, or stop by the Police Department at 26 Orinda Way

borhood "

Despite their apparent skill at organizing, El Toyonal residents are critical of their success

People forget to update information sheets, and phone lists get stale, said Gottfried

"The longer the time that elapses between disasters, the less the interest by anybody," Berens said

the invest

To keep people interested, some busy themselves with newsletters and projects to enhance their neighborhood's ability to cope with disaster.

### Bridge project

One major project involves trying to replace a washed-out bridge linking El Toyonal to Wildcat Canyon, thus giving the neighborhood another emergency evacuation route. At present, residents can evacuate only up or down El Toyonal, Berens said.

They also encourage neighbors to get flashlights, radios and batteries and brace their water heaters.

Many of the neighbors want to learn how to fight fires while waiting for the Fire Department

City officials aim to get the rest of the neighborhoods thinking this way

Last fall, the City Council appointed Lily Regelson to head a council set up to help organize the town's neighborhoods

roads, wreck bridges, break water mains and bring down power lines "The thing is, the sky really will fail," Regelson said.

What's more, firefighters, police and city personnel will be busy at areas where damage is worst - the BART station, a collapsed freeway bridge or a burning apartment complex, Regelson said.

"People have to take responsibility for themselves," Haney said

County officials estimate that residents need supplies to survive 72 hours of isolation.

It may take a disaster to get more people interested in disaster preparedness.

"Every time there is a disaster, the Orinda Association gets a bunch of calls from people who want training," said Regelson

"But it doesn't last "

Brian J. Rhoads covers Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. You can reach him at 945-4741, fax 935-

# Be prepared, Orinda tells its residents

Officials aim  
to train all  
for disasters

BY BRIAN J. RHOADS  
Staff writer

ORINDA — If city officials could bottle the spirit of emergency preparedness in the upper El Toyonal area, they would immediately distribute it to the rest of the town's 3,000 residents.

The active ingredients in this neighborhood's elixir would derive from bitter experiences with blazing firestorms, deadly mudslides and even a neighborhood drug lab. Since the magic potion does not exist, city emergency preparedness officials hope to use neighborhoods like El Toyonal as models to organize other residents, most of whom are unprepared for disasters.

Roughly 30 percent of Orindans have participated in preparedness programs like Ready or Not, which is run by the Orinda Crime Prevention Committee and the Police Department.

That figure is enough to make other towns envious. But it does

The city is reinforcing its program by drawing on plans from Sunnyvale, Oakland, Lafayette and Contra Costa County, said Haney.

It also hopes to tap the experience of its own neighborhoods, such as upper El Toyonal.



## NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

El Toyonal snakes from Camino Pablo west up toward Tilden Park, winding over terrain much like that destroyed in the Oakland hills firestorm in October 1991.

There, residents keep track of phone numbers and the number of people, cars and even pets at each home.

Vital statistics, such as who needs a respirator, are also logged. If something happens, residents get on the phones to alert their neighbors.

Something happened in 1991. Areas of Oakland devastated by the fire are a few miles west over the hills. The night of the fire, El Toyonal residents posted round-the-clock sentries at Claremont Avenue and Grizzly Peak Boulevard to monitor the fire's eastward progress, said Robin Berens, block captain on Camino Del Diablo Drive.



ORINDA RESIDENT ROBIN BARRENS stands on a closed bridge that he and others in his neighborhood previously connected El Toyonal with Wildcat Canyon Road. To keep people interested, son busy themselves with newsletter and projects to enhance the neighborhood's ability to cope with disaster.

### DISASTER TRAINING

To sign up for Oct. 12 training sessions, call Lorie Haney. Orinda disaster preparedness project

Bridge project

### **Responses to Comments from Sargent O. Littlehale**

3. The District acknowledges Mr. Littlehale's and the City of Orinda's interest in the general area of recreation activities and trails as presented in the EBWMP. Refer to specific responses to comments on these issue areas addressed below.
4. The District intends guideline DRT.9 to ensure that clear criteria for evaluating existing and proposed recreation facilities and uses will be established and implemented. New uses will be evaluated for consistency with other District priorities for watershed lands according to the new use criteria that will be adopted subsequent to approval of EBWMP policies.
5. The District intends guideline DRT.14 to be a clear indicator for new watershed development proposals sponsored by the District or other entities. Requiring compliance with CEQA for new recreation development will help ensure that all such proposals are consistent with watershed protection.
6. The city's comment regarding preserving Orinda's quality of life, including recreation and trails opportunities, is acknowledged.



03

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SEP 14 1995

Jean Dalton

3 Bel Air Ct.

Arvida, CA 94563

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

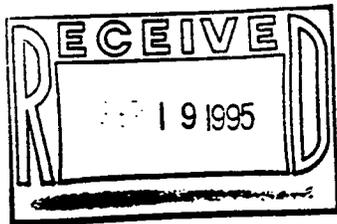
To : E.B.M.U.D. Board.

Dear Board Members,

Please excuse this note written in haste as I leave today for the East Coast.

Please also do not give trail access to bikers around your reservoirs. Many hikers use these trails on a daily basis & experience less. Also as that bikers & hikers do not well mix. Bikers are fond of speed & often unaware or in caring of the people who work

7



your tracks. Since the  
bikers have been banned  
from the rim trail above  
"Jaysville Reservoir", I have  
not only felt immeasurably  
purer but the trails are  
cleaner & free of cigaret  
butts & trash.

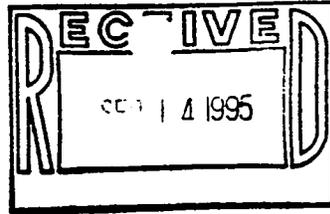
I sincerely hope you  
will not succumb to  
biker pressure but will  
keep our trails safe &  
open to all walkers  
& bikers.

Thank you  
Alan S. Holt

## **Responses to Comments from Jean Dalton**

7. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

07



426 Springfield Place  
Moraga, CA 94556  
Sept. 9, 1995

EBMUD  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Reference: EBWMP

There are many multi-use trails in the EBMUD system which accommodate bikers but few that are solely for hikers and horses. As equestrians we find that encounters with bikers on the trails generally are favorable. Excess speed and recklessness are the main problems plus the fact that many bikers make their own trails causing severe damage. Please keep some trails for the sole use of hikers and horses.

Sincerely,  
James & Suzanne Collins

I 8

## **Responses to Comments from James and Lynne Collins**

8. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

**HYDE & HOLCOMB**

AN ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

LAWYERS

1646 NO CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD

SUITE 850

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

PATRICK M. HYDE  
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
DAVID J. HOLCOMB

TELEPHONE  
(510) 939-7700  
FACSIMILE  
(510) 939-2248

September 7, 1995

EBMUD

John Coleman, Director  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Re: Master Plan Re-Draft; Bicycle Use

Dear John:

I speak for over 40 members of the Coast Range Riders, a recreational mountain biking club. We are all professionals, business people, engineers, managers and skilled workers, as well as residents and homeowners served by EBMUD. Weekly we visit the regional parks, and open spaces in the East Bay for 15 to 25 miles of bicycle touring.

There is no rational basis for EBMUD to exclude us entirely from recreational use of its property. We are conscientious trail users who appreciate, and deserve, the outdoor experience as much, if not more so, than any other group. Off-road bikers are dedicated to the healthy benefits of touring in the beautiful East Bay hills and parks, and fully appreciate the need to protect the natural settings which we so greatly enjoy in so doing. We do not pollute, and we follow regulations (like using bells and keeping to designated trails), as well as self-imposed guidelines like the IMBA rules and the Off-Road Cyclists's Code.



9

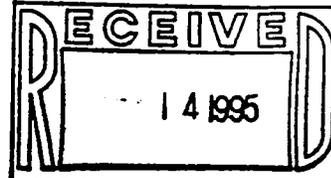
Please give bicyclist's a fair consideration, and please don't allow bias or politics to dictate an unjustified ban of bikes. We would like to experience and appreciate the scenic and natural beauty of EBMUD areas. Does it really make any difference whether we get there on 24 pounds of apparatus, or 2000 pounds of horse, or 5 pounds of Vibram soled boots?

Very truly yours,

HYDE & HOLCOMB

DAVID J. HOLCOMB

DJH:bms



## Responses to Comments from David J. Holcomb

9. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

Jeffrey A. Maddox  
206 Marshall Dr.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

EBMUD Directors  
EBMUD  
PO Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

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SEP 11 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

cc: D. M. Diemer  
C. Farr  
R. Nuzum

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I understand that EBMUD is considering a new Master Plan and EIR for land held by EBMUD. I would like the Board to consider allowing bicyclists the opportunity of using these lands for riding on fire roads and/or trails.

Being involved with the responsible use and preservation of open space ( I serve as Secretary for the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation), I am aware of the negative feelings of land managers regarding mountain bikes. I believe that most of those concerns are the result of a lack of understanding of the true nature of mountain biking and the perception that most mountain bikers live to break the rules (Not true).

For most of us, mountain biking is the best way to enjoy our open spaces. We are passionate about riding because of its unique combination of exercise and setting. While I'll agree that there are a few riders who give little regard to the natural aspects of mountain biking, they are in the minority. For the majority, our desire to ride in open spaces is no different than that of hikers and equestrians.

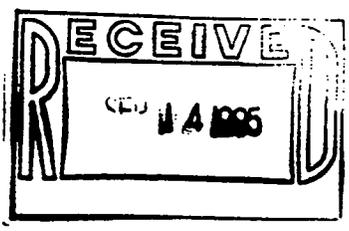
The mountain biking community is made up of a wide array of people of different ages, backgrounds, income levels and social circles. Cyclists are legitimate and contributing members of the open space community. Please consider the needs of the large and ever growing mountain biking community, in the development of the new Master Plan.



10

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Maddox



## **Responses to Comments from Jeffrey A. Maddox**

10. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



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07

SEP 15 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

September 13, 1995

Michael Fuhrer  
533 Dolores  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Board of Directors  
EBMUD  
P. O. Box 24055,  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing to you concerning the Draft Watershed Master Plan which was published recently. I am dismayed by the absence of recreational cycling from the draft plan. I would urge you to reconsider the staff recommendations on this issue to allow mountain biking on selected fire roads in the EBMUD watershed under similar constraints as hiking and equestrianism.

I 11

Cyclists enjoy the trail experience for the same reasons that hikers and equestrians do; they like the solace and beauty of nature. Cycling allows them to exercise in a low-environmental-impact and car-free way; cyclists are the only users who can easily reach trailheads without vehicles. Cyclists are important members of the environmental community. The Sierra Club has recognized this in its Park City accords, agreeing that mountain biking is a legitimate form of recreation and transportation on public lands. Even the Wilderness Society now advocates expanded access for mountain bikers on public lands. What these groups realize is that mountain biking is the future of open space conservation, and if mountain bikers are shut out a vast resource is lost.

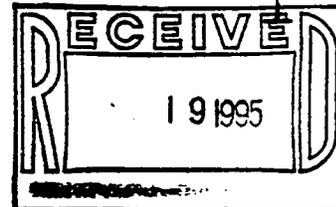
Cyclists are big contributors to community and open space projects. Locally, the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay is involved in trail-building and trail-maintenance projects, and also in the Bike Patrol, a very effective self-policing tool. The BTCEB also runs Trips for Kids, a shining example of bringing diverse groups to the East Bay parks, and Mountain Bike Basics, a free class which teaches beginning off-road cyclists technique, safety, and trail etiquette.

Mountain biking is an environmentally sound sport. As mentioned above, cyclists frequently use their bicycles to reach the trailhead, reducing auto trips and the need for trailhead parking. Studies of the impact of bicycles on trails have shown that bicycle use is comparable to hiking and has less impact than equestrianism. On graded fire roads such as those in the EBMUD watershed, there would very likely be no additional noticeable impact of bicycles on the amount of erosion and runoff.

I 12

Accidents happen in mountain biking, as they do in any sport. Hiking and equestrian accidents are not uncommon, and equestrian accidents are sometimes serious - severe head trauma and spinal cord injuries are not unheard of. Mountain biking accidents are reasonable in number, and the vast majority of off-road cycling accidents are - like hiking and equestrian accidents - single-user events. Education is the best medicine; the BTC has established a Bike Patrol program to educate users on the trail, and a Mountain Bike Basics class to educate new users. Liability is not an issue; state law already provides strict protection from liability for land managers of unimproved trails.

I 13



Mountain bikers are legitimate members of the trail community. Permitting them to use the watershed along with hikers and equestrians would not cause a significant additional burden to EBMUD resources. The District would benefit by having an environmentally conscientious group take an interest in the preservation of its watershed.

I urge the board to amend the Draft Master Plan to include cycling on fire roads in the watershed. If the board does not take this position, I hope you will at least consider allowing mountain bikes to access any multi-jurisdictional trails built across the watershed, especially the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which mountain bikers have been actively participating in building.

Thank you,  
Michael Fuhrer

I 14

## Responses to Comments from Michael Fuhrer

11. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
12. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the discussion of mountain bike impacts on pages 8-1 through 8-19 of the draft programmatic EIR.
13. The comments regarding trail accidents are acknowledged.
14. The District is not currently considering allowing mountain bike access at multi-jurisdictional trails but does provide some access for bicycles on paved and gravel roads at Lafayette and San Pablo Reservoirs and access to unpaved fire roads at Chabot Reservoir.

08

**DONALD HERZOG, Geotechnical Engineer**

45 East Manor Drive, Mill Valley, California, 94941-1347  
Telephone (415) 388-7123, Fax (415) 388-7123

September 13, 1995

**RECEIVED**

**SEP 15 1995**

**SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utilities District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Directors;

Re: Bicycle Access

I am writing to ask you to permit fair bicycle use of EBMUD fireroads and appropriate trails. As a Professional Geotechnical Engineer and California Registered Environmental Assessor, I assure you that bicycle use has no greater environmental impact than hiking, and has significantly less impact than equestrian use.

15

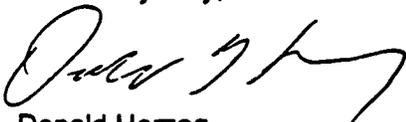
There is a strong need for environmentally sound recreational opportunities in the Bay Area. Unnecessarily closing EBMUD lands unfairly increases the pressure on other public lands, and causes your constituents to drive to other areas. Regional projects such as the 400 mile Bay Area Ridge Trail can not be successfully completed without reasonable bicycle access to EBMUD's public lands.

Bicyclists are responsible citizens, and donate thousands of man-hours each year to maintaining and improving trails in areas open to bicycling. A poll of your constituents will show that bicyclists are the largest trail user group. New acquisitions and budget increases can not receive the necessary support if bicyclists feel unfairly excluded.

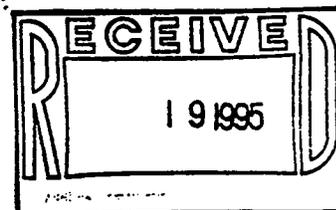
16

Please recognize changing demographics and user patterns, and provide fair access for bicyclists.

Yours very truly,



Donald Herzog



## **Responses to Comments from Donald Herzog**

15. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
16. The District acknowledges the comment related to volunteer work for trail maintenance. The EBWMP provides guideline DRT.20, which indicates that the District will explore the feasibility of volunteer programs for trail maintenance.

09

**MARK A. LEONARD**

3136 San Juan Place, Union City, CA 94587

e-mail: planuc2001@aol.com

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**SEP 15 1995**

**SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

September 13, 1995

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utilities District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Board Members:

Please accept this communication as input for your public hearing on the District's 20 Year Master Plan. I am an east bay citizen and appreciate the efforts and foresight of the District to plan the long-term use of its lands.

As a llama owner I encourage the Board of Directors to make provisions in the Master plan for llama use on designated trails. As you may know, llamas are becoming very popular pack animals for day hikes and backpacking. The appeal of llamas is due to several things: their easy going temperament, their ability to carry 80- 100 pounds (one-third to one-fourth of their body weight), their surefootedness, and their minimal impact on the environment. In fact, the U.S. Forest Service and other Federal and state agencies are now using llamas to carry tools and other gear into parks and wilderness areas when trails are built and maintained. Since llamas have soft foot pads, minimal damage is done to the ground.

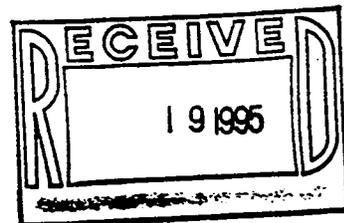
I 17

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I would be happy to provide you with any additional information that you may need.

Sincerely,



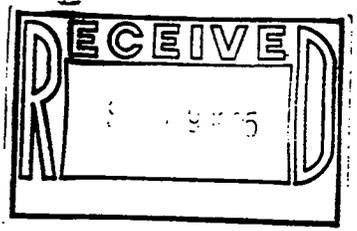
MARK LEONARD



## **Responses to Comments from Mark Leonard**

17. Guideline DRT.1 of the EBWMP has been modified to allow nonintrusive uses, such as llama use and day use events, that would be subject to individual permits.





Louis Mendelowitz  
800 Lathrop Drive  
Stanford, CA 94305  
415-857-1180

Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utilities District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

**RECEIVED**  
**SEP 15 1995**

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Wed, Sep 13, 1995

Dear Directors;

I am writing as a bicyclist who rides in the East Bay and since I use some of the natural resources whose use you control I feel that I should address you although I do not live in your district.

I often visit Garin/ Dry Creek Pioneer, Mount Diablo, Mission Peak, Morgan Territory, Black Diamond Mines, Pleasanton Ridge, Redwood, and Anthony Chabot Regional Parks in addition to the many wonderful parks on the West side of the bay and have enjoyed many wonderful days on the few trails which are open to bicyclists.

I confess that I wonder at the reasoning which opens so few of the trails to bicyclists while allowing other users, i.e. equestrians so many miles of trails. We bicyclists are a far larger group and a diverse one. I am fifty-five years old and own three real properties in Santa Clara County. By supporting the local bicycle manufactures and suppliers in this area I contribute to the local economy. Indeed the Mountain Bike is a native child of the area, one of which we can be proud and for which we are known world wide. I only wish that our local government showed some initiative in fostering a more receptive environment for a low impact activity which is affordable and democratic.

Bicyclists contribute to trail maintenance and construction despite the fact that we often feel underrepresented considering our numbers, and that we feel that our needs are often ignored in favor of other users who are perhaps stuck in the past and wish to keep their traditional sole use of much of public land.

Consider: The Sierra Club aggress that mountain biking is a legitimate form of recreation and transportation on public lands. The Wilderness Society, once opposed to bikes, advocates appropriate, expanded access for mountain bikes on public lands.

The Seney study from the University of Montana concludes that the impact of bikes of the trails is somewhere between hiking and horseback riding in erosive impact.



Bicyclists will have very little, if any impact on water purity, we generally are healthy types and don't leave cigarette butts lying about. We tend to carry very light food and don't leave bottles or cans. We do not drop our feces on the trails to contaminate water supplies.

I confess that I see EBMUD policy at present as strongly biased against cyclists and see no merit in a policy which deprives the many to benefit the few.

I cannot pretend that I like to share resources but I deeply believe that in a democracy all must share and learn to respect others rights. Sharing is not simple and takes practice. I hope that government can foster the learning experience.

We bicyclists deserve a fair deal.

I urge you to support alternative 5 of the EBMUD master plan, the recreation emphasis. It is the only alternative which represents any improvement for a large tax paying, voting, segment of public land users.

I would like to thank you for your attention, I realize that there are many pressures upon people engaged in public service and that your time is valuable.

Sincerely

Louis Mendelowitz

| 19

## **Responses to Comments from Louis Mendelowitz**

18. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
19. Alternative 5, which is presented in the draft programmatic EIR and emphasizes recreation on watershed lands, is being considered as one alternative to the proposed EBWMP.





9-5-95  
 Board of Directors  
 East Bay Municipal Utility District  
 375 Eleventh Street  
 Oakland, CA 94607-4240

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 SECRETARY'S OFFICE

East  
 Bay Area  
 Trails  
 Council

Re: EBMUD Watershed Master Plan

2950  
 Peralta  
 Oaks  
 Court  
 Oakland,  
 California  
 94605

Dear Board Members:

The East Bay Area Trails Council represents a broad coalition of trail user groups and individuals interested in and committed to the development and preservation of trail resources throughout the East Bay Area, including the trail system within the EBMUD lands. Because of our ongoing involvement in trails and the knowledge base and experience our organization represents, the EBMUD Board of Directors directed the formation of a Trails Adjunct Committee (representing a variety of trail user groups) to provide recommendations regarding trail issues and opportunities to the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Watershed Master Plan. Although recommendations from that committee were addressed to some degree in the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan, our organization feels that many of the recommendations brought forth to the CAC, including the discussion of future opportunities for trail access, re-evaluation of existing policies regarding access and multi-use, and the potential for volunteer involvement in assisting the management of EBMUD trail resources, should be important components of a management plan which will need to adapt to future land use changes and public access interest. It is our sincere desire to illustrate the value and popularity of trails in the EBMUD system while being cognizant of the underlying mission statements and goals of your agency regarding water quality and habitat preservation.

For over 20 years, trails within the EBMUD watershed lands have provided popular passive recreation experiences to trail users. The value that this trail system brings to both the Water District and the public that use it cannot be reflected with a dollar figure but rather from a range of quality of life features including access to beautiful natural and scenic areas, useful circulation and connections between various open space areas and parklands and the sense of stewardship and appreciation the public garners from enjoying the watershed lands. In fact, a major impetus for developing a updated Watershed Master Plan was the recognition by the Board of Directors of EBMUD concerning the interest in the trail system and the Board's desire to create a 5 year Trails Plan to update the system and address the variety of trail interests and issues facing the Water District today and in the future.

The Trails Council, and particularly the Trails Adjunct Committee, spent a great deal of time evaluating issues related to trails management on EBMUD trails, opportunities for expanded access to trails and trail policies which address current and future use patterns and needs. The recommendations that emerged from these discussions incorporated the premises of EBMUD's mission statement but also recognized the reality of an ever

The EBATC is composed of public agencies, equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, and conservationists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

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changing external environment, increased public interest in recreation and access and need for adaptability and flexibility in addressing future land use changes and political direction. We are concerned that the proposed Watershed Master Plan does not address opportunities for expansion of the trail system, re-evaluation of existing trail use policies or a progressive planning effort to meet future needs of the District and the public that supports it. We would encourage you to incorporate into the plan the following trail issue areas and suggested policies as developed by the Trails Council and Trails Adjunct Committee.

20

### **Opportunities for Additional Trails**

Expanded trail opportunities within the EBMUD lands is of great interest to a variety of trail users but should be planned with specific goals in mind and consideration for EBMUD resource issues and management concerns. Opportunities exist to make a number of important regional connections between parks and open space areas utilizing existing service roads in the system. Loop trails of varying lengths could provide more variety for trail users and family friendly trails near recreation areas would allow greater use by less capable hikers and the disabled.

21

#### *Policy Recommendation*

Expanded trail opportunities should be considered where logical connections between other agency open space or parks can be achieved (particularly as components of multi-jurisdictional trails), community access can be improved, or logical loop trails can be established. This planning process should take into consideration resource issues and management concerns.

### **Volunteer Support**

The use of volunteers to support management functions and implementation of facilities in other public open space areas has been demonstrated to be a successful and valuable program. For EBMUD this might include volunteer patrols to assist rangers and public safety, volunteer labor for habitat restoration efforts, trail construction and maintenance, public outreach and education and a variety of other functions. Volunteer efforts can alleviate some of the pressure on staff coverage and at the same time build a strong constituency to support other EBMUD goals.

22

#### *Policy Recommendation*

EBMUD should encourage a volunteer program to address areas of education, watershed patrol and monitoring, habitat restoration and trail maintenance and construction.

### **Multiple Use Issues**

There are a number of issue areas which need consideration in the proposed master plan under the heading of multiple use. These address not only demographic and cultural diversity issues but also disabled access and types of trail use deemed appropriate for

EBMUD lands. In addition to evaluating the broad spectrum of access to and use of EBMUD lands, this document should also better identify the distinction between the recreation areas and the watershed lands and related trail uses and opportunities. The following are areas of interest to the trail user community and some suggested policy recommendations which we would urge for your consideration.

#### **Disadvantaged/Disabled Access**

In order to meet the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to take a proactive approach to providing trail experiences and enhanced facilities for the disabled, the following policy directs both a planning and implementation program to better accommodate disabled use.

23

#### ***Policy Recommendation***

Trail planning, development and maintenance will incorporate opportunities to accommodate increased disabled access. These evaluations will consider upgrading some existing trails to be more accessible and will also include planning for potential access when developing new trails. Support facilities should also be planned to recognize and accommodate the needs for the disabled.

#### **Bicycle Access**

The popularity of bicycles has grown tremendously over the last 15 years and with the evolution of mountain bikes, opportunities for riding on unpaved surfaces has opened a new and popular recreational activity. A broad spectrum of the public now enjoys this activity and consider public open space areas important sources for the enjoyment of this type of recreation. Although limited bicycle access is available in the recreation areas, current policies do not provide for any access in other parts of the watershed operated by EBMUD. The 1970 Master Plan could not anticipate the evolution of the mountain bike and popularity of this form of recreation. We would encourage that the current plan recognize mountain biking as a legitimate recreational activity and evaluate opportunities for this activity within EBMUD lands where deemed appropriate.

The following issues need to be addressed in recreation areas and watershed lands.

#### **Bicycle Access in Recreation Areas**

Recent decisions of EBMUD have reduced bicycle access at Lafayette Reservoir to very limited hours and occasional days. With the Master Plan process underway, a reconsideration of that decision is requested and alternatives to addressing conflict between users should be explored further. Limiting bicycle use discriminates against people who can not otherwise enjoy the trail around the reservoir (disabled) and children (and adults) who access the reservoir by bicycle for fishing or other recreational activities.

24

#### ***Policy Recommendation***

Unlimited access for bicycle use at the Lafayette Reservoir should be re-established. This should be accompanied with a program to address potential user conflict which involves a combination of enforcement, education and volunteer efforts.

**Bicycle Access in Watershed Areas**

Off road bicycle use has become a common form of trail recreation and is both a popular and growing activity by trail users of all ages. Park Districts, Water Districts and land managing agencies throughout the country are currently developing policies which address off road bicycle access and the increasing public pressure to provide equal access for trail users. In many jurisdictions, in order to provide an equitable solution to this issue and address conflict and safety issues, bicycle access has been allowed on wider gauge trails (service roads). In some instances this has been implemented as a pilot program. The current Master Plan process should evaluate opportunities to accommodate this use within the guidelines of the mission statement and guiding principles as applied to other trail uses.



25

*Policy recommendation*

EBMUD should evaluate bicycle policies of other land management agencies (including parks and water districts) to assist in formulating a policy for EBMUD lands which can accommodate a more consistent regional bicycle policy. This policy should conform to the goals of the Mission Statement and Guiding Principles of EBMUD.

If there is a general criticism of the proposed EBMUD Watershed Master Plan, it would be related to the lack of future planning and flexibility to adapt to changes that will most certainly take place in the future. It is of course critical to focus on water quality and resource issues in structuring this plan but it is also important to recognize the changing demographics around EBMUD lands and the increased interest by the public to be able to utilize appropriately those lands supported by tax dollars and rate payers. It is an investment in EBMUD's future to engender the support of the public it serves and to instill in that public a sense of stewardship and appreciation of the resource and scenic value of the EBMUD lands and facilities.



26

A broad spectrum of the public uses trails for a variety of purposes and access to trails within EBMUD lands provides the public the opportunity to appreciate these important resources. Hiking, horseback riding and even bicycling are low impact activities which are very compatible with the goals of the water district. The East Bay Area Trails Council encourages your consideration of the proposals we have made and hopes this plan will be adjusted to reflect the public will and interest in an ongoing and expanding commitment to trails in the proposed master plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important document which will guide the management of your property in the future.

Sincerely, *Peter Bluhon*

Peter Bluhon  
President, EBATC

## Responses to Comments from East Bay Area Trails Council, Peter Bluhon

20. The comment is acknowledged. As part of the master planning process, the District has conducted a comprehensive review of trail policies and current trail operations. The planning analysis included a conceptual evaluation of opportunities for regional trail connectors on District property that would provide linkages to existing trail facilities operated by adjacent jurisdictions. Although the District did not elect to expand its regional or local trail system, it has elected to operate a substantial network of existing trails, construct portions of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and designate the Inspiration Trail and Bear Creek Trail as a District-controlled portion of the American Discovery Trail and Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail. In doing so, the District is providing for regional trail linkages in established trail corridors that are accessible to the regional trail community and that are consistent with District trail use rules and regulations and rates and charges (guidelines DRT.19, SP.24, and SP.25).
21. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the response to comment 20.
22. The comment is acknowledged. The concept of an expanded watershed management volunteer program is consistent with the District's desire to encourage management flexibility. Guideline DRT.20 indicates that the District will explore the feasibility of establishing a volunteer program for trail maintenance, and guideline DRT.7 indicates that new proposals that would require increasing District staff will be given low priority. Should volunteer trail maintenance programs be shown to be effective and not require increased District staff for administrative purposes, additional volunteer assistance could be considered.
23. Guideline DRT.6 indicates that standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be incorporated into all facility upgrades and new developments, including trails. The current guideline is adequate to ensure that the needs of the disabled community are addressed.
24. The comment is acknowledged. The District has restricted bicycle use at Lafayette Reservoir because of conflicts with other trail users and safety concerns. As a result, the incidence of injury accidents has dropped dramatically. No change in the bicycle use policy is being considered.
25. The comment is acknowledged. The District has elected to continue to allow hiking and equestrian use on watershed trails with additional restrictions on these uses (guideline DRT.4). Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
26. The comment is acknowledged. The District currently provides a wide variety of water-oriented and watershed-based recreation opportunities on District-owned property that are available to a large number of Bay Area recreationists. The District considers its current

involvement in providing recreation programs and facilities to be substantial and generally consistent with its mission and its priorities to maintain reservoir water quality, improve watershed biodiversity, and protect natural resources. To successfully implement the District's priorities, it is essential that limited staff and funding resources are used appropriately for the benefit of all its ratepayers.

12

88 Karen Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

September 13, 1995

Subject: Supplement to Comments at  
Public Hearing

Director John A. Coleman  
Board of Directors, EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 18 1995  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Dear Director Coleman:

I spoke last evening as an individual, because the three organizations with which I am closely associated had no opportunity to vote on a position: Member of the Walnut Creek Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission, President of the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation and managing coordinator of the Oak Habitat Restoration Project in the Walnut Creek Open Space. These activities have afforded me valuable experience with many open space issues.

There is one overriding factor regarding trails that I neglected to mention at the hearing: RESPONSIBLE USE. The problem: irresponsible bicycle use is more damaging than irresponsible equestrian use which is more damaging than irresponsible foot use.

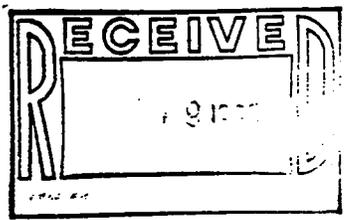
Responsible bicycle use includes an anathema to many bicyclists: limited speed. It also includes, as I mentioned last evening, extreme caution near horses. And it includes staying off dirt during wet weather. Bicycle tracks on slopes are soon converted to deep ruts and gullies by following heavy rains. Hoof prints are unsafe, unsightly and uncomfortable for other users when they dry hard. Hoof and foot use on muddy trails can wear them excessively.

I strongly believe from years of observation that bicycles should be limited to service roads, that is, 8 feet or greater width, as a safety issue.

I would applaud an agency with large open space areas which designated a limited part of their holding for dedicated bicycle use, similar to the four wheel park east of Livermore. Single trails for bicycles would be practical in such an area.

Lastly, please be cautious in assessing comments by Conservation District personnel regarding grazing. Those agencies tend to represent the grazing industry which, in turn, seems to have a less-than-overriding interest in biodiversity.

Thank you, the EBMUD Board and the Staff for your interest.



Sincerely,  
*Ralph Kraetsch*  
Ralph Kraetsch

27



## Responses to Comments from Ralph Kraetsch

27. The comment is acknowledged. The District appreciates the commenter's opinions regarding bicycle safety and erosion issues. Also, refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



13

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SEP 18 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

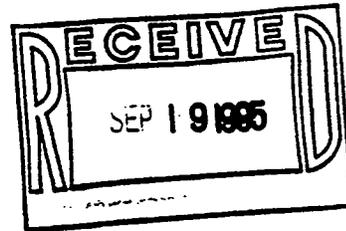


# Orinda Union School District

8 Altarinda Road • Orinda, CA 94563 • (510) 254-4901  
Richard Winefield, Ed.D., Superintendent

September 8, 1995

East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Natural Resources Department-M.S. 902  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607



ATTN: EBWMP

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Orinda Union School District, I thank you for sending us a copy of the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan. I would also like to submit the following comment in response to the plan.

The Orinda Union School District has a particular interest in the property owned by EBMUD that is located in the Gateway Valley area of Orinda. Specifically, we request EBMUD's consideration of the possibility of locating a new elementary school on your portion of Gateway Valley property. This school, which I anticipate being smaller than our other schools, would be designed primarily to serve the children living in homes that are to be built in Gateway Valley, with limited space for other Orinda children.

We would not expect EBMUD to simply donate the land to the school district. We would offer, for your consideration, control over the development rights at our Wagner Ranch Nature Area, located in North Orinda. This area has important environmental significance, given its close proximity to the San Pablo Reservoir. The possibility exists, in my opinion, of an agreement that would further the goals of each of our agencies.

I certainly understand EBMUD's concern about the environmental sensitivity of your portion of Gateway valley. Run-off from this property could contaminate the water-supply, an outcome to be avoided at all costs. This should clearly be a factor when discussing development of any kind on your property.

28

Board of Trustees

Judy Turner, President

Jean Lyford, Vice President

Julie Landres

Karen Murphy

Sue Severson

EBMUD Master Plan  
OUSD Response  
Page Two

As EBMUD continues the development of its master plan, I would respectfully request that consideration be given to a mutually beneficial arrangement between our two agencies. I am available at your convenience to pursue the idea, as are members of the Governing Board. In the meantime, thank you very much for considering this comment on your Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan.

Sincerely,



Richard Winefield  
Superintendent

cc: OUSD Board of Trustees

## **Responses to Comments from Orinda Union School District, Richard Winefield**

28. The comment is acknowledged. As part of its master planning process, the District has developed a review process for considering proposals for new actions on District-owned property. On projects that the District elects to consider, an intensive screening process will be required, including detailed project information, an application fee, and EBWMP consistency review. Disposal or transfer of District-owned property will only be considered if such an action is clearly in the interest of the District and advances its goals as a water provider. Development that is not currently planned will not be considered until the District Board of Directors has adopted the EBWMP and its staff has established procedures for implementing high-priority guidelines.

Community  
Development  
Department

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street  
4th Floor, North Wing  
Martinez, California 94553-0095

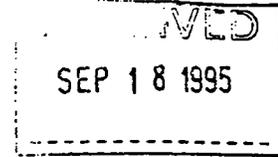
Phone: 646-2034

Contra  
Costa  
County



Harvey E. Bragdon  
Director of Community Development

14



September 13, 1995

Mr. Steve Abbors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94807-4240

Dear Steve,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft EIR on the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan. I have almost no comments to make on the DEIR. It is generally adequately to cover the Draft Plan.

My major objection to the DEIR deals with Chapter 6 - Impacts of Alternative 3 - Increase Water Quality Emphasis. Most observers would agree that under "current" law and regulation, that pressures will continue to take further action to protect reservoir water quality. This means that over time the watershed plan may need to be implemented in a fashion which moves toward this alternative.

My objection to this alternative is that on page 6 -15 the text states "under this alternative, the District could consider disposing of its Pinole watershed holdings to increase revenue, which could then be used to fund additional water quality protection programs". This is a very artificial addition to this alternative.

The Draft EIR makes no pretense at examining the secondary environmental impacts of the sale of this land. The final EIR needs to clarify that this EIR cannot be utilized for that sale of our watershed lands. Separate environmental documentation will be required.

I will submit separate comments on the Draft Plan.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Cutler  
Assistant Director,  
Comprehensive Planning

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JWC1995\drb\abbors.ltr  
c:\diandocs\abbors.ltr

29

**Responses to Comments from Contra Costa County Community Development Department,  
James W. Cutler**

29. The comment is acknowledged. Impacts of Alternative 3 evaluated in the draft programmatic EIR are intended to provide a reasonable assessment of the environmental effects that could occur under a master plan with an increased water quality emphasis. Although the District is not considering disposal of Pinole Valley property, under the Alternative 3 scenario it is conceivable that nonreservoir watershed property owned by the District could be disposed of to provide acquisition funds for higher priority watershed property. Should the District consider disposal of Pinole Valley property, a separate environmental analysis would be required.



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15

SEP 18 1995

September 2, 1995

Dear Manager Of Wilderness Areas,

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

I started hiking and backpacking in the Sierra Nevada when I was in college. After graduating, I began to work for the Yosemite Institute and the National Park Service in Yosemite as a trail guide and naturalist. After two decades of hiking and backpacking and naturalizing, I began mountain biking.

Over the last ten years I have mountain biked extensively in California, Utah, and Colorado, and have come to love biking on single-track trails much more than on dirt roads, just as I would rather hike/backpack on trails than on dirt roads. Single-track trails offer much more of a feeling of being in nature, tend to be more scenic, and are much more enjoyable and challenging to ride.

Land managers are finding that a mountain bike has little impact on a properly built single-track trail, and certainly has less impact than a horse. Some trails need to be closed temporarily to both mountain bikes and horses to prevent damage during wet conditions, but I see no reason to close trails to bikes permanently.

I am wondering why single-track trails are not open to mountain bikes in Wilderness Areas, when they ARE open to horses. A mountain bike not only has less impact on a trail than a horse, but also heals over scars made by a horse, and is narrower and therefore easier to pass than a horse.

I was riding Trail 401 near Crested Butte this summer and was thoroughly enjoying the scenery and wildflowers. I reached a trail junction and wanted dearly to take the trail which led through alps of wildflowers into the Maroon Bells Wilderness Area, but I was not allowed to do so. MUCH evidence of horse use was present.

When I see trails open to horses but closed to mountain bikes, I feel discriminated against. If the issue is one of impact, then trails should be closed to BOTH horses and bikes. If the issue is one of discrimination, then this discrimination should end and all single-track trails which allow horse use should also be opened to allow mountain bike use.

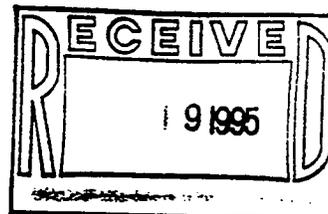
Even though Mountain Bikes appear to be more closely related to motor cycles and 4 WD vehicles than to hikers and horses because of their wheels, they are actually more closely related to hikers than to horses, motor cycles, and 4 WD vehicles because of their low impact, their ability to be carried across fragile areas, the ease with which they may pass and be passed on trails, and the fact that both hikers and bikers travel "under their own steam".

Please reconsider your interpretation of the word "vehicle" and remove mountain bikes from that designation so that mountain bikers may be free to explore the wilderness as are hikers and equestrians.

Thank you for your attention!

Sincerely,

Roger McGehee  
Box 1914  
San Anselmo, CA 94979



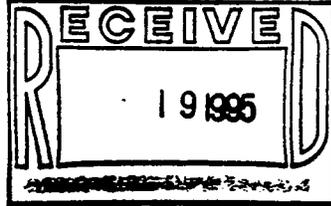
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SEP 18 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

September 15, 1995



Board of Directors  
EBMUD  
P. O. Box 24055,  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Board of Directors,

I fully support the following letter written by Michael Fuhrer. In addition, I believe that single-track trails should be opened to mountain bikes as well, and have included a letter that I wrote to Managers of Wilderness Areas.

31

Thank You,  
Roger McGehee  
Box 1914  
San Anselmo, CA 94979

"I am writing to you concerning the Draft Watershed Master Plan which was published recently. I am dismayed by the absence of recreational cycling from the draft plan. I would urge you to reconsider the staff recommendations on this issue to allow mountain biking on selected fire roads in the EBMUD watershed under similar constraints as hiking and equestrianism.

Cyclists enjoy the trail experience for the same reasons that hikers and equestrians do; they like the solace and beauty of nature. Cycling allows them to exercise in a low-environmental-impact and car-free way; cyclists are the only users who can easily reach trailheads without vehicles. Cyclists are important members of the environmental community. The Sierra Club has recognized this in its Park City accords, agreeing that mountain biking is a legitimate form of recreation and transportation on public lands. Even the Wilderness Society now advocates expanded access for mountain bikers on public lands. What these groups realize is that mountain biking is the future of open space conservation, and if mountain bikers are shut out a vast resource is lost.

Cyclists are big contributors to community and open space projects. Locally, the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay is involved in trail-building and trail-maintenance projects, and also in the Bike Patrol, a very effective self-policing tool. The BTCEB also runs Trips for Kids, a shining example of bringing diverse groups to the East Bay parks, and Mountain Bike Basics, a free class which teaches beginning off-road cyclists technique, safety, and trail etiquette.

Mountain biking is an environmentally sound sport. As mentioned above, cyclists frequently use their bicycles to reach the trailhead, reducing auto trips and the need for trailhead parking. Studies of the impact of bicycles on trails have shown that bicycle use is comparable to hiking and has less impact than equestrianism. On graded fire roads such as those in the EBMUD watershed, there would very likely be no additional noticeable impact of bicycles on the amount of erosion and runoff.

Accidents happen in mountain biking, as they do in any sport. Hiking and equestrian accidents are not uncommon, and equestrian accidents are sometimes serious - severe head trauma and spinal cord injuries are not unheard of. Mountain biking accidents are reasonable in number, and the vast majority of off-road cycling accidents are - like hiking and equestrian accidents - single-user events. Education is the best medicine; the BTC has established a Bike Patrol program to educate users

on the trail, and a Mountain Bike Basics class to educate new users. Liability is not an issue; state law already provides strict protection from liability for land managers of unimproved trails.

Mountain bikers are legitimate members of the trail community. Permitting them to use the watershed along with hikers and equestrians would not cause a significant additional burden to EBMUD resources. The District would benefit by having an environmentally conscientious group take an interest in the preservation of its watershed.

I urge the board to amend the Draft Master Plan to include cycling on fire roads in the watershed. If the board does not take this position, I hope you will at least consider allowing mountain bikes to access any multi-jurisdictional trails built across the watershed, especially the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which mountain bikers have been actively participating in building."

Thank you,  
Michael Fuhrer



## **Responses to Comments from Roger McGehee**

30. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
31. The District has responded to comments received from Michael Fuhrer. Refer to the responses to comments 11-14.

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16

SEP 19 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

September 15, 1995

EBMUD  
Natural Resources Department  
M.S. 902  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Attn: EBWMP

The purpose of this letter is to express my objection to opening up more EBMUD trails to bicycle access under the East Bay Watershed Master Plan.

As an equestrian and holder of an EBMUD trail permit (No. 23925), I find cyclists using trails with horseback riders at the same time to be dangerous and unpredictable. A horse is not a machine like a bicycle and can become easily frightened when approached from behind or in front by speeding cyclists. Even if not speeding, a horse can still be spooked when it has to share a narrow trail with bicycles. Needless to say, this kind of situation can cause injury to both rider and horse.

32

For safety's sake, I would encourage EBMUD to limit the use of EBMUD trails to equestrians and hikers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Lily Pang*  
Lily Pang  
1926 Heath Drive  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

## **Responses to Comments from Lily Pang**

32. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

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SEP 20 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

1020 Middlefield Rd.  
Berkeley  
Ca 94708  
Sept. 17, 1995

17

EBMUD  
Natural Resources Dept. M.S.902  
375 Eleventh St.  
Attn. ABWMP

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to you as I was unfortunately unable to attend your most recent public hearings.

I feel very strongly that the primary function of EBMUD is to supply the East Bay with good water. Protection of this water obviously involves protection of the surrounding land.

The function of East Bay Regional Parks is to supply suitable recreational opportunities for east bay residents, and at the same time to protect its land, fauna and flora, for future generations. This will obviously involve the help of a large highly trained staff.

Twenty years ago EBMUD opened certain trails to limited public use. The fact that I regularly rode these trails, with great pleasure, for twelve years before a ranger asked to see my permit surely shows that a greatly increased staff would be required if trail use were extended to more groups,

Hikers and horsemen have very little impact on trails, except in wet weather when trails can be closed. Nor do they disturb the peace and serenity of these lovely lands.

I do not think that the expense of a largely increased staff for EBMUD to protect its lands from further user groups is warranted.

I 33

Tours truly

(I.E.Anderson)

*I.E. Anderson*

## **Responses to Comments from I. E. Anderson**

33. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

RECEIVED  
SEP 20 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

PO Box 223  
Lafayette CA  
94549  
P-17-95

Dear ESMUND:

Please do not allow bikers  
at San Leandro Reservation.

There are plenty of other  
places for them to ride.

34

I use the trailhead just  
Nwaga about once a week.  
It's my favorite spot for  
SOLITUDE, Quiet, and nature  
contemplation. Let's keep it that  
way. I am a biker.

NORM WOLFF  
Trail permit 27679

## **Responses to Comments from Norm Wolff**

34. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



25 La Cuesta  
Orinda, California 94563

September 19, 1995

Orinda City Council  
26 Orinda Way  
Orinda, California 94563

Mayor Hawkins and City Council Members:

Attached please find my response to the East Bay Municipal Utility District regarding their East Bay Watershed Master Plan draft and correspondence I received from Asst. Gen. Mgr. Cheryl Farr. I attended their July 11, 1995 meeting on the draft plan with the approval of Councilmembers Abrams & Littlehale. As the long-time liaison to EBWUD from the then-Council, I have some history to offer to you especially where the Bear Creek property is concerned.

I trust this information will help you in your continued discussions with this agency. If you have any questions, or if I may continue to be of service to you, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you  
  
Bobbie Landers

25 La Cuesta  
Orinda, California 94563

September 19, 1995

Mr. John M. Gioia, President  
East Bay Municipal Utilities District Board of Directors  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, California 94607-4240

Dear Mr. Gioia & Members of the Board:

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony at your July 11, 1995 Board meeting and for Assistant General Manager Farr's responsive letter of July 27, 1995. I especially appreciate receiving a copy of Jorge Carrasco's memo to the Board dated July 19, 1995, specifically addressing the Bear Creek Property in the context of the East Bay Watershed Master Plan.

Mr. Carrasco's memo, while appearing to correctly address the Orinda issues, does indeed draw a number of conclusions and inferences which pre-date Mr. Carrasco's involvement and are not borne out by all past events.

1) "In 1990, Orinda expressed a desire to use the property for sports fields." In fact, Orinda has a long record of attempting to acquire the Bear Creek property for sports and recreational facilities, dealing first with the Acalanes School District, then with the Developer, and then we held several discussions with Mr Sandy Skaggs, President of the EBMUD Board & then General Manager, Mr. Jerry Gilbert, in which we were assured that if Orinda would not bid against EBMUD for the purchase of the Bear Creek property, acquiring a long-term lease for sports and recreational facilities would not be a problem!

35

2) "...the draft EBUMP'S guidance directs EBMUD to emphasize regional recreation uses, not local ones such as sportsfields for local use, so Orinda's proposed use would not be a priority use under the plan." What Orinda has asked is to continue the interrupted, but jointly sponsored and funded, North Orinda Master Plan which has included public hearings on proposed uses for this property. Certainly, Orinda recognizes the need for any regional uses to further enhance public use that would conform with the protection of water quality.

36

If funding is used to establish priorities, it should be understood that Orinda is not asking for an EBMUD expenditure of funds. Orinda, and any other contributing regional agencies, has always been prepared to fund the development of the park.

3) "Water Operations has identified a possible future use for the Bear Creek property to build filter plant facilities..."

37

Work is currently being conducted by EBMLUD to enlarge their filter plant facilities on Camino Pablo including, as adjunct, a pumping operation on the South side of Bear Creek Road. It would seem reasonable that, with this current large expenditure, it would not be necessary to build any additional facilities for at least the next 20 years!

37 con't.

4)".....establish an artificial wetland for biologically filtering filter plant backwash water." To my knowledge, this land use was never brought before or considered by the EBWMP Committee. While we concede that such a facility may be necessary in the future, it would seem inappropriate to introduce a new idea at this late date.

38

Although we understand that circumstances change, we have placed substantial reliance upon the good faith discussions and negotiations. Under such circumstances, changes in ground rules should be prospective, not retro-active.

As a clarification, I am attaching the time-line chronology of effort Orindans have made for the use of this Bear Creek property. This was included in my presentation to the EBWMP Committee on May 3, 1994 (and based on my letter to Mary Warren in October, 1988). I trust this correspondence will be made a part of the EBWMP draft document comments.

Sincere thanks,

*Bobbie Landers* —  
Bobbie Landers

CHRONOLOGY OF EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE THE USE OF THE  
ORINDA BEAR CREEK PROPERTY FOR SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Orinda became a city in 1985. A local County Service Area (CSA) Advisory Committee (known as R-6) was the catalyst for all parks and recreation facilities prior to incorporation. This group, assisted by county officials, was active in seeking acquisition of the parcel prior to incorporation. The City of Orinda has actively pursued use of the property for sports and recreation facilities since incorporation. The following is a brief chronology:

1. In 1980, R-6 Advisory Committee members met with representatives of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) to discuss terms of acquisition of the Bear Creek property. R-6 Advisory Committee members and county officials authorized an appraisal of the property. The fair market value was determined to be \$418,000. R-6 Advisory Committee members and county officials offered to lease/purchase the property for \$535,000.

AUHSD hired a property advisor to conduct negotiations, and in April 1981, AUHSD sent a formal notice of intention to dispose of the property.

From July 1981 to March 1982, negotiations continued, but the parties failed to reach an agreement on fair market value. Since no agreement on acquisition of the entire parcel could be obtained, the parties agreed that the parcel could be offered for sale at a minimum bid of \$1,500,000 for 31 acres. The R-6 Board would be granted the additional 11 acres, and the successful bidder would contribute \$150,000 for park development. No offers were received.

2. In June 1983, AUHSD sought and received a California Department of Education waiver from the requirement to offer the property to government agencies, and the property was sold in its entirety to Mr. Joseph Duffel.
3. In 1988, the property was subject to foreclosure, and discussions ensued between EBMUD and the City of Orinda regarding acquisition and use of the property. The EBMUD General Manager assured Orinda that if EBMUD acquired the property, Orinda would be able to use the property for sports and recreation facilities. EBMUD acquired the property.

Negotiations were conducted with EBMUD staff for lease of the site for sports facilities.

4. In 1990, the City of Orinda and the East Bay Municipal Utility District entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of developing a Master Plan for publicly owned properties within the City of Orinda. The Bear Creek property was included in the Master Plan area.

July 19, 1995

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jorge Carrasco, General Manager *Jorge*

SUBJECT: East Bay Watershed Master Plan

On July 11, 1995, staff presented the draft East Bay Watershed Master Plan to the Board. At the request of the Board, the item will be placed on the agenda a second time to give the Board more time to study the draft document and provide comments.

At the July 11 meeting, Ms. Bobbie Landers addressed the Board regarding the City of Orinda's desire to continue discussions that had begun in 1990 regarding use of EBMUD's Bear Creek property (also known as the Duffel property) for recreational uses and the proposed development of two trails. This memo summarizes these issues and how they will be addressed by the East Bay Watershed Master Plan.

#### **Bear Creek Property**

Bear Creek is a 43 acre site owned by EBMUD (see map for location). EBMUD owned the property for many years but sold it to Acalanes Union High School District in 1966. The school district later changed its plans to build a high school and sold the property for residential development. The developer applied to Contra Costa County for a general plan change in 1984 and the request was denied. EBMUD repurchased the property in 1990 at its then-current appraised value. In 1990, Orinda expressed a desire to use the property for sports fields. EBMUD deferred a decision on use of the property until the master plan was complete.

The master plan provides long term general management guidance and as drafted would not preclude use of the Bear Creek site for sports fields. Once the draft EBWMP is complete, staff will work on refining screening criteria to evaluate proposed projects like those discussed by the City of Orinda. We will return to the Board for further discussion on the screening criteria in the coming months. Among the screening criteria that would be considered for this site are water quality protection, appropriateness of the proposed use, and EBMUD needs for the site.

The Bear Creek site is adjacent to San Pablo Creek and San Pablo Reservoir so water quality protection will be very important in considering uses of the site. With regard to appropriateness of use, the draft EBWMP's guidance directs EBMUD to emphasize regional recreation uses, not local ones such as sportsfields for local use, so Orinda's proposed use would not be a priority use under the plan. Necessary EBMUD business uses that are appropriate to watershed sites have priority over other uses. Water Operations has identified a possible future use for the Bear Creek property to build filter

Board of Directors  
Page 2  
July 19, 1995

plant facilities or establish an artificial wetland for biologically filtering filter plant backwash water. These are not funded projects at this time, but they would need to be considered before making a decision on any other use of the Bear Creek site.

### **Proposed San Pablo View and Village Grove Trails**

The proposed 2.3 mile San Pablo View Trail would connect EBMUD's Orinda Connector Staging Area (at the intersection of Bear Creek, Wildcat Canyon, and San Pablo Dam roads) to Inspiration Point in Tilden Park. It would eliminate EBMUD's existing Inspiration Trail which crosses San Pablo Dam Road in a location where vehicle speeds are high and sight distances are short. The proposed .4 mile Village Grove Trail would connect Village Grove at Camino Pablo Road to EBMUD's DeLaveaga Trail.

In 1990, the EBMUD Board considered a recommendation to adopt a Negative Declaration for San Pablo Reservoir trail improvements and supported development of the San Pablo View and Village Grove trails. Trail construction was proposed to be funded by grants with cooperative efforts of EBMUD and the City of Orinda. The San Pablo View trail will require several bridge crossings, making it an expensive trail (bridge crossings generally cost about \$100,000 each. Preliminary route survey work was completed in 1990 and then grant funding dried up, so planning and design ceased. No alternate funding source has been identified to date.

The proposed Village Grove Trail is adjacent to the El Toyonal urban interface, which is an area where significant fire and fuels management issues were identified through the EBWMP process. For that reason, this trail would not be recommended.

The EBWMP does not propose new trails. However, the plan does assume that the San Pablo View Trail (like the Bay Area Ridge Trail) will be completed since work on it had begun prior to the EBWMP process. This project will be scheduled in the five year plan next year and will be implemented based on availability of funds. In general, the EBWMP discourages trail expansion because of the cost of trail construction, maintenance, and policing, and because of the potential negative environmental impacts of an expanded trail system.

From 1990 through 1993, EBMUD and City representatives retained a consultant, conducted workshops and developed a draft North Orinda Land Use Master Plan. Throughout this time frame, the City of Orinda expressed interest in the use of the Bear Creek property for sports facilities.

Prepared by: Tom Sinclair  
City Manager

Todd V. Skinner  
Parks and Recreation Director

Committee Presentation - 5/3/94

bearcreek.pro



CHERYL FARR  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

July 27, 1995

Ms. Bobbie Landers  
25 La Cuesta  
Orinda, CA 94563

Ms. Landers:

Thank you again for your participation in the East Bay Watershed Master Plan development process. The comments that you expressed at the July 11, 1995 EBMUD Board of Directors meeting regarding the Bear Creek property and the San Pablo View and Village Grove Trails were discussed briefly by the Board again at their July 25, 1995 Board meeting. I wanted to provide you with some followup information on these items.

The Board briefly discussed these items and gave direction to staff to add language to the master plan document that recognizes these issues (potential uses for the Bear Creek property and future plans for the San Pablo View and Village Grove Trails) as areas where continued discussion and coordination with the City of Orinda is needed. The Board asked that language reflecting this be added to Section 5 of the "Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan" document. This section includes general management direction for coordination and communication with adjacent landowners and local jurisdictions. Also for your information, I have enclosed a copy of the informational memorandum (dated July 19, 1995) that staff provided to the Board. This memo briefly described the background of these issues and how they would be addressed by the Master Plan.

I hope this information is helpful and thank you again for your active involvement in this important planning process. Please

Ms. Bobbie Landers  
July 27, 1995  
Page 2

feel free to call me or members of the East Bay Watershed Master Plan staff (Steve Abbors (510) 287-0459 or Rick Leong (510) 287-0549) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Cheryl Farr  
Assistant General Manager

CF:rl

Enclosure

cc: Dan Lindsay, Orinda City Manager (w/enclosure)  
Irwin Kaplan, Planning Director (w/enclosure)



## Responses to Comments from Bobbie Landers

35. The District appreciates the clarification regarding the city's interest in the Bear Creek property. The EBWMP does not recommend a change in policy regarding use of this property, and all future proposals may be evaluated, at the District's discretion, according to the District's watershed project evaluation process that will be finalized after EBWMP policies are approved.
36. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP does not currently recommend use of District property for athletic play fields. Refer also to the response to comment 35.
37. The comment is acknowledged and will be considered should alternative uses for the Bear Creek property be evaluated.
38. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the responses to comments 35-37. Use of the Bear Creek property for an artificial wetland was proposed in the middle of the EBWMP process and was identified as a possible important use of that property by the District.



20



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE BAY AREA  
An Inter League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area

RECEIVED  
SEP 20 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

September 15, 1995

East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Natural Resources Department - M.S. 902  
Oakland, CA 94607

ATT: EBWMP

RE: COMMENTS ON EAST BAY WATERSHED MASTER PLAN AND DEIR

Dear Sirs:

The League of Women Voters has reviewed both the proposed EAST BAY WATERSHED MASTER PLAN and the EIR on the Plan. We commend the District for the open and comprehensive process used to develop the Plan. The League of Women Voters is pleased to have had two representatives of local Leagues serving on the EBWMP Community Advisory Committee. The League is very favorably impressed with the Plan and the policies it contains.

As reflected in the 1993 Guiding Principles upon which the Plan is based (page 1-3), the primary responsibility of the EBMUD is to provide high quality water to district customers. These Guiding Principles set forth a clear vision of maintaining watershed lands in a manner that protects environmental resources to ensure high quality water, provide for public input, public use, safety and that minimizes costs to ratepayers. We applaud the District for basing the Watershed Plan on sound, environmentally sensitive principles.

We believe the Plan admirably reflects the District's focus while addressing special interests, recreational and otherwise, by allowing existing and some increased recreational uses where the uses would not impact resources. Providing high quality water necessitates careful management of watershed lands so that natural resources are not degraded or destroyed. Native vegetation must remain in place to absorb pollutants, maintain water quality and stabilize banks, thereby, maintaining to the water quality. We support restriction of active uses, such as bicycling, which can be detrimental to watershed resources. These uses can best be accommodated on lands owned by entities that have a charge and responsibility to provide recreational uses.

| 39

We do have a few concerns and suggestions:

- We support removal of non-native pines and eucalyptus in the Plan. While there is a brief mention of other highly

↓ 40

invasive species in the DEIR, particularly broom, star thistle and pampas grass, these species are not mentioned in the Plan.

40 cont.

- A policy should be added requiring that new trails not adversely impact natural resources or lead to degradation of water quality.
- A policy should be added calling for investigation of a coordination program with neighboring jurisdictions regarding recreational uses. The goal of the coordination would be to work toward accommodating needs and uses on the most appropriate lands, based on the responsibilities of each jurisdiction and on the sensitivity of natural resources.

41

42

And we have a concern about the DEIR:

- In a number of subject areas the DEIR states that the Plan contains guidelines or policies that mitigate impacts, but these guidelines and policies are not referenced. For example, the wildlife page 4-14, states that there are guidelines to ensure fuel treatment options do not result in significant impacts on threatened and endangered species, and that affects are avoided wherever possible in important habitats. There is no indication of what these guidelines are. Also, the statement is made (page 4-9) that impacts on biological resources would be reduced or avoided, however, none of these mitigations is identified.

43

This approach requires the reader to search out policies from the Plan that support the guidelines when this information should be provided by the consultant.

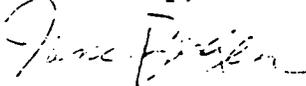
Finally, we would like to clarify that the League of Women Voters' comments on "sports fields for local communities," cited in the July 6, 1995 Memo from the General Manager to the Board of Directors on the Watershed Master Plan, was in reference to a specific field. The League does not generally support the concept of sports fields on watershed lands.

44

In conclusion, we commend the District for producing a Plan that is sensitive to environmental resource protection and that clearly focuses on maintaining the District's water quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Jane Bergen  
President

## Responses to Comments from League of Women Voters

39. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
40. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP indicates in guidelines BIO.13, BIO.14, and BIO.15 that the District will identify and control noxious weeds, invasive plants, and feral animals on watershed lands.
41. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP indicates in guidelines DRT.1 and DRT.14 that all new recreation facilities (including new trails) will be evaluated for the effects they could have on natural resources and would require CEQA compliance. The District has also added guideline DRT.25, which would allow community access to the Bay Area Ridge Trail that are not precluded by environmental, operational, political, or fiscal constraints.
42. The comment is acknowledged. The District currently coordinates on watershed management issues with adjacent jurisdictions. The EBWMP, in Chapter 5, "Management Direction for Interjurisdictional Coordination", provides general and area-specific management direction for coordination efforts with all the local government jurisdictions.
43. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP is intended to be largely self-mitigating at the programmatic level. All of the programs presented in Sections 3 and 4 have been developed to ensure that important watershed resources are protected and considered during implementation of all management programs, including the fire and fuels management program. The EBWMP contains coordination requirements for other resource management programs at the end of the fire and fuels management program in Section 3. During implementation of the fire and fuels management programs, managers will be required to take into consideration the priorities of the water quality, biodiversity, forestry, and other programs. Any watershed actions that would require the Board of Directors' discretionary approval could also require compliance with CEQA. However, once EBWMP policies are adopted, specific implementation plans for each program will need to be developed and, eventually, funded.
44. The comment regarding sports fields is acknowledged. The EBWMP does not recommend sports fields on watershed lands.

Liz Strauss  
6100 Harbord Drive  
Oakland, CA 94611-3128  
(510)654-3140

RECEIVED  
SEP 22 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES



September 20, 1995

EBMUD Natural Resource Dept.  
M.S. 902  
375 11th St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Sir/Madam,

It was disappointing to hear that you are considering allowing bicycles on EBMUD trails. Some of my happiest and most serene hours have been spent riding my horse on EBMUD land adjoining our (EBMUD) leased pasture. If bicycles are allowed it will adversely affect the quality and solitude of my riding experiences. This may sound elitist, but bicycles ALREADY have access to city and rural roads, and infinitely more opportunities for recreation than do equestrians. Please leave us one natural experience we can share quietly with hikers. Believe me, it's just not the same with bicycles whizzing past every few minutes.

I 45

Thank you,

## Responses to Comments from Liz Strauss

45. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



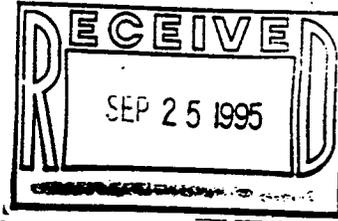
REC I V E D  
SEP 22 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Page 1

22

27 Hetfield Place  
Moraga CA 94556-1906  
15 September 1995

EBWMP  
EBMUD  
Natural Resources Department  
MS 902  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland CA 94067



Re: Possible Opening of Horse and Pedestrian Trails to Bicycles.

Dear Sirs:

I should like to voice my opinion on the above topic. I am strongly opposed to opening the EBMUD Moraga area trails to bicycles.

46

My wife, Zoë, and I have been heavy users of the Rocky Ridge, King's Canyon Loop, Runer Creek, Redwood and Old Moraga Ranch trails ever since the Upper San Leandro reservoir watershed trails were opened to hiking and horseback riding.

I also have been riding bicycles in backcountry trails since 1973, well before the current craze began. For that reason I believe that I am qualified to voice an opinion on this issue.

1. Cyclists have not shown themselves to be responsible on the trails in our area. Their irresponsibility in Redwood Park caused the Park District to restrict many trails from bicycle use, yet I have seen bicycles there recently on restricted trails. On the EBMUD Redwood trail from Finchurst's Head to Redwood Park I have encountered bicycles tearing down the hill in 3 of my last 5 walks. My wife has encountered them on the King's Canyon loop trail about a month ago. In each instance, when told that they were breaking the law, the cyclists responded with obscene gestures and flippant verbal remarks. On Redwood and Finchurst roads, over which I commute daily, they ride in the middle of the road, refusing to move to the right and creating a dangerous situation for both the driver and the cyclist. About three months ago I observed cyclists tearing down a little known and closed to bicycles trail on private land in Canyon.

47

What I dislike most about this irresponsibility is that these cyclists create a bad situation for me and other cyclists that like to use the legal trails. It is only a matter of time before someone



## **Responses to Comments from Walter E. Klippert II**

46. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
47. The District acknowledges the information regarding unauthorized use of District trails.
48. The District acknowledges the commenter's opinion regarding trail safety, and it will be considered as part of the EBWMP review process.
49. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the response to comment 48.
50. The comment is acknowledged.

RECEIVED

23

SEP 25 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

78, Greenfield Drive  
Moraga, CA 94556

September 22, 1995

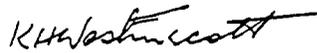
Natural Resources Dept.  
EBMUD

I am writing to strongly support EBMUD's position in denying bikers access to its trail system.

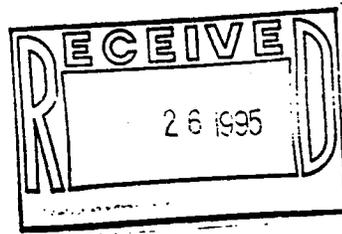
I 51

As a regular hiker on the trails, I am constantly amazed by the Sierra-like tranquility I can find just a few miles from my door. All that would change if hordes of bikers were turned loose there. Already conflicts arise between speeding bikers and walkers on existing shared trails, e.g. Moraga-Lafayette trail.

Please, in the name of John Muir, keep somewhere for us hikers and equestrians to go to escape for a few hours from the blight of the technological age!



K.H. Westmacott

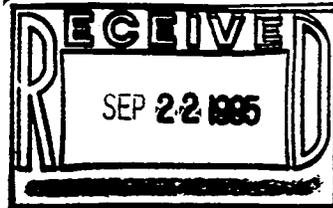


## **Responses to Comments from K.H. Westmacott**

51. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



September 21, 1995



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SEP 21 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

24

Dear Board Members,

I was unable to attend the recent public input sessions on the Watershed Master Plan so I am sending you some suggestions in writing instead. I have been a Watershed Ranger here for 11 years now and my perspective on issues may be helpful to you. The ideas I am sharing are from my own perspective as a Ranger and EBMUD ratepayer and are made to help bring about positive changes in land management that will improve water quality.

**WATER QUALITY**

Our own study has shown that fire roads are the main cause of erosion into our drinking water in the Sierras. I submitted a plan to eliminate some duplicate/redundant fire roads and to mow others, rather than grading them. In the five years since this plan was accepted we have been unable to implement this plan on even one road. In fact, we have many more miles of fire and access roads now than before the plan was begun. As a result, we have not only failed to improve water quality, but have harmed it instead.

52

Our own studies have shown that the siltation into local reservoirs is 43 times that of Pardee reservoir. This is despite the fact that the Pardee watershed is ten times larger than the local ones. So our local erosion is actually over 430 times worse than upcountry. We have been unable to do anything to remedy this situation.

Our Sierra study showed that cattle grazing was the second most harmful land use in logging operations. We currently allow cattle to graze in the creeks that feed directly into our drinking water. They defecate directly into the water and this organic matter combines with chlorine to form carcinogens in our drinking water. Cattle have also been found to be the carriers of cryptosporidia which has been detected in our local reservoirs. So far, we have outfenced two short stretches of creeks in the five years or so since the study. One of the creeks doesn't even go into our drinking water supply. This seems like a woefully inadequate response to protecting public health.

53

Several rangers, working with commonly accepted figures from the Soil Conservation Service have calculated that accelerated erosion due to the way we currently graze cattle erodes over \$525,000 of topsoil from our local watershed lands each year. The ultimate dredging costs to remove this silt from our reservoirs when we need to restore their holding capacity amounts to around \$600,000 per year. The income from our grazing program amounts to between \$200,000 to \$400,000 per year. So every year we graze, we lose between \$700,000 to \$900,000.

In summary, the way we currently "care" for the land and water makes neither sense or cents for EBMUD. Another finding of the Sierra study was that logging is the third most significant factor

in creating erosion and lowering water quality. This year, we began a logging operation that dropped trees directly into Briones Reservoir. We used the most destructive piece of equipment to haul them out, leading to lots of disturbed soil directly adjacent to the reservoir. If we are taking Georgia Pacific and the Forest Service to court to stop their destructive logging practices, we ought to stop our own similar practices as well.

53 con't.

#### TRAILS

We provide a system of hiking trails to the public. Some of the trails are single track and most of them are fire roads. We are under pressure to expand our trail system, despite that fact that our sister agency, the East Bay Regional Parks, provides over 1000 miles of trails for East Bay citizens. Our trails cost lots of money to construct and maintain. There are some simple ways to reduce costs and continue to offer safe, enjoyable trail experiences. These are not included in the current recommendations you have before you.

First, we need to consolidate as many trails onto fire roads as possible. Since fire roads get pruned and graded each year anyway, it saves all the expensive and time-consuming maintenance of the single track trails. Second, we need to encourage as many trail users as possible, including mountain bikes. The EBRPD has thousands of people using their trails weekly and they have less weed problems as a result. People, bikes and horses simply trample down the weeds and make their trails passible with NO work from their ranger crews. Since mountain bikers pay the same water rates as all other users, they should have access to our trails too. Just because they are the newcomers, doesn't mean that we should discriminate against them. And as you have seen from the figures in the section on water quality, any additional erosion that may result from bikes would be completely insignificant compared with the destruction EBMUD Watershed staff cause each year.

We are under constant pressure to become part of regional trail systems such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the American Heritage Trail, the Coast to Crest Trail, etc. We keep putting these trails along the perimeters of our property and have to build new trails to accommodate them. This needs to change. We need to route them down currently existing fire roads to save ratepayers all the costs we are currently incurring.

#### RECREATION

Virtually everyone I talk to about EBMUD brings up the issue of gas powered boats on San Pablo Reservoir. It is perceived as totally inappropriate to allow gas and oil to leak into public drinking water and people can't understand why we allow it. We shouldn't. We can't afford to create the impression that we are willing to sacrifice water quality to make a recreation buck. So even if in reality gas boats do no harm to water quality, they should be removed anyway.

Another frequent complaint is about the littered shorelines. Our

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concessionaires don't spend enough time keeping bait containers, lunch leftovers, tangled fishing lines, etc out of the drinking water. We need to improve this situation so people can have confidence in the quality of water they are drinking.

58 cont.

Migrating waterfowl are protected by international treaties. We close San Pablo Reservoir for three months each year to "protect" these birds. However, the birds live down here for 5 months, not three. The reservoir should be closed for the full 5 months.

59

Crew teams from three colleges currently enjoy the privilege of rowing on Briones Reservoir, the emergency drinking water for the entire East Bay. At different times crew team members have been caught swimming in and urinating next to the reservoir. The teams are on the reservoir because the former President of the BOD used to crew for Cal. We need to end this "good old boys" relationship and remove all recreation use from the reservoir.

60

#### MANAGEMENT

As you can see from the above suggestions, we have not thought out what we are doing very well. The Master Plan is an attempt to help us get organized and on task. However, the problem remains that we are not doing what needs to be done to improve water quality and protect our resources. Many of our supervisors have acted like they were running a private cattle ranch or landscaping company instead of paying attention to EBMUD's concerns and mission. We need to bring managers on board who will help EBMUD achieve its goals, not ones who work against them.

61

#### SUMMARY

I hope I have provided a different perspective for you to consider. I firmly believe that the more ideas you get, the more intelligent the end product will be. I hope I have made a contribution to this effort. Some of the ideas I have shared are unpopular with other people on staff and they will be reluctant to incorporate them into the Master Plan. It is up to you as Board Members to speak out on the issues that concern you and to protect the drinking water of your constituents. You may have to direct staff to include principles or practices that are currently not popular at Watershed. As you can see from our own studies, dramatic change is sorely needed, not just nice-sounding window dressing. Good luck developing a plan that truly serves the people of the East Bay by protecting their resources now and for future generations.

Sincerely,



Bob Flasher  
Watershed Ranger & Ratepayer

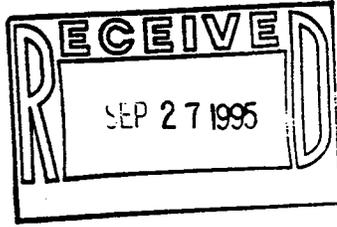


## Responses to Comments from Bob Flasher

52. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP provides guideline WQ.26 to address the potential erosion control problem associated with fire roads. The District has modified guideline WQ.26 to include consideration of mowing roads in watershed areas where fire safety would not be compromised.
53. The comment is acknowledged. EBWMP guidelines WQ.18, WQ.20, WQ.30, and WQ.35 provide guidance for reducing the effects of cattle grazing on watershed lands and will be implemented to reduce erosion in sensitive habitat areas. Livestock grazing guidelines LG.1-11 are intended to reduce the amount of livestock grazing on District-owned property to be consistent with natural resource protection, fuels reduction, and erosion control priorities. Guideline WQ.11 will be implemented to minimize water quality effects associated with tree removal equipment or other machinery.
54. The comment is acknowledged. The District has provided guideline DRT.9, which requires evaluation of existing recreation use and trails development. Facilities and activities will be reviewed periodically, and modifications will be considered in cases where adverse effects are identified. Consolidation of trail use on fire roads and bicycle use on watershed lands is not recommended in the EBWMP for recreation or weed control purposes.
55. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
56. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP recognizes the ongoing implementation of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the American Discovery/Coast to Crest Trail that cross District-owned property. No additional regional trail connectors are recommended in the EBWMP.
57. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP, under guideline DRT.9, does provide for review of existing recreation programs, including power boating on San Pablo Reservoir, to consider modifications or reduce adverse effects. No conclusive technical analyses currently support eliminating motor boats for water quality purposes.
58. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP provides guidelines DRT.2, SP.21, SP.22, C.5, C.6, and C.7, which require review of concessionaire and lease agreements to ensure that operations at concessionaire-operated facilities are consistent with EBWMP priorities.
59. The comment is acknowledged. No change to the EBWMP is required. The District considers its current closure policy at San Pablo Reservoir adequate for the purpose of protecting waterfowl and providing reasonable recreation access.
60. The comment is acknowledged. EBWMP guideline DRT.9 provides for review of existing recreation programs, including use of Briones Reservoir for crew, to consider modifications

or reduce adverse effects. Evaluation of crew use on Briones Reservoir could be part of the District's development and use evaluation process.

61. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP provides the guidance and priorities needed to effectively manage District-owned watershed lands to achieve its stated goals. Implementing the EBWMP will require developing detailed and coordinated program implementation plans for each area of watershed management identified in the plan. Because the District's resources are finite, all watershed management programs will need to be balanced to emphasize high-priority programs while maintaining other important programs.



25

September 25, 1995

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 - 11th Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Draft Watershed Master Plan and EIR

Dear Directors:

The Bay Trail Project has reviewed the Watershed Master Plan and would like to make the following comment:

We are pleased to see that EBMUD states an objective of "provid[ing] trail links to the surrounding regional open space network..." (p. 3-23). Although the Bay Trail is not directly adjacent to any EBMUD watershed land, we have been working closely with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to develop connector trails linking the Bay and Ridge Trails. These trails, once completed, will form an important part of the "regional open space network." In particular, we have been researching potential links between the two systems on the ridges above Pinole and Hercules.

We request that the Watershed Master Plan provide sufficient flexibility to allow for such new trails to be evaluated on their own merits on EBMUD watershed land whether or not they fall within already established trail corridors.

We further request that the District reconsider its proposal "not to allow entry to District lands from adjacent private developments..." (DRT.9, p. 3-24). While we understand that allowance of such entrances may require negotiation between EBMUD and local neighborhood associations and implies certain management considerations, we believe that it is exactly such staging opportunities which make regional trail connections meaningful. Specifically, we request the consideration and inclusion in the Master Plan of potential future connections at the Hanna Ranch Development and Doidge-Write Estate (p. 5-12).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Watershed Master Plan. Please feel free to contact me at (510) 464-7904.

Sincerely,

Brian Wiese  
Trail Development Coordinator

RECEIVED  
SEP 26 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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63



**Responses to Comments from Brian Wiese, Trail Development Coordinator, San Francisco Bay Trail**

62. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP, in guideline DRT.25, recognizes the need for community access points in the form of staging areas to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Preference will be given to local trail connectors, in established corridors, and any new proposals the District may elect to consider will be subject to the District's development review process.
  
63. The District has revised guideline DRT.24 slightly to restrict entry to District lands from adjacent *residences* except at Lafayette Reservoir. Guideline DRT.19 allows for planned Hercules/Pinole Ridge Trail connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and guideline DRT.25 has been added to accommodate other possible community access points to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Refer also to the response to comment 62.

Sept. 21, 1995

Dear East Bay MUD,

I am writing in response to the newly released management plan.

I have been an EBMD trail user for the last 25 years. I currently possess a valid trails pass I have hiked, birdwatched and ridden horses in the East Bay Hills since the age of six.

I am very opposed to allowing bicycle use on EBMD lands.

Although I approve of bike riding in theory, and in fact own a road bike, I have had

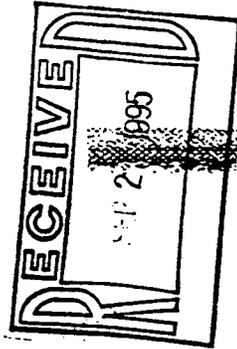
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a number of bad experiences with bike riders who were going too fast in Tilden Regional Park. Whizzing bike riders ruin the serenity and endanger the activities for both hikers and pedestrians. Of course, this is just a few random incidents, but I usually encounter 1-2 bikers going too fast for existing sight conditions on any ride or hike.

I greatly value EBMD trails as a place to escape 64 bikes. Please keep your trail bike-free.

Sincerely, Emilie Strauss

EMILIE STRAUSS  
1468 GREZELY PEAK BLVD.  
BERKELEY, CA 94708



## **Responses to Comments from Emilie Strauss**

64. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



27



BAY AREA  
RIDGE TRAIL  
COUNCIL

311 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 510  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104

September 25, 1995

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, California 94607-4240

Subject: EBMUD Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Programmatic EIR

Dear Chairman John Gioia and EBMUD Directors,

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is pleased to comment on EBMUD's Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan (EBWMP) and EIR. The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is a public-private partnership of citizens and agencies. Our mission is to work cooperatively with the many land managing agencies around the bay to plan, promote, build and maintain the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a 400 mile multi-use trail that, when complete, will connect over 75 parks, open spaces and watersheds on the ridgelines surrounding San Francisco Bay. Recognizing the growing recreational needs of the Bay Area's diverse populations, along with the desire of individuals to connect with their communities and the outdoor environment, the Council creates links between parks, people, and communities.

In response to the EBWMP, we want first to congratulate EBMUD's staff and its consultant for producing such a thorough plan and EIR and for recognizing the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the plan. We are pleased that one of EBMUD's objectives is to "Provide trail links to the surrounding regional open space network, ..." (page 3-23), thus meeting one of the Council's goals to make the Bay Area Ridge Trail accessible to the diverse Bay Area community. We are also gratified that the EBWMP calls for identifying "... opportunities to provide wider accessibility of permits for regional trail users (see DRT.22 on page 3-26).

From the outset, EBMUD has been a key partner in the Bay Area Ridge Trail, working with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to complete the Bay Area Ridge Trail through EBMUD watershed lands from Cull Canyon Regional Park in Castro Valley to Pereira Road in Pinole Valley. At this point we have completed segments over Dinosaur Ridge between Cull Canyon and Chabot Regional Park, between Sibley and Tilden Regional Parks above Siesta Valley, and between Wildcat and Kennedy Grove Parks along EBMUD's Eagle's Nest Trail, and through the San Pablo Recreation Area. In addition, the segment through EBMUD's Pinole Valley, is expected to be opened to the public in 1996. This will leave only one EBMUD section to be completed; this is part of a proposed connection between Kennedy Grove and Sobrante Ridge Regional Parks. See Figure 3-2 of the EBWMP for the locations of these segments.

65

RECEIVED  
SEP 28 1995

PHONE (415) 391-0697  
FAX (415) 391-2649

Printed on recycled paper

Because the EBWMP will be EBMUD's guiding document regarding uses allowed on the watershed over the next two decades and more, we wish to see as flexible and visionary a plan as possible. Regarding the trail aspects of the EBWMP, we have some recommendations that clarify and broaden the plan regarding several issues, including multi-use, regional and community connector trails, the use of volunteers for trails, and the trail permit system. In addition, we have a few other comments concerning specific wording in the EBWMP which we have put at the end of this letter.

In respect to multi-use, it is the Council's goal to have a 400 mile trail for hikers, equestrians and mountain bicyclists. In order to achieve this goal we work cooperatively with land managing entities around the bay to find ways to accommodate all three trail user groups wherever possible, preferably on a single alignment but sometimes on alternate alignments. In March of 1994 the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's Board of Directors adopted a policy that reflects our commitment to multi-use and the manner in which it is implemented. A copy of our policy is attached.

We recommend that the EBWMP be modified to specifically recognize mountain biking as a legitimate trail use group, and that a Trail Guideline be added to the plan which calls for the exploration of appropriate locations on EBMUD's land where mountain bicycling can take place while still conforming to EBMUD's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles. It is our opinion that those segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail which exist on fire roads are certainly suitable for such consideration, and that alterations and/or alternate alignments for mountain bicyclists can be worked out for the narrower trail segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

We are aware that the subject of mountain bicycle use on the watershed has been one of the issues most commented on during the public input period prior to issuance of the proposed EBWMP. Mountain bicycle use is on the rise nationwide to the point that it has rapidly become one of the largest user groups of public lands. In this context we note that the EBWMP states that "Trails should be operated so as to serve the greatest number of District customers possible." (DRT.9 on page 3-24) and further states that the District should "Give priority to those recreational uses that serve the broadest spectrum of the population." (page 3-23). In keeping with these guidelines and objectives, and recognizing that mountain bicycling represents a large number of District customers and a significant recreational group in the population at large, we believe that mountain bicycling should be specifically recognized in the EBWMP as a legitimate trail user group.

In respect to regional and community connector trails, Trail Guideline DRT.20 (page 3-26) calls for providing "... regional trail linkages in established trail corridors that would be accessible to the regional trail use community...". We request that the EBWMP allow consideration of trail corridors beyond "established trail corridors" using existing fire roads within district lands. Such a broadening of discretion would allow future consideration of a couple of possible connections between the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail and the regional Bay Trail through Hercules and Pinole. Likewise, the restriction to "... not allow entry to District lands from adjacent private developments except at Lafayette Reservoir." (see DRT.25 on page 3-26) might have the same limiting effect on EBMUD's goal of providing regional trail links where possible, and should be modified to allow consideration of such entry under appropriate conditions. Finally, on page 5-12, we request that the EBWMP note the possibility for such future connections in its discussion of the Hanna Ranch Development, Pinole and the Doidge-Wright Estate.

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In respect to the use of volunteers, Trail Guideline DRT.20 (page 3-26) states "Explore the feasibility of establishing a volunteer program for trail maintenance. We would like to see the plan explore the use of volunteers for more than just trail maintenance. Specifically, we would like to the District to consider using volunteer trail patrols consisting of members of each trail user group. We recommend that this guideline be broadened to read "Explore the feasibility of establishing a volunteer program to help with the maintenance and patrol of the District's trails.

68

In respect to the permit system, the last sentence of Trail Guideline DRT.23 (page 3-26) should be changed to read "Single-day use permits could be purchased at the inter-jurisdictional trail junction (e.g. "iron ranger"), at all recreation areas and business offices." Such a change would allow the District to seek ways to enable trail users to continue a hike or ride without having to interrupt the activity to return to their vehicle to buy a permit at a recreation area or business office. We also suggest that the EBWMP allow the consideration of certain regional segments being exempt from trail permits (e.g. similar to the existing Bay Area Ridge Trail segment above Siesta Valley which is managed for the District by the East Bay Regional Park District).

69

Additional comments are as follows:

- Figure 3-2 (north & south) (following page 3-26) incorrectly identifies the Bay Area Ridge Trail as the "San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail". Please make the necessary correction.
- Figure 3-2 (north) does not indicate the Bay Area Ridge Trail above Siesta Valley where it exists currently on EBMUD lands but managed by EBRPD. This trail is also a segment of the National Skyline Trail and should be so identified.
- Figure 3-2 (north) shouldn't be taken literally regarding the crossing of Pinole Valley road near its junction with Castro Ranch and Alhambra Valley Roads (the Pinole "Y"). As EBMUD staff knows, the exact location of this road crossing is still being discussed by BARTC, EBMUD and Contra Costa County.
- Modify the wording of both WQ.4 (page 3-2) and C.6 (page 4-11) to add the provision that such potential trail eliminations are subject to public hearings and review, especially by the agencies and organizations whose regional trail or trail connection may be affected.

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Thank you again for providing the opportunity for us to comment on the EBWMP. We look forward to continuing our positive relationship with EBMUD staff in completing the Bay Area Ridge Trail through EBMUD's watershed lands. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ron Brown, our East Bay Field Coordinator at (510) 376-8708.

Sincerely,



Brian O'Neill  
Chairman of the Board  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

cc: ✓ EBMUD Natural Resources Dept., M.S. 902, Attn: EBWMP  
Barbara Rice, BARTC Executive Director  
Ron Brown, BARTC East Bay Field Coordinator

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## Trail Management/Development Policies

Adopted: 12/10/92

Amended: 12/16/93

Amended: 3/10/94

### Multi-use Policy

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is committed to creating a safe and environmentally sound multi-use ridgeline trail system circling the San Francisco Bay, connecting the region's parks and open spaces for hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians.

The Council, through county committees, will work collaboratively with land managing entities to suggest multi-use guidelines and criteria for the Ridge Trail consistent with Ridge Trail multi-use objectives. In doing so, the Council will give due consideration to existing policies and regulations. The Council supports compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

This policy will be implemented with reference to all of the guidelines for multi-use implementation and the Council's Trail Planning Criteria.

### Guidelines for Implementation

When building new trail in areas where certain uses are restricted, the Council will encourage trail design and location that can accommodate multi-use in a safe and environmentally sound manner when and if there are changes in policy or exceptions to regulatory restrictions.

When dedicating existing trail segments in areas where certain uses are restricted, trails would be chosen so as to accommodate multi-use in the event that policies or regulatory restrictions change.

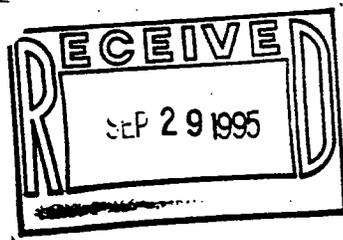
Where dedicated or proposed segments of the Ridge Trail pass through an area where certain uses are restricted, the Council will advocate multi-use for the Ridge Trail by working cooperatively with land managing entities.

Where a single multi-use trail cannot be implemented because of policy or regulation restrictions, environmental concerns, safety, physical characteristics or terrain, the Council will work cooperatively to secure an additional route that offers an equivalent trail experiences.

## Responses to Comments from Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Brian O'Neill

65. The comment is acknowledged.
66. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.
67. The comment is acknowledged. The District has modified guidelines DRT.19 and DRT.24 to provide more flexibility for trail connectors. Entry to District property will not be allowed from adjacent *residences* except at Lafayette Reservoir. The District has also added guideline DRT.25 to specifically allow community access points to the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
68. The comment is acknowledged. The District uses volunteers to provide trail maintenance. Refer to the response to comment 22.
69. The comment is acknowledged. The District is not considering a change to guideline DRT.22.
70. Figure 3-2 has been modified to include the correct name for the Bay Area Ridge Trail.
71. The National Skyline Trail segment has been added to Figure 3-2 (north).
72. The comment is acknowledged. The location of the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the figure is schematic and for descriptive purposes only. The final location of the road crossing will be a joint decision made by Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the District, and Contra Costa County.
73. The comment is acknowledged. No change to guideline WQ.26 will be made because closing unused or unnecessary roads and trails would not normally require District hearings. The District's staff will handle interjurisdictional coordination for facilities that require joint operation. Guideline C.6 has been modified to reference coordination with EBRPD staff.





28

September 22, 1995

Board of Directors, EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA. 94623

re; EBMUD Watershed Master Plan comments from the Orinda Trail Council.

Dear Board Members,

The Orinda Trail Council has represented the interests of Orinda and area in trail and open space issues since it was formed in 1987. Their comments have helped the city in the development of their General Plan and various projects brought before the Planning Commission and City Council over the years.

There is strong interest in both protecting Open Space and reasonable access to it. If open space is to be protected people need to see what it is. Reasonable access will help.

The Trail Council has fought for trails and against trails on the watershed in past years if we felt access was not in the best interest of the watershed and the environment.

The EBMUD Staff has done an outstanding job of developing the background material and bringing it all together in this very comprehensive document. They are to be complimented for doing a very thorough job.

John Fazel, CAC representative from Orinda has given background information that addresses areas in the Draft Report that need to be modified, corrected or deleted to more closely reflect the discussions of the CAC, or areas that would better serve the best interest of the rate payers. These same modifications would not compromise the mission statement or goals and objectives of protecting the watershed and delivering the best possible water quality to the rate payers.

The following are specific changes that we recommend for the Draft Watershed Masterplan:

*P. O. Box 942 • Orinda, CA 94563*

3-11 Eucalyptus Mgt. - For-7. ADD 'and don't threaten existing habitat that may also be on the endangered or threatened species list, ie; nesting Bald Eagles (winter). \*review mgt of control burns or fuel load removal vs removal of all trees. \*use same mgt criteria as for Monterey Pine mgt., except FOR-9.

74

3-23 RECREATION AND TRAILS - Goals - Objectives #8 Bottom of page, ADD 'if additions to or modifications of Dist. rec. mgt program then review the need to reduce or eliminate other activities to ensure no net increase to adverse environmental effects, ie; shoreline fishing, grazing.

75

3-23 DRT 9 - ADD - Priority will be given to adding trails that would use existing graded fireroads on district lands thus reducing impact on the watershed and costs.

76

3-23 DRT 25 - DELETE 2nd sentence. This was never discussed at CAC meetings. There are opportunities to allow reasonable access in areas in the north watershed, ie; Pinole, El Sobrante, Hercules etc that has limited entry and should be considered.

77

3-23 ADD DRT 26 - Evaluate existing recreational use according to the same criteria as for new uses. Any changes in current use would be made only after public input.

78

4-2 SP2 - DELETE last statement. This was never discussed at the CAC or agreed to. Seasonal Closure for protection of the Aleutian Canada goose is very appropriate, which the CAC did endorse.

79

4-7 B10 - Confusing wording - Does not differentiate recreation from trails. Trails should not be included in this section.

80

4-11 C6 - Should read 'Require annual review of all trails and trail uses on District property and correct any hazardous trail segments. (If any trail sections are to be considered for closure, then only after review with EBRPD and the EBATC.)

81

4-11 DRT 211 - DELETE 2-111

82

... this subject was never discussed at the CAC. This would prohibit use or access to an area in need of additional recreational opportunities. This area does not drain into any existing watershed reservoir.

| 82 con't.

*P. O. Box 942 • Orinda, CA 94563*

5-5 San Pablo View and Village Grove Trails. - DELETE last sentence. CAC did not discuss or endorse. The Master Plan came about when the EBMUD Board of Directors asked for the development of a 5 year trail plan for the district. These two trails were approved with EIR's completed at that time.

83

The Orinda Trail Council requests your serious consideration of the changes recommended and are available to respond to any of the comments we are submitting.

Cordially,

Jerry Wendt  
President, Orinda Trails Council

*P. O. Box 942 • Orinda, CA 94563*

## Responses to Comments from Trails Council of Orinda, Jerry Wendt

74. The District has modified the EBWMP to apply guidelines FOR.11-13 to all non-native forests rather than just Monterey pine forest. Other requested changes have not been made because comments have already been addressed in the biodiversity and fire and fuels management programs.
75. The comment is acknowledged. No changes to the EBWMP have been made because the recommended addition is redundant.
76. The comment is acknowledged. No change to guideline DRT.9 has been made related to the comment because changing the guideline to include this language would imply that providing new trails is a District priority. It is not the intent of guideline DRT.9 to imply that priority will be given to developing new trails.
77. The comment is acknowledged. The second sentence of guideline DRT.24 has been modified to read: "Do not allow entry to District lands from adjacent private *residences* except at Lafayette Reservoir." The District has also revised guideline DRT.19 to address community connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and has added guideline DRT.25 to provide for community access points.
78. The comment is acknowledged. No change to the EBWMP has been made because this issue is already covered in guideline DRT.9.
79. The comment is acknowledged. The District intends to continue its current restrictions on public access to the Oursan Valley. No changes to the EBWMP are required.
80. The comment is acknowledged. Guideline B.12 has been modified to clarify that current levels of recreation access to the Briones Reservoir *water surface* will be maintained or reduced.
81. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the response to comment 73.
82. The comment is acknowledged.
83. The comment is acknowledged.

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SEP 26 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

3527 Arcadian Dr.  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
September 23, 1995

29

Dear EBMUD Directors,

I understand that public use of EBMUD lands is under evaluation. I would like to urge you to consider opening up some of the trails to bicycle use. There is no question that the use of mountain bikes on the land will have an impact. I feel that all "trespassers" on the natural terrain have an effect. The hard part (yours) is to balance the purpose of the lands and there watershed importance, against some degree of impingement made by the public you serve. Hikers, equestrians and bikers all impact the terrain. If they traverse only on designated routes and refrain from leaving anything behind them, then the damage is confined, and probably would not contradict your objectives. There is no question that more people would use the trails if bicycles were allowed. If your plan is to limit the use of the watershed altogether, then eliminating bicycles, (and perhaps joggers with shoes over size 11) would be a method of limiting traffic.

I believe that bicycles impact the land on a basically equal level to horses, and slightly greater than that of hikers. On my bicycle I can cover more distance than either of the currently allowed groups, as a result one may argue that the cumulative damage is greater. I maintain that this damage is at an acceptable level considering the huge benefit of opening these public lands to the enjoyment of the people. It is only the fact that historical decisions on land use in association with watershed protection were made at a time when horses were being used, and bicycles were not yet construed to travel the trails.

Please consider accepting a plan that allows bicyclists to use one trail that traverses the main areas of the watershed. Just being able to get back into the untouched areas is all I would ask. I feel very lucky to live in an area that has reserved such magnificent pieces of land, as represented by the regional, state and national parks. The EBMUD lands are set aside for the protection of the water supply. I believe that evidence shows that the impact of bicycles on restricted trails would not adversely affect the watershed.

Please consider allowing this new mode of recreation to use the natural areas set aside for the public good.

Sincerely,

  
Richard N. Benjamin

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SEP 28 1995

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SEP 27 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

84

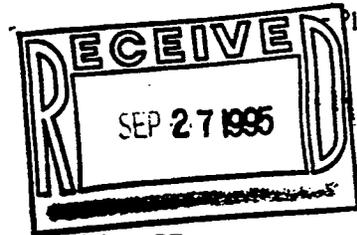
## **Responses to Comments from Richard N. Benjamin**

84. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



September 27, 1995

Board of Directors  
Recreational Equipment Company  
1700 45th Street East  
Sumner, Washington 98390



Re: Your Support of Mountain Biking; Your "Cycling Gear Guide '95"  
Catalog

Gentlepersons:

Thank you for removing the photos of (apparently) illegal mountain bike riding from your catalog! I am not naive enough to expect any business to really care about the environment (i.e., give higher priority to wildlife than profits), but I do expect REI to give it more consideration than other businesses, since you are in the business of helping people get into the wilderness, and hence probably want to preserve some wilderness to get into!

Mountain (off-road) biking is always harmful to the environment. It is very damaging to the soil, and to organisms that live on and under it. It is well known that desert soils are easily destroyed, and require tens or hundreds of years to be recreated. But other soils are similarly vulnerable. The "knobby" tires preferred by mountain bikers (and lugged soles worn by ignorant hikers) are extremely destructive, causing a large increase in erosion, harming soil-dwelling organisms, and killing plants that many animals depend on. But probably even more harmful than these direct effects is the way bikes simply make it easier for people to get farther into the wilderness, and hence crowd wildlife out of its preferred habitats. This leads to habitat fragmentation and, eventually, extinction. Surely, you don't believe that old myth about needing to get as many people as possible into the wilderness (under whatever circumstances), in order to protect it? I thought that Aldo Leopold (speaking about "loving Nature to death") put that one to bed long ago.

On page 27 of your above-mentioned catalog you depict 12 different styles of deeply lugged tires, none of which have a legitimate use. The only possible uses for such tires are (1) to attain speeds at which the appreciation of nature is impossible, or (2) to ride on grades which are so steep that there is a great danger of erosion. In both cases, they vastly increase the risk of injury to the rider. They also greatly increase rolling resistance -- one good measure of your effect on the environment. The fact that some public or private agencies are stupid enough to allow such tires to rip up the land under their stewardship is no excuse for you to participate in that destruction.

I offer the following thoughts from my review of Extinction: The Causes and Consequences of the Disappearance of Species, by Paul and Anne Ehrlich:

The Ehrlichs are particularly vehement in condemning another such frivolous abuse [of wildlife] -- off-road vehicles: "When it comes to pure recreational destructiveness, however, off-road vehicles (ORVs) far surpass powerboats. ... It is a rare environment indeed where a vehicle can be taken off-road without

84a

damage. ... Standard ORVs with their knobby tires are almost ideal devices for smashing plant life and destroying soil. Even driven with extreme care, a dirt bike will degrade about an acre of land in a twenty-mile drive. ... Not only do the ORVs exterminate animals by exterminating plants, they attack them directly as well. Individual animals on the surface and in shallow burrows ... are crushed. ... One great problem with ORVs is that they supply easy access to wilderness areas for unsupervised people who have ... no conception of the damage they are doing." (pp.169-171) (Although mountain bikes had not been invented, or were hardly known, when this was written, it is obvious that the same applies to them.)

84a,  
con't

I have been getting more and more disillusioned with REI over the years, and will shop there only if I have no other choice. I suggest that you seriously consider removing deeply treaded tires and hiking shoes from your stores. I have never noticed any disadvantage to the relatively smooth tires and soles I have used for the last 52 years.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Vandeman, Ph.D.

P.S. I am sharing this letter with all of my friends and all interested people on the Internet.

1  
August 12, 1995

Board of Directors  
East Bay Regional Park District  
2950 Peralta Oaks Court  
Oakland, California 94605-5369

Re: Northeast Shore Trail Development, Del Valle Regional Park  
(8/15/95 Board Meeting Consent Calendar Item)

Gentlepersons:

I would like you to pull this item from the agenda until I am able to attend another board meeting and address it. I am amazed that such important items end up on the "Consent Calendar". And are even passed!

Take a look at a map of your holdings. Take the point of view, for a moment, of wildlife. The only protection, such as it is, that they have, in all of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, is in your regional parks, Mt. Diablo State Park, water district lands, and other government lands. This amounts to a very small percentage of their habitat. Most of these areas are separated by barriers (such as freeways, cities, fences, etc.) that are insurmountable or nearly so. Access to water is especially difficult, as creeks are increasingly buried in culverts or otherwise made inhospitable.

Even on the so-called "protected" lands, the "protection" is very weak. Contra Costa Water District is, as I write, destroying over 1000 acres of kit fox (a Federal Endangered Species) habitat, right in the center of its Contra Costa territory (in order to build Los Vaqueros Reservoir and move Vasco Road, making it part of the proposed Toll Road). Of all the agencies, only the East Bay Municipal Water District has had the wisdom, and courage, to ban mountain bikes from its watershed. You allow threatened species to be killed, say that it is insignificant, and do nothing to remedy it. What does your biologist, Joe Didonato, do? Isn't it part of his job to protect wildlife?

How much of that habitat is truly protected? How much of it is off-limits to humans, so that wildlife can carry on their lives unmolested by people? Brooks Island and Brown's Island? They must be pretty crowded. And they aren't truly off-limits to all people; I assume biologists are allowed there. What about the wildlife that doesn't like living on those islands, or can't get there? Is this the best that we can come up with? This situation will lead directly to extinction for many species. We have already lost about 300 species from North America, due to the presence and behaviour of human beings. A finite resource like wildlife or habitat can't survive, if pieces are continually chipped away.

Now you are planning to complete the last segment of a trail around Del Valle Reservoir. When I asked Board member Jean Siri why, she said it was so hikers and bikers "wouldn't have to come back the same way". What a frivolous reason! She implied that there are so many people coming to the park, that more development is needed. (And she is probably the best board member we have.) Does this mean that we will continue subtracting habitat from wildlife,

until there is nothing left? Humans are very flexible; wildlife are less so. We don't need to have every whim sated.

Five minutes after the mountain bikers "do" the reservoir loop, they will be bored and want another trail. They are never satisfied. Nor are anyone else. However, bikers, because they move faster, receive less stimulation (visual, auditory, etc.) per mile of travel, and so need to travel much farther than hikers to get the same amount of enjoyment (just as drivers have to travel much farther than bikers, being insulated in climate-controlled capsules travelling at a much higher speed). Therefore, they need a lot more trails, and get bored with them faster.

Why do you use the euphemism "trail", when what you are building is a road? I grew up in the Pacific Northwest, where a trail is about 18 inches wide. You are bulldozing "trails" that are up to 20 feet wide. The justification may be to allow fire trucks in, but which came first, the fire danger, or the roads that give people (the fire danger) unlimited access? I would say that fire roads actually cause fires, by making it easier for lazy, out-of-shape smokers to get into the fire-prone areas.

Bulldozing the road, and re-bulldozing it every year after rain, horses, bikers, maintenance vehicles, and hikers have messed it up, will cause an enormous amount of erosion in that dry area, degrading the shoreline and lake habitat. How are wildlife to get to the lake? Only at night? What about species that don't like to be out on a road, where they are vulnerable to predators? Why destroy the last bit of natural shoreline, just so that a few humans won't be inconvenienced?

With so many people out of work, why do you use such energy-intensive methods of maintaining the parks, anyway? If a trail has to be built, it would be much better to hire people who need work, and have them create a trail that is much less of a blight on the environment -- just wide enough for single-file hiking. You often complain about the lack of funds. Considering the huge number of motor vehicles you own and use, this is no mystery! I would much rather see my tax dollars used to buy and protect more wildlife habitat, so that there is something worth seeing when I go to the parks.

One of your primary purposes is teaching people about the environment. Well, most learning is entirely nonverbal! When people see that you bulldoze wildlife habitat to make "trails", and spend your time driving around in trucks, the message is obvious: nature and wildlife don't matter, and it is okay to treat them callously. It doesn't matter how many interpretive signs, brochures, and

nature talks you provide (if people even bother to receive them); you have already made your strongest point, nonverbally. That is exactly why most trash is found along roads.

I suggest that you read Reed Noss's new book, *Saving Nature's Legacy*, before you make any more development decisions. Humans' problems are trivial, compared to wildlife's, who need to be taken care of first. In spite of what Ms. Combs says, parks are not just for people.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Vandeman, Ph.D.  
m\_jvande@pacbell.com

References:

Jamison, Deborah, *Species in Danger in our Own Backyard, Volume I. Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species in the South San Francisco Bay Area*, Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation, Palo Alto, CA, 1992, p.22.

*Life on the Edge -- Volume I: Wildlife*, pp.278-9.

Noss, Reed F., "The Ecological Effects of Roads", in "Killing Roads", *Earth First!*

Noss, Reed F. and Allen Y. Cooperrider, *Saving Nature's Legacy: Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity*. Island Press, Covelo, California, 1994.



## **Responses to Comments from Michael J. Vandeman**

- 84a. The comment is acknowledged. Because this letter does not address specific content related to the EBWMP or EIR, no response is required.

September 28, 1995

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SEP 28 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

31

VIA TELECOPIER. 510/287-0149

Members of the Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
P. O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Re: Trail Bicycles on EBMUD Roads

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the holder of an EBMUD trail permit and an EBMUD rate payer, I would like to express my strong opposition to any proposal to open EBMUD roads and trails to trail bicycle users. Hikers and equestrians need and deserve a place to walk or ride peacefully in nature without the intrusion of fast-moving, loud-talking speedsters on bicycles. Mountain bikers have access to state and local open space park trails in the East Bay and elsewhere in the Bay Area (not to mention most non-wilderness Forest Service trails all over Northern California). They do not need to be everywhere.

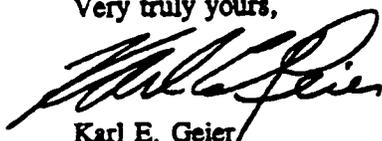
Please do not be swayed by the over-orchestrated vociferousness of pro-mountain bike activists who turn out in force to advocate expanded bicycle use in pastoral watershed lands. They have attempted to persuade the Board (and the public generally) that the only legitimate trail-use issues the Board should consider are physical damage to the environment and water quality. Nothing could be further from the truth. The issue, pure and simple, is the mixing of two completely different mindsets and methods of enjoying open space and trails. One is contemplative and traditional; the other is speed-based thrill seeking.

85

It is easy for trail bike users to contend that the speed differential between bicycles and hikers and equestrians is unimportant, because the slower users do not disturb them. The amenity which trail bike users enjoy is the rush of speeding downhill in their multicolored spandex clothing with the wind whistling through their helmets. Hikers and equestrians, by contrast, seek a place for quiet, peaceful and unhurried enjoyment of their surroundings. It is precisely the serenity sought by equestrians and hikers which is disrupted by trail bicyclists. No amount of denial by the trail bicyclists can overcome this elementary fact.

Please maintain the restrictions on trail bike use in EBMUD lands.

Very truly yours,



Karl E. Geier  
11 El Cajon  
Lafayette, CA 94549

cc: John A. Coleman, Director, Ward No. 2, EBMUD (via fax 510/284-8132)

## **Responses to Comments from Karl E. Geier**

85. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



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SEP 28 1995

32

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

September 25, 1995

To the Board of Directors:

I would like to urge the Board to adopt a policy allowing recreational bicycle use on EBMUD lands. The current policy, though completely adequate for the recreational needs of the public at the time, was created 25 years ago -- 15 years before the invention of mountain bicycles.

Mountain bike riding is a clean, healthy and ecologically sound mode of recreation. Allowing mountain bikes on EBMUD land will not affect water quality. The Marin Municipal Water District has allowed mountain bikes on its lands for the past 10 years, with no negative impacts.

In fact, one study performed at Montana State University found that the impact of mountain bikes was not significantly different from that of hikers (*Erosional Impacts of Hikers, Horses, Motorcycles and Mountain Bikes on Mountain Trails*, Seney, Joe; Department of Earth Sciences; 1990).

The same study did find that horses caused a significantly greater impact on mountain trails than either hikers or bicycles. Considering this information, I would like to suggest that any trail on which the Board will allow equestrian access is easily capable of supporting bicycles with no additional environmental impact.

Mountain bike riders are no different from hikers or equestrians in their desire to enjoy natural settings. I refer to people who want to get away from the city. To experience the feeling of being surrounded by nature, or perhaps to get a little exercise away from the pollution and hazards of traffic. The fact that they choose to ride a mountain bike on their sojourn does not indicate that their respect for nature or other people is any less. Even the Sierra Club has acknowledged that mountain bikes are a legitimate form of recreation, and has moved to re-classify mountain bikes with passive outdoor recreations.

Some people fear that mountain bikes will bring a segment of society that does not respect rules and regulations. However this is true of society as a whole and is not unique to the mountain bike community. New hikers and equestrians also must be educated about rules, regulations and appropriate behavior.

86

Organizations working to educate new mountain bikers already exist in the Bay Area: The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay, Bicycle Trails Council of Marin and the Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers are all groups that work to educate the public. BTC East Bay could be used as a vehicle to educate the public on appropriate use of the EBMUD watershed, with no impact on EBMUD resources.

I would like to urge the Board to allow cycling in the watershed, subject to the same requirements as hikers and equestrians. Doing so would not affect the quality of EBMUD water or land, and would greatly improve the quality of life for people in the East Bay.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Lee".

Brian Lee

## **Responses to Comments from Brian Lee**

86. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

RECEIVED

33

September 26, 1995

SEP 28 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

EBMUD  
Natural Resources Dept.  
375 - 11th St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear EBMUD:

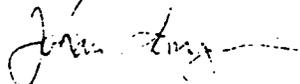
I would like to take this opportunity to express my opinion and reasons for opposing bicycling on EBMUD trails. I have been a hiker on EBMUD trails for over 10 years. I am also assisting EBMUD with the GIS by providing bird sighting records on watershed land. I am also a bicyclist and enjoy off road cycling very much. However, I feel that allowing bicycling on EBMUD trails would create chaos and conflict not only for other trail users, but for the wildlife as well. I oppose cycling for the following reasons:

- o EROSION: While many cyclists are responsible, there are many that are not. I have seen places along East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) trails where cyclists have blazed their own trails. This leads to excessive erosion. On watershed this will result in an increased rate of silting of the reservoirs as well as deterioration of water quality.
- o WILDLIFE DISTURBANCE: I have been a resident of the East Bay for almost 40 years and have seen open land available for wildlife disappear at a rapid rate. EBMUD watershed land provides much needed space for wildlife. To maximize the quality of this habitat disturbance should be kept at a minimum. Bicycling would introduce a high level of disturbance.
- o HIKER DISTURBANCE: Hiking on EBMUD trails provides relaxation as well as incomparable scenery. As anyone who has hiked on EBRPD trails knows, many bicyclists have little regard for the safety and peace of hikers.
- o LIABILITY: Off road bicycling can be dangerous. Many EBMUD trails are very isolated. It would take enormous expense to patrol these trails to ensure the safety of all users.

87

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to use EBMUD trails. I enjoy the peace and quiet and the wildlife very much. If I feel like riding my off road bicycle there are many miles of trails available in the EBRPD system. Please keep the EBMUD trail system bicycle free.

Sincerely,

  
Johan Langewis  
6759 Aitken Dr.  
Oakland, CA 94611

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## Responses to Comments from Johan Langewis

87. The comment is acknowledged. The District appreciates the comments related to this particular issue. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



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NATURAL RESOURCES

34

September 17, 1995

John Gioia, President  
East Bay Municipal Utilities District Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, California 94623

Re: Mountain bikes on the watershed

Dear Mr. Gioia,

The Regional Parks Association is an independent, non profit environmental citizen group whose primary focus is the East Bay Regional Parks District. We have been organized since 1945, and have seen many changes in the use of Park District lands and trails. None has been more troublesome or caused more conflicts among trail users than the advent of the mountain bikers and their paid lobbyists. Behind them are the bicycle shops who want to sell expensive mountain bikes.

|

88

The Regional Parks Association represents primarily walkers and horse people.

I understand that the EBUSD Board has decided to maintain its policy of not opening its trails to bicycles. Naturally you are being inundated with complaints from the mountain bikers who want to get a foot in the door, so they will have access to all EBUSD watershed land. The Regional Parks Association supports your Board in continuing its present policy.

You are hearing from the bikers in disproportionate numbers compared with other trail users exactly because they are well organized and have, in effect, paid staff. The rest of us are pretty disorganized and have to rely on volunteers. The hiking and horse communities are finding themselves pushed off trails in the Park District. This will happen on EBUSD trails also if bikers gain access.

We think the primary issue here is safety and enforcement, which then has implications as to how your District chooses to allocate its resources. We are not going to address the issues of water quality or erosion since you know these better than we.

|

89

The mountain bike community is comprised of young people, ages 15 to 30 and are predominantly male, with exceptions of course. This also happens to be the demographic group that is responsible for a disproportionate number of law violations in this country. Additionally they ride for excitement. Bearing downhill at high speed is not of the experience.

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SEP 28 1995

Therefore giving these folks access to water district trails will involve tremendous enforcement problems. The District will be opening itself up to lawsuits if there is injury or death, to say nothing of the bad feelings this type of conflict will create. One need only look at what has happened in Marin on watershed lands, and in the East Bay Regional Park District. One can see ruts on footpaths and going cross country in many parks. Complaints have little result, in many cases because the offending biker is unidentifiable. The Park police seem relatively ineffective, maybe because they lack personnel and have other priorities, and some of them are bikers themselves.

I understand that EBMUD has an agreement with the Park District to provide enforcement on trails. However, since the Park District's enforcement on its own trails regarding bike offenses is lamentable, common sense tells you that this system will not work with the advent on mountain bikes on EBMUD trails.

On the other hand, what will be gained by your District and the rate payers by allowing bike access?

I understand that bikers offer volunteer trail maintenance, for which they should be commended. However, if bikes were not using the trails, the maintenance would not be needed. So what is the net gain?

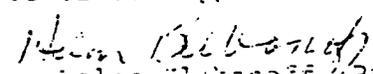
Bikers also argue that they are rate payers and should not be discriminated against. We agree. They can walk or ride a horse just as we do.

However for EBMUD to provide its own enforcement, which will be necessary, resources and personal will have to be taken away of present watershed management. I cannot see how that will help either your District or the rate payers. All this to benefit a small number of people.

| 89 cont.

One other very important consideration is the wildlife which seeks refuge on your watershed. Since the Park District is encouraging heavier use of parklands, including overnight camping, this consideration will become increasingly important. Of the two District you seek to be the more environmentally sensitive.

Please do not change your policy.

Best sincerely,  
  
Mrs. Helen Klebanoff, President  
2159 Mira Vista Drive  
Richmond, California 94803  
510 232 1617

cc Steve Adams

**Responses to Comments from Helen Klebanoff, Regional Parks Association**

88. The comment is acknowledged and appreciated. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
89. The District acknowledges the commenter's opinion regarding trail safety and enforcement.



35



# Pinole California

Community Development Department

2121 Pear Street  
Pinole, CA 94564

Phone (510) 724-9014  
Fax (510) 724-4921

September 26, 1995

Steve Abbors  
EBMUD  
Natural Resources Department - M.S. 902  
375 11th Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Comments on East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Mr. Abbors:

Although no one from the City of Pinole was able to attend the public hearings held on the new Master Plan and EIR there are a number of comments concerning the Plan we would like to bring to the District's attention that affect the City of Pinole.

On May 1, 1995, the City of Pinole adopted a new General Plan, including a trails plan which shows the existing and proposed trails within the Pinole Planning Area. One of the policies regarding trails in the new General Plan is to "Coordinate planning for trails, including location, design, land acquisition, development, and maintenance with agencies within the Planning Area. Local trail linkages to/from the Bay Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, open space and activity areas shall be required as part of new development. These linkages can use existing easements or rights-of-way, or be provided in new easements."

On May 21, 1995, the City of Pinole dedicated a local connector trail which connects Pinole Valley Park to a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail along the El Sobrante Ridge.

On Page 3-23 of the Master Plan it lists one of the District's objectives is to "Provide trail links to the surrounding regional open space network,...." Figure 3-2 in the Master Plan notes only the location of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on District Property. This plan fails to show local connectors, from nearby cities to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, that pass through District owned land. We recommend that the District amend Figure 3-2 to show local connectors, specifically the one which would connect the Pinole/Hercules Ridge Trail to the Bay Area Ridge Trail proposed through the Pinole/Alhambra Valley Area (see enclosed city trails plan).

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Consistent with the above recommendation to amend Figure 3-2 the City of Pinole recommends that the guideline DRT.20 on Page 3-26 be amended to include a reference to local trail linkages which link to established trail corridors and that guideline P.9 on Page 4-14 be amended to read "...Bay Area Ridge Trail and locally adopted trails plans."

91

On Page 5-19, under the section entitled "Area-specific management direction," the Plan states that the District should "Coordinate with the City of Pinole to ensure that District interests are protected in plans for the Doidge-Wright estate and when development proposals for the area are being formulated (including urban-wildland interface setbacks on private)." Extending the Pinole/Hercules Ridge Trail through this area would be part of any plan to develop this private property. The extension of the trail would lead to the District's land. We would recommend that guideline DRT.25 on Page 3-26 be amended to read "... Lafayette Reservoir and in cases when the proposed connection is part of a locally adopted trails plan."

92

Thank you for providing the City an opportunity to comment on the EBWMP. Please give me a call at 724-9014 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



David Dowswell  
City Planner

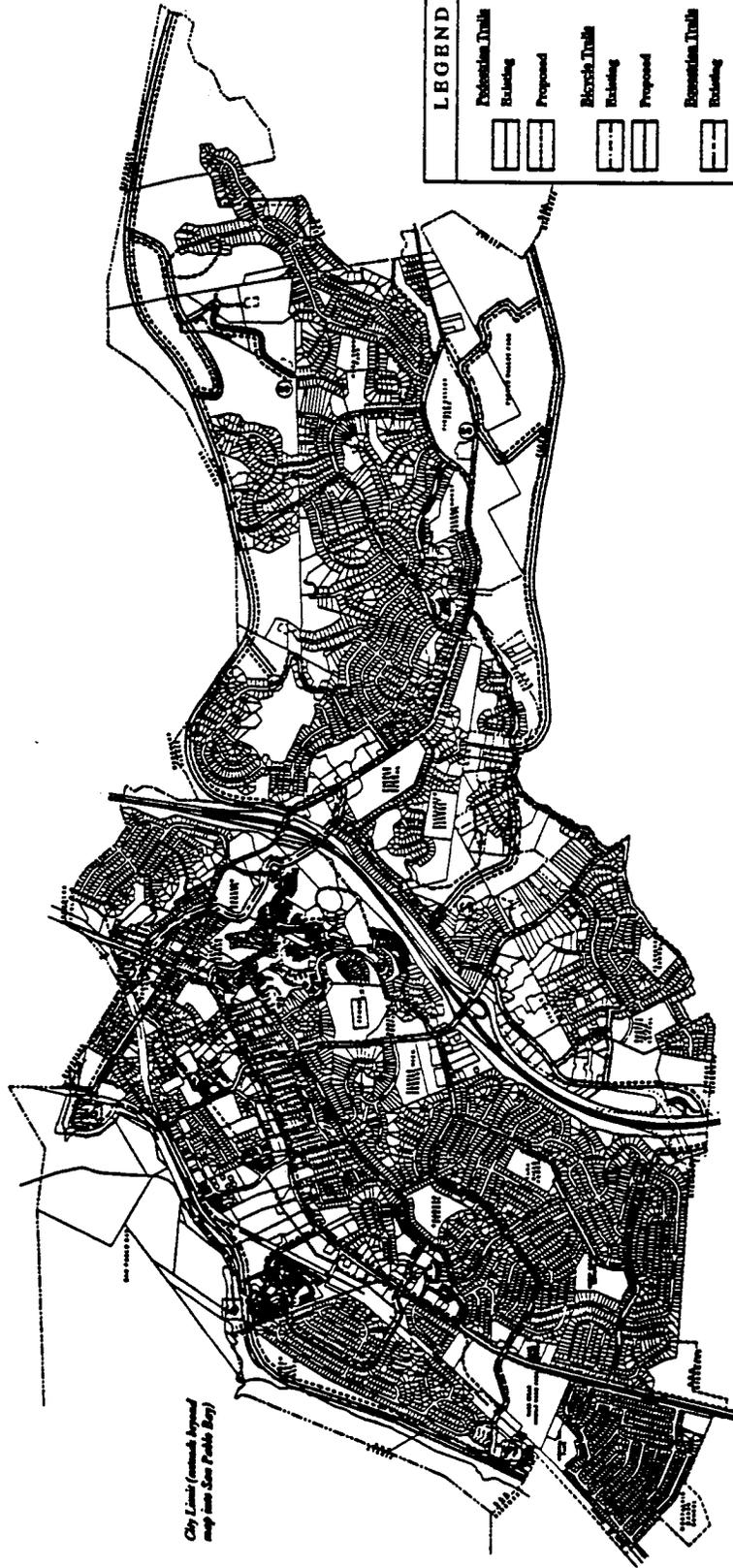
cc: City Council  
Planning Commission  
Donald Bradley, City Manager  
Marc Grisham, Community Development Director  
Ron Brown, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

E:\ebmud2.pln

# CITY OF PINOLE - GENERAL PLAN

# TRAILS PLAN

May 1999



City Limits (shown beyond map into San Pablo Bay)

This map was developed primarily for General Planning usage. The City of Pinole is not responsible for use of this map beyond its intended purpose.

LEGEND	
	Recreation Trails Existing
	Recreation Trails Proposed
	Bicycle Trails Existing
	Bicycle Trails Proposed
	Recreation Trails Existing
	Recreation Trails Proposed
	Stadium Areas Existing
	Stadium Areas Proposed





**Responses to Comments from Pinole Community Development Department, David Dowswell**

90. The comment is acknowledged. The District has not shown locations of community connectors to the Bay Area Ridge Trail because precise locations have not been finalized. The District has modified guideline DRT.19 to accommodate the Pinole connector to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Refer to the revised EBWMP.
91. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the response to comment 90.
92. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the response to comment 90.





36

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District  
5552 Clayton Road - Concord, California 94521 - Phone (510) 672-6522

September 20, 1995

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SEP 29 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Natural Resources Department - M.S. 902  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Attention: EBWMP

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review copies of the Draft East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Environmental Impact Report. As you can see from our comments, our expertise is primarily in Water Quality, Forestry, Livestock grazing and Fire and Fuel Management.

Our overall assessment of the master plan is that it attempts to address all issues in such detail that the plan will micro manage the organization. We believe the plan should be a guiding document containing policy that allows directors the latitude to make decisions appropriate with changing times without contradicting the contents of the plan.



93

The Fire Management section needs to be re-evaluated. Even though it is your plan for lands you manage, when it comes to fire it concerns many others. Fire fighting agencies should provide more input on fuel loading. Before a resource can be managed, it must first be inventoried. All fuel types should be measured and entered into a data base. The master plan should clearly state policy on prescription fire. The master plan should state that a Burn Plan and Environmental Assessment be prepared for each prescription fire.



94

Specific suggestions to statements in the plan are:

PAGE

1-7 Para 2 Reference to "plowed" control lines should be "cultivated." This comment applies to all references to "plowed" in the remainder of the document.



95

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3-2-WQ.4	What basis will be used to eliminate fire roads? This could be used for a defacto "let it burn" policy that can result in excessive erosion occurring.	96
3-3-WQ.13	Much of this water quality impact is from sediment that is caused by inadequate surface vegetation. When doing this evaluation it is critical that we consider the tradeoffs between prescribed burning and erosion. Most BMPs for water quality include managing vegetation to keep surface cover, not removing it with burns.	97
3-4-WQ-19	...if such roads are not needed for fire protection.	98
3-4-WQ-22	Firebreak lines must be planned along, rather than across contour lines... add: where possible.	99
3-4-WQ-25	add: Prepare grazing plans for each grazing area and review them annually.	100
3-4-WQ-27	add: Use fire resistant species. Do not plant eucalyptus or monterey pine. Do not allow to coppice.	101
3-6-Bio.1	add: Fuel management must be carefully considered.	102
3-6-Bio.5	add: Be aware of and comply with County tree ordinances.	103
3-8 Bio.11, 12	The use of "prescribed fire" should be deleted as this is a very hazardous practice that has many serious secondary effects.	104
3-7-Bio.14	Develop a more effective and less costly plan to control feral pigs.	105
3-9-Forestry	Eucalyptus is both the genus name and the common name of several species. When used as a genus, it should be capitalized. When used as a common name, it is not necessary. The author has used it both ways. It is suggested they use consistently and capitalize the word.	106
3-10-For.3	You are seriously limiting your management options with a 2 acre clear cut limit. You have hundreds of acres of eucalyptus that should be removed. This policy conflicts with FOR.7, FOR.9, FOR.10, .11, .12.	107



3-18-FF.10

Do not recognize prescribed fire.

I 117

FF.13

The presentation should not ask for a variance from Consolidated's Fire Policy, but ask for a new policy that is more reasonable for these lands.

I 118

3-20-FF.32

Add an item to prepare and review annually a comprehensive fire management plan for all district lands.

I 119

Please feel free to contact us for more information.

Sincerely,



Thomas D. Brumleve  
President

**Responses to Comments from Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Thomas D. Brumleve**

93. The District has intended that the EBWMP serve as a guiding document that provides clear direction to watershed managers and also provides the Directors with sufficient latitude to respond to changing conditions. The District believes that this intent has been achieved.
94. The master plan recognizes the important fire concerns of neighboring residents and jurisdictions. It specifies a commitment to work cooperatively with other fire-fighting agencies. The District disagrees with the implication that management of existing fuels should be delayed until more information is compiled; watershed-wide information gathering should proceed to active treatment of high-priority protection areas.
- The District's clear policy is that prescribed fire is a tool that may be used in certain situations to achieve fire hazard reduction. The District will prepare a burn plan and conduct environmental analysis for individual burns or burn programs. The District has clarified the planning and analysis process in the final master plan (guideline FF.3).
95. The District prefers the term "plowed" rather than "cultivated" to avoid confusion with agricultural uses.
96. As described in guideline WQ.5, an interdisciplinary approach will be used to evaluate potential effects of closing fire roads that create significant water quality impacts. As noted in guideline FF.25, all roads necessary for fire protection will be maintained annually. No let-burn policy is proposed or intended for District lands.
97. Use of prescribed fire can have impacts on water quality, but these impacts can be carefully assessed and mitigated through planning (e.g., maintenance of buffers along riparian areas). The potential for reduced water quality is considered necessary to reduce the potential effects of a large wildfire, which are substantial, unpredictable, and difficult to mitigate.
98. See the response to comment 96.
99. The proposed change to the original guideline WQ.22 is accepted and incorporated into the plan: "Firebreak lines *will* be plowed along, rather than across, contour lines *where feasible*."
100. Grazing plans are specified in guideline LG.4.
101. The recommendation is embodied in guidelines WQ.23 and FOR.8. Decisions on whether to control resprouting following wildfire would likely be made based on the strategic importance of the area.

102. The comment is acknowledged. Fuels concerns are addressed in the guidelines for fire and fuels management.
103. The comment is acknowledged. This guideline is consistent with and supportive of the Contra Costa County tree ordinances.
104. The District intends to continue to use prescribed burning as an effective and efficient technique for controlling fire hazard. Excluding this tool from District fuels management practices could reduce fuels treatment effectiveness and thereby increase potential wildfire risk. The District will conduct prescribed burning with trained personnel under strictly defined conditions, and with the approval and cooperation of other responsible agencies.
105. The comment is acknowledged. No specific guidelines to control pigs are identified in the EBWMP. The District is receptive to suggestions on possible control measures.
106. The comment is acknowledged. The change has been incorporated into the EBWMP.
107. The District believes that its forest management objectives can be met with a 2-acre clearcut limit and that no conflicts exist with the identified policies. If future forestry conflicts arise, they could be addressed with a minor amendment to the plan.
108. The comment is acknowledged. Substantial evidence indicates that numerous pathogens carried by domestic livestock (e.g., giardia and cryptosporidium) pose risks to water quality. The District is committed to using livestock grazing as a key element in its strategic fuel reduction program (guidelines FF.7, FF10, LG.2, and LG.3). The District also is using goats to reduce brushy fuels and has identified use of goats for vegetation management as an objective of the livestock grazing program. The District has intensified its strategic fuel management program to further reduce risks of wildfire. Fuels will be managed to minimize large-scale disruption of oak woodland habitats.
109. The 140% stocking rate is a general guideline for all grazing lands. Areas where fuels pose a significant hazard will have priority for more intensive grazing, as noted in guidelines LG.5 and FF.7. The forage retention standards that have been proposed for annual rangelands are recommended *minimum* levels needed to prevent soil loss and maintain grassland productivity (University of California Cooperative Extension 1982). These minimums levels are not intended as blanket recommendations for management.
110. The comment is acknowledged. The District believes that both strategies—eliminating livestock grazing in certain areas and altering the intensity, timing, and species—are appropriate management strategies in different areas.
111. The District agrees that sheep and pigs can cause vegetation damage. Water quality degradation caused by soil disturbance and fecal contamination is also a potential problem.

112. The objective is intended to convey that areas at the urban-watershed interface should receive highest priority for fire protection.
113. The comment is acknowledged. These and other potential impacts will be addressed by interdisciplinary teams during preparation of individual prescribed burns.
114. The comment is acknowledged. The District does not intend to exclude use of prescribed burning on District property.
115. The recommendation to measure fuel loading will be considered during implementation of the EBWMP.
116. Any possible impacts related to erosion will be monitored, and actions will be planned to minimize or avoid significant soil erosion.
117. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the responses to comments 104 and 114.
118. The comment is acknowledged. The guideline has been amended to “modify” CCCFD’s policy.
119. The comment is acknowledged. Guideline FF.32 has been amended to indicate that the fire management plan will be updated annually. Refer also to the response to comment 94.





September 28, 1995

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Stephen E. Abbors  
Manager of Watershed and Recreation  
East Bay Municipal Utility District

Dear Sir:

Thank you for allowing us to comment on the East Bay Watershed Plan. Our comments will be limited to the grazing element of the plan.

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District agrees with the District's efforts in refocusing the livestock grazing program to reduce impacts on water quality and promote biodiversity. We disagree however, with the District's basic premise that a blanket reduction in the number of cattle is a requirement to meet these objectives. Proper rangeland management, including the development of range management plans on a watershed, subwatershed and ecosystem level will dictate numbers of cattle, the stocking rates, residual dry matter levels, buffer zones and the use of other management tools. Initiating a philosophy of simply reducing the number of cattle rather than emphasizing proper range management will limit the District's success in attaining their objectives.

120

In addition to addressing LG.2 above we will also address L.G. 8 the designate "banked" (i.e., typically ungrazed ) areas available for use during years of low forage production located under Guidelines in the Livestock Grazing Plan.

Good range management dictates the use of planned drought reserves but **designated areas** defeat the purpose for the following reasons:

1. Standing feed does not retain its feed value over one season. When the rains begin in the fall they leach out all the starches and sugars in the dry feed. Typically the new grass growth is high in moisture and low in protein and energy. Through the season the young grass grows and the value changes from high moisture-low energy to lower moisture and higher energy in the spring to that approaching the value of grain corn. As the grass approaches maturity, it becomes very low in moisture, high in lignin, but still retains much of its starch and sugars. After the seed falls to the ground the plants deteriorate in value until new growth begins in the fall. Grass that is not grazed and is carried over more than one season continues to loose value until it is no longer desirable by cows or wild life.
2. Ungrazed areas become weed infested and over time woody species begin to encroach the area. Depending on your landscape goals this may not be desirable.

121

3. Ungrazed areas limit biodiversity by not allowing sunlight to penetrate to the understory thereby preventing seedlings to grow. This is particularly damaging to perennial grass seedlings.

Planned drought reserves should be defined as the quantity of grass reserve necessary to maintain grazing if the first rains do not come during the early part of the normal rainy season. This does not mean a reserved area for that purpose. Reserved quantities should be maintained whether a drought situation occurs or not. This way biodiversity is maintained and designated pastures remain viable.

121 con't.

Sincerely ,



Ellen Williams  
District Manager

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OCT - 2 1995

**Responses to Comments from Alameda County Resource Conservation District, Ellen Williams**

120. The District agrees that grazing levels should be established through development of individual grazing plans, as noted in guidelines LG.1, LG.2, and LG.4. The District's position that some reduction in livestock use will be needed to meet other objectives is based on long-term knowledge of the impacts of past grazing levels on resource values. Any reduction will be determined through use of proper range management and planning approaches.
121. The comment is acknowledged. The District identified use of "banked" areas (i.e., areas not grazed every year) primarily to maintain some lands in an ungrazed condition during some years to enhance biodiversity and provide a source of forage to the livestock lessee during drought years. The District recognizes that forage values cannot be accumulated over more than one grazing season. It also recognizes that management (i.e., periodic grazing or prescribed burning) may be needed to maintain grasslands over time (guideline BIO.11). The District also has incorporated retention of reserve forage in areas subject to annual grazing by proposing to typically maintain 140% of the minimum recommended amounts of residual dry matter at the end of the grazing season.

**C. E. Hoonan**

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SEP 29 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

38

9/27/95

**EBMUD  
Natural Resources Dept., -M.S. 902  
375 Eleventh St.  
Oakland, Ca 94607  
Attn. EBWMP**

**Dear Sirs:**

**I have had the pleasure of using the EBMUD trails since they have been open to the public. Several times each year I take Boy Scout candidates for merit badges on these trails to illustrate the soundness of the EBMUD multiple use management plans.**

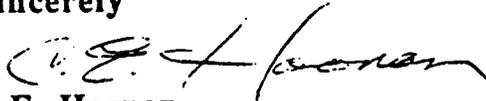
**I am opposed to opening this lovely area to bicycle traffic. These lands should be available only to those who are willing to appreciate them by non-mechanical means. Surely the area's bicycle paths and roadways offer sufficient avenues for the cyclists.**

122

**The thought of being forced to be continually alert for the sound of a machine rolling along in excess of 25 mph is discouraging and disgusting.**

**Please leave your fine system unencumbered by bicycle traffic.**

**Sincerely**



**C.E. Hoonan  
403 Redfield Place  
Moraga, Ca 94556  
510 631-0590**

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OCT - 2 1995

## **Responses to Comments from C. E. Hoonan**

122. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.





**EAST BAY CHAPTER**  
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties  
California Native Plant Society

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SEP 29 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

39

P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Sta.  
Berkeley, CA 94705

26 September 1995

Mr. Steve Abbors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 - 11th St  
Oakland, CA 94607-4240

Re: Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan and  
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Abbors:

Thank-you for the opportunity to review EBMUD's proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. As you know, we have been involved with the EBWMP through Glenn Coppe, our representative on the Community Advisory Committee, and have been pleased with the thoroughness and care with which you have developed the Watershed Master Plan.

Of the five alternatives discussed in the DPEIR, we feel that Alternative 1, the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan, is the most environmentally sound, and best fulfills the District's mission statement to "...provide high quality water...and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations". Three important features of this plan are worth noting:

1. Grazing would be substantially reduced and used primarily as a vegetation management tool.
2. No new recreational uses that would result in detrimental impacts to the watershed would be allowed.
3. Beyond what is required by law, and where feasible, native habitats would be protected and restored; non-native habitats would be replaced.

123

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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION  
OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA



**EAST BAY CHAPTER**  
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties  
California Native Plant Society

EBMUD--EBWMP page 2

We have one serious concern about the Plan. There are over 270 proposed management guidelines, and yet there is no analysis of how, or in what order to implement them. Which ones must be done first? Which ones can be implemented through existing programs with existing staff? Which ones will need new programs? Which ones, if any, will require increased staffing? Which programs are most important to do now? Which ones can wait one, two, five, or even ten years?

These issues are touched on only briefly under "Coordination Requirements for Other Resource Management Programs" (PEBWMP) and "Fiscal Effects" (DPEIR); however, the success of the Plan may depend on answering these questions and developing an implementation time line.

We recommend that an implementation time line be developed and included in the Plan, and that the Board of Directors approve the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report with this addition.

Sincerely,

Sally de Becker  
President

124

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OCT - 2 1995

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION  
OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE FLORA

**Responses to Comments from East Bay Chapter California Native Plant Society, Sally de Becker**

123. The comment regarding the draft programmatic EIR is acknowledged. No response is required because the comment reflects a preference for Alternative 1 and does not address the contents of the draft EIR.
124. The comment regarding EBWMP priority and implementation is acknowledged. The District will need to develop an implementation program that identifies the priorities in the water quality, biodiversity, grazing, and fire and fuels management programs. Other programs will also be implemented at varying levels of priority in future years once critical elements of the highest priority programs are established. Most of the watershed management programs addressed in the EBWMP are currently being implemented in some form. These programs will be refocused and implemented under the more specific and more focused guidance contained in the EBWMP.



26 SEPT. 1995

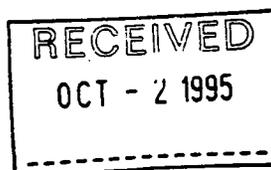
DEAR E.B.M.U.D.,

WAIT A MINUTE!

I WAS ON VACATION AND DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE E.B.M.U.D. PREPARING TO MAKE A DECISION ON ITS TRAIL USAGE IN ITS MASTER PLAN.

I HIKE BRIONES RESERVOIR AND LOVE THE PEACE AND QUIET I RECEIVE THERE. MY WIFE AND I HAVE WALKED EVERY INCH OF TRAIL AROUND BRIONES AND ALWAYS LEAVE RELAXED AND HAPPY.

WE USED TO WALK THE TRAILS OF BRIONES REGIONAL PARK BUT GOT FED UP WITH THE BICYCLES RUNNING UP ON ME WITH MORE AND MORE FREQUENCY. I HIKE BRIONES REGIONAL PARK BEGINNING IN 1969 OR SO



UPON MY RELEASE FROM THE  
U.S. MILITARY. I NEEDED THE  
SERENITY THEN AND I STILL DO.  
I DIDN'T NOTICE HEAVY BICYCLE  
TRAFFIC UNTIL APPROX. 1988 BUT  
STILL KEPT HIKEING THERE, NOT  
KNOWING OF THE EBMUD. PERMIT  
TRAILS.

SINCE WE GOT OUR TRAIL  
PERMIT IN JULY 1994 WE HIKE  
AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK AT  
BRIONES RESERVOIR. MANY MILES,  
YEAR-ROUND.

THE ABSENCE OF BICYCLE  
TRAFFIC IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

YESTERDAY, 25 SEPT. 95, WE  
HIKED BRIONES CREEK TRAIL. WE  
CAME UPON A FINE DIAMOND-  
BACK RATTLESNAKE WITH 7 BUTTONS.  
WE WERE ABLE TO OBSERVE THE  
SNAKE GOING ABOUT HIS BUSINESS

FOR APPROXIMATELY  $\frac{1}{2}$  HOUR, TILL  
HE LEFT OUR SIGHT. THE SNAKE  
WASNT BOTHERED BY US, BUT  
HAD A BICYCLE COME RACING  
AROUND THE TURN IT MOST  
LIKELY WOULD HAVE RUN OVER  
THE SNAKE AND POSSIBLY INJURED  
IT WHILE IT WAS ON THE TRAIL.  
THAT SNAKE, THE NEWTS, THE  
GEESE, SWALLONS, AND ALL THE  
OTHER CREATURES ON THAT  
E.B.M.V.D. LAND ARE AT PEACE  
DUE TO THE LIGHT TRAFFIC.  
PLEASE DONT ALLOW THE BICY-  
CLISTS TO RUIN THAT PEACE. . .

AS FOR ME, I AM DISABLED  
AND DUE TO THREE SURGERIES ON  
MY SPINE IT REALLY HURTS  
WHEN I GET SURPRISED BY A  
BICYCLE FROM BEHIND BECAUSE  
I JUMP OR TWIST, OR SOME-

125

TIMES EVEN SWING AT A NOISE FROM BEHIND. MY POST-TRAUMATIC-STRESS-DISORDER KICKS IN AT ANY SURPRISE NOISES OR MOTIONS FROM THE SIDES OR REAR. IT IS MUCH MORE SOOTHING AND ACTUALLY THERAPEUTIC TO HIKE TRAILS WHERE NO SUDDEN ATTACKS TAKE PLACE. (BICYCLES RUSHING FROM FRONT-REAR-OR SIDES).

I AM AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF HORSES TO SUDDEN MOVEMENT ALSO.

SO FOR MY SAKE, MY WIVES SAKE AND THE HORSES+RIDERS SAKE, I BEG YOU TO KEEP E.B.M.V.D TRAILS AS THEY ARE. I PERSONALLY HAVE NO OTHER PLACE TO HIKE LOCALLY. E.B.M.V.D. LAND IS A GODSEND TO ME.

125 con't.

I OCCASSIONALLY TRAVEL TO  
THE COASTAL REDWOODS AND  
CERTAIN BEACHES TO HIKE.  
BUT EBMUD LAND IS JUST  
AS SATISFYING, AND IT'S RIGHT  
HERE IN THE EAST BAY. I COULD  
NOT ASK FOR MORE.

PLEASE DON'T LET IT CHANGE.

THANKS.

SINCERELY

GENE + CHRISTINE HUBBS

2451 CHURCH LANE

SAN PABLO, CALIF. 94806

(510) 233-8634

TRAIL PERMIT NO. # 26597

RECEIVED

SEP 29 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES



## Responses to Comments from Gene and Christine Hubbs

125. The comment is acknowledged and appreciated. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

EBMUD  
Natural Resources Dept, MS 902  
375 11th Street  
Oakland 94607

1027 OXFORD STREET  
BERKELEY CA 94707  
26 September 1995.

ATT: EBWMP

126

Please do NOT open EBMUD lands to cyclists. Over the last decade, hikers and equestrians have been forced to share most trails in the Bay Area with vehicles whose downhill speeds often approach those of cars. Apart from the physical threat, we are thus continually startled by vehicles moving about 10 times our speed. We go out to enjoy the solitude, and to be aware of the non-human environment. But how are we to relax, yet constantly be on the lookout for missiles?

Though most cyclists are amiable enough (being well aware of public relations), hikers must in practice always get off the trail for them. In practice, once cyclists are allowed into an area, no trails are closed to them, and hikers and equestrians must always be on the lookout.

Please leave us one area where we can enjoy solitude, and a human speed.

Stephen Morris (STEPHEN MORRIS) USE PERMIT  
Lerie Rosefeld # 27224

RECEIVED  
OCT - 2 1995

## **Responses to Comments from Stephen Morris and Leslie Rosenfeld**

126. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



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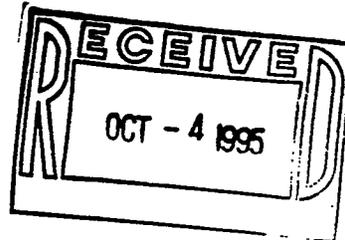
SEP 29 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Anouschka Blik-Wardy  
254 Barnett Terrace  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
510-944-8785

September 28, 1995

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623-1055



Dear Board of Directors:

I attended your September 12, 1995 meeting at Park Place in Walnut Creek. As I do not feel comfortable speaking in public, I am thanking you for the opportunity to communicate my comments via letter.

I have several concerns regarding the possibility of EBMUD opening its trails around the reservoirs to bicyclists.

A lot of the speakers seem to be using environmental issues for excluding or including certain user groups of the trails. It was clear that nobody seemed to agree on the degree of damage a bicyclist or equestrian causes to the trail. I think though that if you compare the trails that are used heavily by bicycle riders to the trails not used by them, you will have your answer. This is the only point I wish to make about the so called "environmental concerns".

The real issue here, and nobody seemed to really touch this, is that these trails are now being used by hikers and equestrians. I wish the bicyclists had addressed the Board more from a standpoint of "sharing" the trails with us (hikers & equestrians) instead of "attacking", and what almost seemed to me, attempting to exclude the horses altogether. This really concerns me.

Unlike bicycle riders, equestrians do not have the freedom to ride their animals almost where ever they wish. You do not see horses trotting up and down a Bear Creek Road (very popular biking road)!! There are not many trails left for equestrians where they and their horses still can enjoy the piece and quietness of beautiful trails. But most of all, where the riders can feel safe. It is so nice that if I wish to bring an inexperienced horse or rider out on its or his/her first ride, I can go to Briones Reservoir or to Canyon/Moraga without having to worry all the time about a group of bicyclists racing downhill, around a blind curve, and coming to a squeaking stop right behind or in front of my horse on a narrow trail. I have no problem sharing the trails with bicyclist when I ride my more experienced horse. I will go to Mt. Diablo State Park or Briones Regional Park.

127

The bicyclists who addressed the Board during the meeting are not the ones I worry about. They are educated and responsible enough to be cautious around the animals. However, there have been too many times that I have had run-ins with people who are more concerned about getting from point A to B as fast as they can without thinking about my safety or a hiker's safety. Instead of passing quietly in a single file (as the rules of the park dictate), they come racing down hill, screaming to each other, passing me on both sides at the same time, making even my experienced horse very nervous on occasion. When I have asked these trail users to slow down, or call out sooner, or pass in single file, I have been called some very nasty things.... I asked them nicely, and got sworeed at.

I hope you understand that we equestrians are not as organized, aggressive, and outspoken as most of the bicyclists are. Unfortunately, a lot of us do not speak up and air our concerns until it is too late. However, our group consists of just as many enthusiastic members as the bicyclist group does. We are just not as vocal.

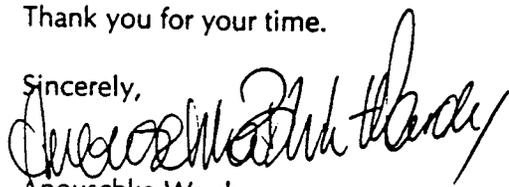
I really hope you will continue to let your trails be used by only hikers and equestrians. Please take into consideration that you are, I believe, the only entity that gives us a little exclusiveness and an enormous feeling of safety. There are a lot of responsible bicyclists out there, however, there are more who are not. I would appreciate it very much if you continue to give me the choice to ride my horse on trails where I can still feel safe riding alone.

Should you choose to open the EBMUD trails to bicyclists, I would hope you consider the following suggestions:

- Before issuing trail permits to bicyclists, educate them on how horses behave in certain situations. Have the bicyclists answer a list of questions to test their understanding of basic horse behavior.
- Maybe introduce clearly legible license plates for the bicycles so equestrians have a way of identifying irresponsible bicyclists and/or spot bicyclists using the trails without a permit.
- Have more EBMUD employees control the trails for correct use and identify problems at an early time.
- Maybe even go so far as to require bicyclists to show proof of liability insurance so when they cause an injury to a horse and/or rider because of irresponsible behavior, at least the equestrian does not have to be burdened with the financial consequences of an injury as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Anouschka Wardy

127 con't.

128

## **Responses to Comments from Anouschka Blik-Wardy**

127. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
128. The EBWMP does not recommend mountain bike use on watershed trails.

**James R. Wheeler**

7373 Fallenleaf Lane #34 Cupertino, CA 95014 Phone (408) 253-8805 Fax (408) 253-9130

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43

SEP 29 1995

September 28, 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Board of Directors  
EBMUD  
P. O. Box 24055,  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Board of Directors,

I am writing to you concerning the Draft Watershed Master Plan which was published recently. I am dismayed by the absence of recreational cycling from the draft plan. I would urge you to reconsider the staff recommendations on this issue to allow mountain biking on selected fire roads in the EBMUD watershed under similar constraints as hiking and equestrianism.

Cyclists enjoy the trail experience for the same reasons that hikers and equestrians do; they like the solace and beauty of nature. Cycling allows them to exercise in a low-environmental-impact and car-free way; cyclists are the only users who can easily reach trailheads without vehicles. Cyclists are important members of the environmental community. The Sierra Club has recognized this in its Park City accords, agreeing that mountain biking is a legitimate form of recreation and transportation on public lands. Even the Wilderness Society now advocates expanded access for mountain bikers on public lands. What these groups realize is that mountain biking is the future of open space conservation, and if mountain bikers are shut out a vast resource is lost.

Cyclists are big contributors to community and open space projects. Locally, the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay is involved in trail-building and trail-maintenance projects, and also in the Bike Patrol, a very effective self-policing tool. The BTCEB also runs Trips for Kids, a shining example of bringing diverse groups to the East Bay parks, and Mountain Bike Basics, a free class which teaches beginning off-road cyclists technique, safety, and trail etiquette.

Mountain biking is an environmentally sound sport. As mentioned above, cyclists frequently use their bicycles to reach the trailhead, reducing auto trips and the need for trailhead parking. Studies of the impact of bicycles on trails have shown that bicycle use is comparable to hiking and has less impact than equestrianism. On graded fire roads such as those in the EBMUD watershed, there would very likely be no additional noticeable impact of bicycles on the amount of erosion and runoff.

Accidents happen in mountain biking, as they do in any sport. Hiking and equestrian accidents are not uncommon, and equestrian accidents are sometimes serious - severe head trauma and spinal cord injuries are not unheard of. Mountain biking accidents are reasonable in number, and the vast majority of off-road cycling accidents are - like hiking and equestrian accidents - single-user events. Education is the best medicine; the BTC has established a Bike Patrol program to educate users on the trail, and a Mountain Bike Basics class to educate new users. Liability is not an issue; state law already provides strict protection from liability for land managers of unimproved trails.

Mountain bikers are legitimate members of the trail community. Permitting them to use the watershed along with hikers and equestrians would not cause a significant additional burden to EBMUD resources. The District would benefit by having an environmentally conscientious group take an interest in the preservation of its watershed.

I urge the board to amend the Draft Master Plan to include cycling on fire roads in the watershed. If the board does not take this position, I hope you will at least consider allowing mountain bikes to access any multi-jurisdictional trails built across the watershed, especially the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which mountain bikers have been actively participating in building.



Jim Wheeler

129

## **Responses to Comments from James R. Wheeler**

129. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



RECEIVED <sup>PAGE 01</sup>  
SEP 29 1995

44

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

**BICYCLE TRAILS COUNCIL of the East Bay**

P.O. Box 9583 • Berkeley • California • 94709 • 510/ 686-1322

Michael Kelley  
Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay  
523 Santa Barbara Rd.  
Berkeley, CA 94707  
(510) 528-2453

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4240

September 29, 1995

Re: Resolution of California Recreational Trails Committee

Dear EBMUD Directors,

I have just learned that earlier today the California Recreational Trails Committee (CRTC) made a resolution at its meeting in Southern California that pertains to the Proposed Master Plan that is now before you. In view of the importance of the resolution, I am faxing its substance to you at this time.

By a unanimous vote, the CRTC decided to write a letter to the Board of EBMUD recommending that bicycles be allowed on the fire roads that are currently open to equestrians and hikers, utilizing a similar permit process. You will receive that letter soon making this request in more detail.

130

Thank you for considering my remarks and the resolution of this prestigious body.

Very truly yours,  
*Michael Kelley*  
Michael Kelley

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**    *President*    *Treasurer*    *Secretary*    *Maureen Farrell*    *Michael Fuhrer*    *Kai Hennig*  
*Burt Weinstein*    *Gerry Abraham*    *Robert Lewis*    *Ed Hunkale*    *Michael Kelley*    *Bill McGee*    *Craig Williams*

**Responses to Comments from Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay, Michael Kelley**

130. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



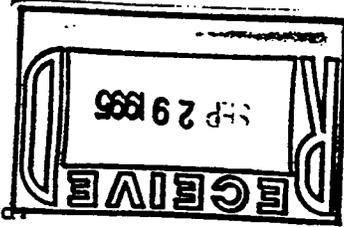


26 orinda way • orinda • california • 94563 • 510 • 253-1200

45

September 29, 1995

John Gioia, President  
Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4240



Dear President Gioia and Members of the Board:

At its meeting of September 19, 1995, the Orinda City Council considered EBMUD's proposed Watershed Master Plan and voted to submit the following comments, respectfully requesting that the Draft Master Plan be amended to incorporate the concerns reflected in the City's comments.

The Council is concerned with the tenor and the substance of the criteria in the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan. There appears to be an assumption (contrary) that the public's use and enjoyment of EBMUD land is inimical to the protection of water quality and of watershed areas. The apparent goal of the Plan is to strongly discourage any new public access while also reducing existing recreational uses (examples, refer to DRT 9 and DRT 14, Pg. 3-24 and 3-25).

131

Our second concern pertains to the vagueness of much of the language of the Plan. It appears that many of the standards and guidelines proposed are susceptible to varying interpretations, most, if not all, of which will be made by EBMUD staff. For example, one of the stated "Objectives" in Section 3. for Developed Recreation and Trails provides:

132

"Ensure that currently permitted or new recreational activities do not increase the potential for additional soil erosion, landscape modification, or pollutant loading, or adversely affect other watershed or reservoir resources."  
(Pg. 3-23)

As one of the largest public land holders in this region, we believe EBMUD should be seeking ways to open these lands to responsible use by those who have funded the acquisition and maintenance of the property: the ratepayers. By encouraging careful enjoyment of the resources compatible with water quality protection, both the ever increasing public need for recreational opportunities and the District's obligation to preserve its holdings can be satisfied.

133

Printed on Recycled Paper

While we understand the need to operate within budget constraints, it is the City's sincere hope that the EBMUD Board of Directors will take a long, hard look at this document with an eye to encouraging public access and specifically defining the rules for evaluating proposed and existing recreational uses. We look forward to working with you to accomplish these objectives.

134

**A. AREA-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT DIRECTION (pages 5-16, 5-17)**

**1. El Toyonal Interface:**

Development in this area is extremely limited in the Orinda General Plan. We have mutually inclusive goals for a) fire and fuels management and b) emergency access and egress. With EBMUD's purchase of Sullivan Ranch, development has been limited and the planned access road from El Toyonal to Camino Pablo is uncertain.

The City of Orinda shares EBMUD's concern and although the City has no control over the bridge reconstruction (since the 50 foot bridge and roadway are in the unincorporated part of the County and approximately 300 feet of the washout section is on EBMUD property), emergency access is considered a high priority. A program to repair the bridge will also need to include repair of the slide on EBMUD lands just north of the bridge.

It is suggested that the wording of this proposal be modified to reflect the roles of the respective agencies which would need to be involved in the bridge repair. Any program to provide such access is endorsed by the City and will receive the City's full cooperation.

135

**2. Adjust terms of California Shakespeare Festival facility lease if renewed.**

By virtue of its setting and the quality of its productions, the Festival makes a unique contribution to the area and provides a valuable cultural resource for the entire region. It is recommended that the Watershed Master Plan be amended to state as a policy objective the intent to work toward resolution of any problems which might arise in conjunction with the operation of the Festival in order to retain the Shakespeare Festival in its current location. This facility is within the Orinda planning boundary and the City is supportive for its success.

136

**3. Review proposals for use of the Gateway parcel, parcels adjacent to the Gateway parcel and the Bear Creek parcel.**

There are several issues to be addressed.

a. With respect to the District owned Gateway parcel, discussions have been held with staff as to potential regional recreational use for approximately 27 acres adjacent to SR 24 where it is relatively level. This was the result of filling ravines during the BART and SR 24 construction years ago. There is continued interest in this portion.

b. The Gateway Valley Development Plan (approximately 1,000 acres within City Boundaries) was the subject of a referendum in 1993. This matter was under litigation, but a revised development plan was adopted by the City Council, which was incorporated into a Development Agreement approved in a settlement decision by a Contra Costa Superior Court in December 1994. The Management Direction indicates an intent to revisit this proposed development to determine consistency with EBMUD's guidelines. However, it must be noted that EBMUD was fully involved in the environmental and planning process leading up to the court approved Development Agreement. The City endeavored to consider the issues raised by EBMUD during the planning reviews and reflect the concerns in the plan (i.e. no water reclamation plant).

c. With particular reference to the Bear Creek Property, this 43 acre parcel (which is in the City limits) has a long history; sale to the Acalanes School District, a proposed Duffel town-house development and re-purchase by the District. The Orinda General Plan of 1987 designates the parcel for park purposes. Also, the Park and Recreation Master Plan of 1989 gives further details for possible uses as a Community Park. There is continued interest in this parcel for community and regional uses.

Area-specific Management Direction 3.C calls upon EBMUD to "deny or discourage proposals that are not consistent with these guidelines," rather than participate in opportunities to create better proposals. Recognizing the need to find ways to use our limited land resources to serve multiple purposes where feasible and compatible, perhaps language should be added which would encourage EBMUD to explore innovative ways to design recreational activities so that they would be consistent with EBMUD's Watershed Master Plan guidelines.

**4. Coordinate activities to encourage preservation of the Caldecott Tunnel Land Bridge.**

Although the City of Orinda has no contiguous land area, the City supports the principle of the Caldecott Tunnel Land Bridge concept. This is reflected in the Gateway Development Plan, in which more than 400 acres adjacent to the Sibley Preserve and the District's Gateway parcel will be retained in permanent open space.

138

**5. Review proposals for an arterial street from the Gateway interchange on Highway 24 to southern Orinda.**

The proposal for an arterial street in this location was deleted from the City's General Plan and the Gateway Development Plan. It is suggested that the reference be deleted from the Draft Master Plan.

139

**6. Coordinate Castlegate area development with the City with respect to water quality and fire and fuels management.**

The Castlegate development is well under way and the developer is coordinating provision of service directly with EBMUD.

140

**7. Coordinate development on the Black Hills and Mama Bear Ridges with the City of Orinda.**

For the most part, the area is built out with single family homes on large lots, Although fire management and access are primary concerns, there remains a limited amount of development potential in this area. This Management Direction may not be necessary.

141

**8. Coordinate with nonpoint-source control for water quality.**

The City, together with Moraga, Contra Costa County and EBMUD, has developed objectives for management practices consistent with the County group NPDES permit for non-point discharge. A major concern is the current ADT of 160,000 vehicles on SR 24, which will require an overall cooperative effort for reduction of damaging pollutants.

142

**B. SECTION 3. GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

**1. Page 3-36; Land Ownership.6**

Land Transfer - The Plan should consider additional opportunities for EBMUD to acquire lands that are important for water quality, such as the possibility of trading lands which are of lower importance for water quality for lands of greater importance.

143

**2. Page 3-25; Developed Recreation and Trails (DRT)-14**

Environmental Evaluation - The suggested prohibition of uses on EBMUD land which require more than 1/4 acre of grading or paving without CEQA documentation which concludes that there is no significant impact seems unnecessarily restrictive.

144

**3. Page 3-23 - DRT Goals**

Defining Regional Use Benefit - It is not clear what criteria will be applied to meet the Goal and Objective to make recreation opportunities available to the "broadest spectrum of the population." Typically, sports fields are used by teams from the surrounding area and for travelling teams. In Orinda, for example, the use of sports fields will include Lamorinda teams as well as travelling teams from the East Bay. Although the overall Goal may be appropriate, the Objective is too broadly stated, leaving important policy issues to be decided by staff.

145

**C. The attached letter was submitted separately by John Fazel, member of EBMUD's Advisory Committee, on behalf of the Trails Council. The City Council has reviewed and endorsed those specific recommendations which make reference to public access and concurs in principle with other recommendations.**

146

**CONCLUSION**

The City of Orinda appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Watershed Master Plan. The intertwined destinies of EBMUD and the City of Orinda make it essential to maintain a close and continuing working relationship. As was pointed out in Section 5 of the Master Plan, "Almost the entire City of Orinda lies within the San Pablo Reservoir or Upper San Leandro Reservoir Basin."

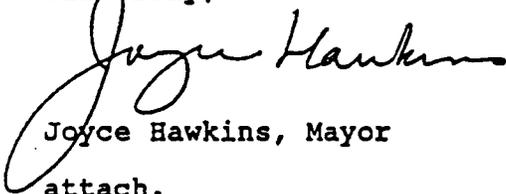
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September 29, 1995  
Board of Directors  
Page 6

The City takes into account the region-wide impacts of local land use decisions and is well aware that District owned lands within and surrounding the City contribute much to the semi-rural character and the quality of life which defines the City of Orinda. It is in recognition of our shared destinies and in the spirit of seeking opportunities to balance the need for resource protection for our citizens and resource use for the same people that these comments are being offered.

147 con't.

Sincerely,



Joyce Hawkins, Mayor  
attach.

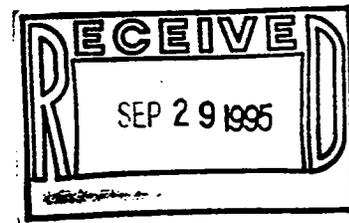
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## Responses to Comments from Joyce Hawkins, Mayor, Orinda

131. The comment is acknowledged. The EBWMP provides specific guidance and priorities for protecting reservoir water quality and improving watershed biodiversity, grazing practices, and fire safety conditions. A substantial number of recreation facilities and uses are provided on District property and will continue to be provided under the EBWMP. It is recognized in the EBWMP, however, that management programs that deal with watershed resource protection are the District's highest priority.
132. The comment is acknowledged. Objectives identified in Section 3, "General Management Direction", are intended to be less specific than the other program guidelines. Guidelines are intended to be implemented to attain the stated program goals and objectives. Interpretation of goals, objectives, and guidelines by District staff will be required to ensure that EBWMP guidance is implemented in an effective and prudent manner in each instance. As part of the EBWMP, the District will implement a development review process to ensure that existing and new uses of watershed lands are consistent with District priorities.
133. The city's opinion regarding opening District-owned watershed lands is acknowledged.
134. The comment is acknowledged. The District is developing a project evaluation process as part of the master plan that is based on a project screening checklist and master plan consistency review. The purpose of the process is to require formal review and decision making for existing and proposed watershed facilities and activities.
135. Guideline OR.1 has been modified to indicate that the District will support a coordinated county- and city-sponsored process to provide transportation improvements in the El Toyonal area.
136. The comment is acknowledged. The District has no current plans for, nor does the EBWMP recommend, relocating the California Shakespeare Festival. The facility will be reviewed for consistency with the EBWMP during the lease renewal process to determine if improvements to current facility operation are needed.
137. The comment is acknowledged. The District recognizes the city's interest in the Gateway and Bear Creek parcels and has addressed the District's priorities for these areas in the EBWMP. The District may elect to review new proposals for use of District-owned property as part of its project evaluation process. Refer to the response to comment 134.
138. The District appreciates the city's support for encouraging preservation of the Caldecott Tunnel Land Bridge.
139. The guideline referring to proposed extension of an arterial street has been deleted from the EBWMP.

140. The comment is acknowledged. No response is necessary because the comment provides clarification only.
141. The comment is acknowledged.
142. The comment is acknowledged. The District supports cooperative efforts to reduce emissions of damaging pollutants, including controls on nonpoint source pollutants.
143. The comment is acknowledged. The District's land ownership program provides guidance for acquiring strategic properties in guidelines LO.1 through LO.6. Guideline LO.6 provides the District flexibility in addressing disposal issues.
144. The comment is acknowledged. Guideline DRT.14 has been modified to indicate that recreation facilities and uses in areas of natural landscape larger than 1/2 acre will be prohibited unless appropriate CEQA documentation finds that no significant impacts would exist *after mitigation*.
145. The comment is acknowledged. The District intends to make recreational opportunities available to a broad spectrum of recreationists, and its focus on recreation opportunity will continue to involve serving regional recreation needs that are consistent with the District's water quality, biodiversity, and watershed natural resource priorities. In the past, the District's recreation priorities have not been oriented toward meeting the needs of local jurisdictions' recreation programs, such as playfields or urban parks, and the EBWMP does not recommend such uses.
146. The comment is acknowledged.
147. The District appreciates the city's comments on the EBWMP and will consider them before adopting the plan.

SIERRA CLUB  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER  
5237 College Ave.  
Oakland CA 94618  
(510) 653-6127



46

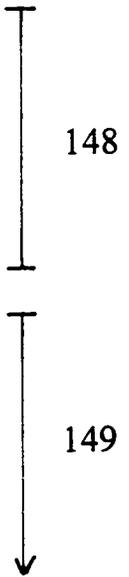
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Natural Resources Department - M.S. 902  
375 Eleventh St.  
Oakland CA 94607  
Attn: EBWMP

Re: Draft EBMUD Bay Watershed Master Plan

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club has reviewed the draft East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Draft Programmatic EIR and complements EBMUD on the thrust of the plan. The EBMUD watershed lands are one of the most valuable public assets in the East Bay, an integral part of the East Bay greenbelt. They provide invaluable wildlife and vegetation habitat and outdoor recreation areas, as well as the necessary watershed protection. The strong emphasis of the plan on biodiversity will continue to protect and enhance the habitat and protect water quality.

Since the Sierra Club would prefer to see no grazing at all on watershed lands, the Sierra Club supports the plan's reduction of cattle grazing and protection of riparian areas from cattle damage. Anyone who has hiked on watershed lands has seen the damage from grazing even in nonriparian areas. Certainly, grazing threatens protection of biodiversity of the native animals and vegetation.

The Sierra Club supports the plan's proposal to limit recreational use of watershed lands, including a continuing ban of mountain bicycles. While mountain bike use will not impact water quality (as grazing will) recreationalists will impact sensitive wildlife species including the Aleutian Goose, Bald Eagle, and Alameda Whipsnake. Reptiles in particular are vulnerable to accidents with bikes, and the presence of



humans, whether on foot, bike, or horseback, can reduce the ability to wildlife to breed, forage, and nest. Perhaps the primary value of EBMUD watershed lands, from a biological point of view, may be the relative absence of disturbing human presence.

149 con't.

Another important consideration is that EBMUD staff would of necessity take a greater role as recreation managers if recreational use is allowed to increase. That would mean an inevitable shift from resource management to recreational management -- enforcing rules, maintaining trails, and picking up litter. This shift would undermine the plan's biodiversity emphasis. The Sierra Club supports recreation, but we place a higher priority, in this case, on protecting sensitive wildlife resources.

150

The Sierra Club supports the plan's proposal to acquire additional lands where necessary to protect the watershed. However, it objects to the plan's suggestion that any watershed land should be sold. The entire watershed is a valuable, unique public resource, which must be retained for future generations. The Club urges the deletion of all references to public land "disposal."

151

The Sierra Club also commends the public process by which EBMUD developed the Master Plan. The Club appreciates the work of the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Carlton  
Treasurer

**Responses to Comments from Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter, Alan Carlton**

148. The District acknowledges the comments regarding cattle grazing on watershed lands. No changes to the EBWMP are required.
149. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.
150. The comment regarding supporting recreation but placing higher priority on wildlife resources is acknowledged.
151. The comment is acknowledged.



Preston Holland  
 937 Kains Ave. Apt. D  
 Albany, CA 94706-2030  
 (510) 559-8684

29 September 1995

Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utilities District  
 P.O. Box 24055  
 Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Directors-

I am concerned that only the most recreation-oriented, watershed-use master plan alternative includes provisions for mountain biking. By association, this presumes allowing mountain biking would be a significant departure from currently allowed uses. There are many arguments that can be and are made on both sides of this issue. I am sure you have heard many of these arguments by now; I will elucidate only one of them further.

Most of the arguments for mountain biking concern its similarity to uses you already allow: hiking and horseback riding. Most of the arguments against mountain biking concern its differences from these uses. However, there is a significant positive difference between mountain biking and these other activities of which you may not be fully aware: it is much easier for people using bicycles to reach open space areas without a car than it is for people who walk or ride horseback.

This auto-free aspect of mountain biking does not change its potential impact on the land you steward, however it does mean mountain biking has a great potential to improve our urban environment. The potential auto-free advantage of mountain biking requires you to think outside of the immediate system you were elected to be responsible for, EBMUD, and consider the entire system we live in, the planet. Automobiles are terrible for this larger system.

We all accept that automobile use pollutes our local air. We have generally come to accept that automobile use facilitates suburban sprawl, which you have exhibited significant concern over in the past. Various researchers have even concluded that automobiles significantly erode our sense of community (Donald Appleyard, *Livable Streets*, University of California Press, 1981). Auto use also risks our entire planetary future through greenhouse gas emission. People argue about what the greenhouse risk actually is, but because we are risking our entire environment, some prudence in the use of automobiles seems warranted.

Mountain bikers are already predisposed to using a bicycle. Granted I don't know what percentage of mountain bikers avail themselves of the opportunity to ride to their open space, but the potential is there. Two years ago I started leading monthly auto-free mountain bike rides in various locations around the bay area to tap the auto-free potential of mountain biking. These rides are currently sponsored by The Greenbelt Alliance/People for Open Space and the Auto-Free Bay Area Coalition. Each ride begins and ends at a bike-friendly public transit stop such as BART, CalTrain, or a ferry. I know these rides have facilitated a general increase in bicycle use and decrease in car use for many of the participants.

152

The potential of mountain biking to be auto-free is much greater than simply riding to a trailhead however. This is a feasible first step for many mountain bikers which puts a small break in their dependence on the automobile. Once people get to this point, it is not difficult to start relying on the bicycle rather than the auto for transportation needs in addition to getting to open space areas. I and several people I know have experienced first hand this process of transition from the car to bike.

152 con't.

I hope I have demonstrated why mountain biking is different from most other recreational activities in terms of its potential low environmental impact when you consider the entire global system beyond any particular open space system. On this basis, please consider mountain biking separate from the recreation-intensive master plan alternative. If you allow mountain biking, you will send a message of support to the strong and growing auto-free bike community in the bay area.

If you would like a trial site for allowing mountain bike access, please consider the Ridge Trail from Nimitz Way in East Bay Regional Parks' Tilden/Wildcat Parks to Kennedy Grove Recreation Area. Mountain bikes are currently excluded from two portions of this trail: the Eagle's Nest Trail from Nimitz Way to San Pablo Dam Road, and a short trail segment from Old San Pablo Dam Road to Kennedy Grove. These trails are both fire roads. They provide a crucial link for mountain bikers in the Ridge Trail route and would provide short mountain bike access to Tilden and Wildcat Regional Parks for people living in the El Sobrante area.

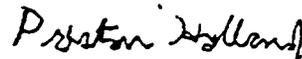
Without access to the Eagle's Nest Trail, which is only a couple miles long, mountain bikers following the Ridge Trail have to forgo the many miles of Ridge Trail along Nimitz Way. Additionally, we have to backtrack down Wildcat Canyon Road and then proceed along San Pablo Dam Road. Thus the lack of access to the Eagle's Nest Trail adds several miles to the Ridge Trail biker's journey and significantly reduces the quality of the experience by placing the cyclist on San Pablo Dam Road. I know all this firsthand because I have ridden to the Pinole area from Berkeley many times to work on the Ridge Trail and have had to follow this frustrating route.

153

The Ridge Trail Council asked for an exception to your policy against mountain bikes for the Eagle's Nest Trail some years ago. The Council was referred to the current planning process at that time for resolution of the issue. I am not aware that this longstanding request from the Ridge Trail Council has been duly considered in these proceedings as promised.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter during what I imagine will be the long and difficult process ahead.

Respectfully,



Preston Holland

## **Responses to Comments from Preston Holland**

152. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter. The commenter's point regarding reducing automobile traffic to and from watershed lands using bicycles is acknowledged.
  
153. The comment regarding mountain bike access to the Eagle's Nest Trail is acknowledged. The District has considered expanding trail use on District watershed lands as part of the master planning process and has elected not to incorporate these recommendations into the EBWMP. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



# REGIONAL PARKS 48

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

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9-27-95

OCT 3 1995

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4240

NATURAL RESOURCES

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OCT 2 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

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Re: EBMUD Watershed Master Plan

Dear Board Members:

The Pinole/Hercules/East Bay Regional Park District Joint Powers Agency represents a commitment by our participating agencies to promote and assist in the development of open space, trail and recreational opportunities for the citizens we serve. Recognizing the need for regional as well as local planning, this agency works cooperatively with other jurisdictions to further goals for open space and trails and advocates for those opportunities which integrate local and regional facilities.

The EBMUD Watershed Master Plan will be the guiding document for your agency to address management of your watershed lands in the future and will also address the continued interest by the public regarding opportunities for access to those lands for recreational purposes. Although the proposed Master Plan addresses this public interest to some degree, it does not encourage or recognize the need for local access opportunities to existing recreational facilities currently operated by EBMUD.

The Pinole/Hercules/EBRPD JPA encourages that this plan recognize the importance of local access and continued and possibly expanded opportunities for trails and recreation within the guidelines of the EBMUD's mission statement. At the September 21st meeting of the Pinole/Hercules/EBRPD JPA the following resolution was passed regarding the EBMUD Watershed Master Plan, and we would appreciate your consideration of this resolution and its intent in formulating your final plan for public access:

**Whereas, the Pinole/Hercules/EBRPD Joint Powers Agency was formed to address local issues and cooperative efforts related to land use of open space, trail development and public recreation issues and opportunities, including local access to public open space and trails; and**

**Whereas, East Bay Municipal Utility District is completing a Watershed Master Plan which includes public access and recreation on portions of its watershed lands, but does not address any additional local access to these properties; and**

154

**Whereas, expanded trail opportunities and local access should be considered an important component of this plan in that it provides more convenient public access to open space and trails and distributes availability to recreational facilities and open space more equitably in the region; and**

**Whereas, the Pinole/Hercules/EBRPD JPA represents a large area of Western Contra Costa County which currently has limited access to EBMUD lands, but has opportunities to enhance that access, making connections to local communities and other regional facilities;**

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Pinole/Hercules/EBRPD JPA encourages the EBMUD Watershed Master Plan to include policies which promote expanded trail and local access opportunities for communities which border EBMUD lands, particularly those areas which currently have limited access such as Western Contra Costa County, and evaluate opportunities to make connections to local communities and other regional facilities.**

| 154 con't.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this very important Master Plan and hope that your District will provide the flexibility to adapt to future growth in the region and increased need to accommodate public access opportunities.

Sincerely,



Ted Radke  
Chairman, Pinole/Hercules/EBRPD JPA

## Responses to Comments from East Bay Regional Park District, Ted Radke

154. The comment is acknowledged. The District has modified guideline DRT.19 to allow for the Hercules/Pinole Ridge Trail connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail that are consistent with District trail rules, regulations, rates, and charges. The District has also added guideline DRT.25: "Allow community access points (staging areas) to the Bay Area Ridge Trail where such access is not precluded by environmental, operational, political, or fiscal constraints." Guideline DRT.24, as revised, indicates that the District will not allow entry to District lands from adjacent private residences except at Lafayette Reservoir.



# REGIONAL PARKS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

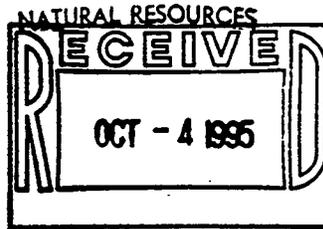
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September 29, 1995

East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Natural Resources Department - M.S. 902  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Attn: EBWMP

RECEIVED

OCT 3 1995



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice-President
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Secretary
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Phil O'Brien  
General Manager

Dear Mr. Abbors:

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the EBMUD Watershed Management Plan. During the past three years, the EBRPD actively participated on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) in recognition of the long-standing and important relationship between our two public agencies. The Park District's involvement on the CAC was intended to facilitate inter-agency cooperation that would provide increased service to our shared constituents in both land management and recreation activities. Our following comments are made in the same spirit.

Both agencies have had a long and productive history of working together on a wide variety of operational issues. The Park District is mindful of the fact that we manage large open space areas within EBMUD watershed basins; lands that have been protected by the Park District from urban development through acquisition for park and recreation uses. The EBRPD believes that there is a high degree of compatibility between the primary mandates of our agencies and that, just as EBRPD can play an important role in protecting the water quality of drinking reservoirs, EBMUD can play an important role in meeting the growing demand for regional recreational opportunities and trails consistent with water quality protection goals. Our mutual goals can also be furthered through cooperative land acquisition programs.

155

## RECREATION AND TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the CAC deliberations there was strong interest from EBRPD, the public and committee members in finding areas that would be appropriate for recreational activities on EBMUD property. The goals, objectives and guidelines for developed recreation and trails on pp.3-(22-26) address this issue by providing criteria to allow recreation while protecting water quality. The guidelines are broadly written and provide flexibility in evaluating a range of future recreation proposals.

Unfortunately, the "Watershed Management Area Direction" in Section 4 is very restrictive with regard to recreation and trails and thus inconsistent with the flexibility of the "General Management Direction" in Section 3. For example, in the San Pablo, Briones and Upper San Leandro watersheds, recreation uses are limited to current levels or reduced. In the Pinole Watershed, recreational use is prohibited except for the alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Yet, the Pinole Watershed is identified as a nonreservoir watershed with much flat land that might be suitable for recreation under the recreation guidelines referred to above.

156

The Park District notes in correspondence from the EBRPD, dated August 10, 1994, that we requested consideration (in the EBWMP) of the relocation of a regional archery range from Briones Park to Water District property. The Pinole Watershed appears to offer possibilities to address this request. Since this activity is already occurring within reservoir watershed, it seems that relocation to nonreservoir watershed would be appropriate.

157

Understandably, the Watershed Plan recommendations seek to minimize new costs to EBMUD from the provision of new recreational activities. However, there is no recognition in the EBWMP that other agencies or user groups can provide recreation opportunities at no cost to EBMUD. The Park District believes that Section 3 - General Management Direction provides an appropriate framework for evaluating future recreation proposals in the context of EBMUD's Guiding Principles. The Park District will continue to work cooperatively with EBMUD to provide additional recreation opportunities to our shared constituents. Specific recommendations for changes to the EBWMP are attached.

158

The Park District also provided written comment previously regarding increasing trail opportunities and more convenient local access on EBMUD properties. The Park District specifically requested then and strongly requests now that EBMUD consider non-permit use of specific trail loops that connect EBRPD trails, that potential regional trail connections linking major public lands be identified, that improved access to existing trails be provided and that limited bicycle use and multi-use trail opportunities be provided on multi-jurisdictional trail connections. The Park District particularly notes that we manage the portion of the National Skyline Trail that is on your property in the Caldecott Tunnel area and that there should be close communication and coordination between our agencies on any actions that might affect public use of this significant national and regional trail. The EBRPD has over sixty years of experience in developing and maintaining trails and is confident that a coordinated program of policy, enforcement, education and volunteer patrols can both protect water quality and improve our regional trail system.

159  
160

## MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The EBRPD prides itself on its national reputation as a leader in resource management and recreation service. The EBWMP identifies the EBRPD as the largest single landowner, other than EBMUD, within the basins of Water District reservoirs. But,

rather than building on the benefits to the Water District of having so much of their watershed in public ownership with a compatible sister agency, the tone of the EBWMP implies that EBMUD needs to monitor EBRPD activities to protect watershed interests. The EBRPD strongly objects to this implication and recommends EBWMP policy statements and direction that stress "joint" management approaches to best serve our shared public interest in resource management, watershed protection and public use of these remarkable open space lands.

| 161

The EBRPD also objects to the inclusion of Section 5 language regarding issues that have not been previously discussed with senior management. The Park District concurs with the "General Management Direction" on pp. 5-(15-16) which addresses formalization of inter-agency coordination, but feels that inclusion of the "Area-Specific Management Direction" on pp. 5-(18-19) is inappropriate without prior inter-agency discussion and clarification.

| 162

The EBRPD has concern with a number of the policies regarding management of Lake Chabot, especially since none have been previously discussed with Park District staff. The EBRPD would like to understand whether any of the "relevant guidance" from the EBWMP will have a major impact on EBRPD's current program and public use of the property or whether there are hidden costs or unusual requirements for management.

| 163

The EBRPD commends the strong direction in the EBWMP regarding fire and fuels management. Language should be added to acknowledge the existing cooperative efforts that are currently underway with EBRPD and other local agencies such as the Hills Emergency Forum, the East Bay Fire Chiefs Consortium and the Vegetation Management Consortium. The Park District suggests that language should be added to include acquisition of urban interface properties as another strategy to reduce fire risk, in addition to the program objectives for management.

| 164

The EBRPD congratulates EBMUD on completion of their EBWMP and looks forward to continued cooperation for the benefit of our shared constituents.

Sincerely,



Maxine Turner  
Chief, Planning/Stewardship

att:

cc: Board of Directors, EBMUD  
Board of Directors, EBRPD  
Dennis Diemer, Interim General Manager, EBMUD  
Pat O'Brien, General Manager, EBRPD

**Attachment 1  
Recommended Text Changes and Specific Comments**

The EBRPD suggests the following language be added to the management direction in each Section 4 - Watershed Management Area in place of the restrictions on recreation and trails:

Replace SP.18,p.4-4; B.10,p.4-7; USL.11,p.4-10; and,P.9, p.4-14 with:

Evaluate future recreational use of watershed lands in accordance with the recreation guidelines in Section 3.

I  
165

The Park District also suggests that the following language be added:

P.3-26,DRT.26 Coordinate with EBRPD to improve trail access along common boundary lines, e.g., Tilden-San Pablo, San Pablo-Kennedy Grove, Las Trampas-San Leandro, etc. Consider adjustments in property boundaries to improve trail alignments to meet park and watershed goals.

I  
166

P.4-4,SP13 Re-establish and maintain the EBMUD section of the 1974 Fuelbreak along Grizzly Peak Boulevard along the western boundary of EBMUD property.

I  
167

The EBRPD also requests that the Board delete the references to EBRPD from the following policies: p.4-4,SP.12; p.4-7,B.8; p.4-10,USL.10; and, p.4-11,C.2. The Park District notes that it already has an adopted policy for park closure during extreme fire weather.

The EBRPD request clarification of the following EBWMP language:

p.3-33,VR9 What does "preserving and strengthening the regional visual landscape" mean?

I  
168

P.4-11,C.4 What is actually being proposed for the area northward of Proctor Staging area? The EBRPD notes that no additional fuelbreaks were proposed in this area by the 1995 East Bay Hills Fire Hazard Mitigation Plan and Vegetation Management Program.

I  
169

P.4-11,C.6 What does "require annual review of all trails and trail uses" mean? Are there currently hazardous trail segments or uses that concern EBMUD? Who decides what a hazardous segment or use is?

I  
170

P.4-12,C.8 Does EBMUD currently have "guidelines with appropriate restrictions on development" that would clarify the meaning of this directive?

I  
171

## Responses to Comments from East Bay Regional Park District, Maxine Turner

155. The comment is acknowledged. The District agrees generally with the spirit of cooperation reflected in this comment.
156. The comment is acknowledged. The District evaluated the potential for expanding recreation facilities and opportunities on District-owned property during the master planning process. Some opportunities for recreation facility siting in the Pinole watershed were explored initially. Once all of the watershed programs identified in the EBWMP were developed, however, it became clear that, given the District's finite resources and its primary mission as a water purveyor, not all of the programs could be made top priority. The EBWMP presents guidelines that emphasize sound management of watershed natural resources and improvements in the range management and fire and fuels management programs. The EBWMP also provides for maintaining a substantial number of existing recreation uses and facilities and providing for modest increases in the trails programs (primarily related to the Bay Area Ridge Trail). The District believes that the EBWMP presents the appropriate balance of programs to meet future watershed management needs.
157. The comment is acknowledged. The District does not envision expansion of recreation facilities in the Pinole Valley, aside from extension of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The District may later elect to consider proposals for use of watershed lands using the watershed project evaluation process, which will require an application fee, detailed project information, EBWMP consistency review, and environmental clearance.
158. The District appreciates EBRPD's cooperative spirit and is committed to maintaining a strong relationship that involves coordinated efforts to meet mutual goals. Discussions for any new recreation lease arrangements would be presented as part of the watershed project evaluation process. Refer to the response to comment 157.
159. The comment is acknowledged. EBWMP guideline DRT.19 has been modified to allow for the Hercules/Pinole Ridge Trail connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Guideline DRT.25 has been added to allow community access points to the Bay Area Ridge Trail where such access is not precluded by environmental, operational, political, or fiscal constraints. Changes to the District's trail permit system and bicycle use are not recommended in the EBWMP.
160. The District encourages close communication and coordination for all of its agreements with EBRPD. Refer to the response to comment 159.
161. The District has prepared the EBWMP to present objective guidance for prudent management of watershed lands. Cooperative agreements with entities leasing District-owned property require cooperation, coordination, and joint management approaches with concessionaires, lessees, and "sister" agencies. The EBWMP recommends that these

cooperative arrangements require periodic review of such agreements to ensure that all watershed program goals are being accomplished.

162. The comment is acknowledged. The section titled "Area-Specific Management Direction" in Section 5, "Management Direction for Interjurisdictional Coordination" identifies parameters for future coordination with EBRPD and other jurisdictions. Guidelines in this section reflect the District's overall need and commitment to improve its communication with EBRPD on issues related to watershed management.
163. The section titled "Watershed Management Area Direction for the Chabot Reservoir Watershed", as it relates to EBRPD, encourages, explores opportunities for, and reviews with EBRPD the fire and fuels management, developed recreation and trails, and visual resource programs to ensure consistency with the EBWMP. Guidelines are intended to require *future* communication related to these programs where important issues are identified.
164. The comment is acknowledged. In Section 3 of the EBWMP, the fire and fuels management program has been modified to refer to cooperative efforts with EBRPD, the Hills Emergency Forum, the East Bay Fire Chiefs Consortium, and the Vegetation Management Consortium. Acquisition guidelines are addressed in the land ownership program.
165. The comment is acknowledged. No change to the EBWMP is recommended because guidelines SP.23, B.12, USL.15, and PW.9 already reflect the District's watershed management priorities.
166. The comment is acknowledged. The District has added guideline DRT.25 to "Allow community access points (staging areas) to the Bay Area Ridge Trail where such access is not precluded by environmental, operational, political, or fiscal constraints." The EBWMP also contains guideline EB.1, which requires coordination with EBRPD on the planning and management of all regional parks that are within or coincident with District reservoir watersheds.
167. The comment is acknowledged. Reestablishing the 1974 fuelbreak per se along Grizzly Peak Boulevard is not recommended in the EBWMP. However, this is already addressed, in essence, in guideline FOR.10: "Develop and implement a long-term phased program to remove eucalyptus stands and restore native woodland or other natural habitats to reduce fire hazards in areas where eucalyptus poses a significant fire risk." Reference has been deleted to EBRPD in guidelines SP.16, B.10, and USL.14, and the earlier version of guideline C.3 has been deleted.
168. The District plans to coordinate with other jurisdictions to develop common goals in high-priority areas of the watershed to preserve and strengthen visual resource qualities.
169. The District has not made a specific proposal for fuel hazard reduction along Redwood Road north of the Proctor Staging Area. The planning team identified this area as an opportunity

for joint fuel hazard reduction for several reasons. First, the road is an ignition source near an area of high fire danger (i.e., the eucalyptus stands on EBRPD lands to the west). Second, the presence of the golf course offers an opportunity to efficiently create an effective fuelbreak. The District believes that this opportunity warrants further exploration with EBRPD and other agencies as part of a comprehensive fire management strategy.

170. The District has modified the original guideline C.7, which is now guideline C.6, to read: "Establish an annual mid-management tour and review of Lake Chabot operations with EBRPD that addresses water quality, trails, fire and fuels management, public safety, and sublessee operations." The reference to hazardous trail segments has been deleted from the EBWMP.
171. The District intends to develop detailed guidelines, as needed, for visual resources as part of its future master plan implementation program. Implementation guidelines would be developed with EBRPD staff for Chabot Reservoir.



50

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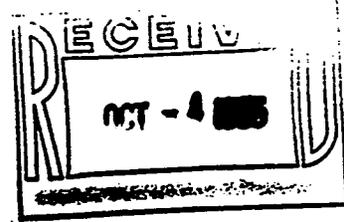


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PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-1382

September 29, 1995



Stephen E. Abbors  
Manager of Watershed and Recreation  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, California 94607-4240

Re: Draft East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Draft Programmatic EIR

Dear Mr. Abbors:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Draft Programmatic EIR. In general, we find the documents to be clear, useful and constructive. I am attaching Vice Chancellor Mitchell's letter of May 4, 1995 to General Manager Jorge Carrasco specifically addressing the "Gateway" property referenced on page 5-16 of the Master Plan document, and we would appreciate your continued attention in pursuing this shared goal.



172

As discussed with Dale Sanders of my office, we have an ongoing interest in continuing to explore shared planning, programming and management interests and strategies along our watershed land borders. These might include vegetation management, fire risk management, various research opportunities, biodiversity issues, and coordinated resource management planning approaches.

We will forward to you shortly additional technical comments related to these issues, and we look forward to continuing the dialogues enabled by your planning process.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Dobbins  
Director  
Physical and Environmental Planning

MAD/jjs  
Attachment

cc: Vice Chancellor Mitchell  
Associate Vice Chancellor Bean  
Assistant to the Vice Chancellor Travers  
Senior Planner Sanders



One hundred twenty-five years of service

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BERKELEY, CA 94720-1500

May 4, 1995

Mr. Jorge Carrasco  
General Manager  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Mr. Carrasco:

I have had a briefing on a project that has been a matter of interest to the University of California, Berkeley for some time. Although I am new to campus, having just replaced Daniel Boggan, Jr. as Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services, I am hopeful that we can meet soon to discuss our interest.

The Gateway Valley represents a central location for the types of recreational facilities envisioned in previous discussions between former Vice Chancellor Boggan, the City of Orinda, and Pacific New Wave (the developer for the recently approved project). Although the plan that was ultimately approved by the City was not able to accommodate all the recreational facilities originally contemplated on land owned by the developer, our mutual interest in providing these facilities in the Gateway Valley continues.

The strategically located twenty-seven acres off Highway 24 have the potential to provide an important regional recreational resource. In light of the fact that EBMUD is currently preparing a Watershed Master Plan, it seems timely to express our interest in the hopes that you will view our involvement as a unique opportunity to achieve some important mutual objectives. Our university is committed to public service, and this project could provide an opportunity to work with EBMUD to demonstrate how limited land resources can be used on a regional basis to serve the needs of the very same people who require both a high level of water quality and expanded recreational opportunities in an environmentally and aesthetically responsible manner.

Please be assured, we are definitely in support of the interest that has been previously expressed by our representatives in the twenty-seven acres leading to the Gateway Valley. You may be aware that the University of California previously had

173

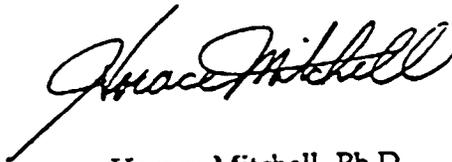
Mr. Jorge Carrasco  
May 4, 1995  
Page 2

assured the City of Orinda of this interest and support in a definitive letter by former Vice Chancellor Boggan in March of 1992. A copy of that letter is enclosed. My administration also supports the development of a regionally functional center of recreational fields and a golf learning center for use by the university, the City of Orinda, and the general public.

We have been working very closely with the City of Orinda to find a way to provide the City and the university with baseball and soccer recreational fields, which are badly needed, and a regional golf learning center that would be open to the public and would serve as home for our golf teams and for the activity programs for the Human Biodynamics (formerly Physical Education) Department of the university. We believe your twenty-seven acre property at the entrance to the Gateway Valley is an ideal site to accommodate these planned facilities and activities.

My assistant, Aileen Kim, will call your office to arrange a meeting as soon as convenient.

Sincerely,



Horace Mitchell, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor  
Business and Administrative  
Services

Enclosure

cc: Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien ✓  
Mayor Joyce Hawkins, City of Orinda  
Assistant General Manager Cheryl Farr, EBMUD  
Executive Director John Kasser, Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreational  
Sports

173 con't.



## **Responses to University of California, Berkeley, Michael A. Dobbins**

172. The District appreciates the commenter's willingness to continue to explore shared planning, programming, and management interests and strategies along the District's watershed borders. When EBWMP policies are adopted, the District will establish a watershed project evaluation process that will be used to assess consistency of new proposals with overall watershed management priorities. New "shared-interest" proposals that would involve use of District property would be subject to this process.
173. The District acknowledges the attached letter from Mr. Horace Mitchell, Vice Chancellor, regarding use of the District's Gateway property. Refer to the response to comment 172.

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OCT 6 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

51

Sept. 24, 1995

EBMUD  
Natural Resource Dept - M.S. 902  
375 Eleventh St.  
Oakland CA 94607

Attn EBWMP

Dear Sir:

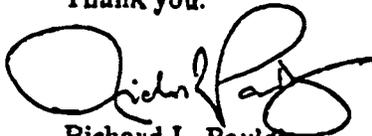
As an EBMUD Trail Permit holder for the past 10 years, I wish to express my concern about the possibility of extending use of the trails to mountain bikes. Briones Reservoir and Valle Vista seem to be the last havens of tranquility in the Bay Area, the last places where one can wander from footpath to fire road without having to keep the antennae constantly focused for the approach of speed-loving gearjammers.

174

I now venture into the regional parks only at daybreak on weekends or before mid-afternoon on a workday. Bicycle tracks dominate fire road surfaces that used to sport prints from shoes, paws and hooves. While the few bikers I encounter in the early hours seem sane and courteous, there are enough thoughtless and senseless participants to have made visits during the more popular hours a less than pleasant experience. Judging from the mix of tracks, other hikers and equestrians apparently feel the same way.

I appreciate your long-standing opposition to the allowance of mountain bikes on EBMUD trails and hope you will decide to maintain this policy.

Thank you.



Richard L. Paulding  
3712 Painted Pony Rd.  
El Sobrante CA 94803  
Permit #26518

## **Responses to Comments from Richard L. Paulding**

174. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

John Gioia, President  
EBMUD Board of Directors  
375 11th Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Gioia:

*(the Sierra Club and)*

As a long time environmentalist and member of the Berkeley Hiking Club, I wish to commend and congratulate Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee for the long and demanding hours of discussion, dialogue and decision-making reflected in the new Watershed Master Plan. It is a carefully considered plan that places sound emphasis on protecting water quality and biodiversity.

The long term mission of the Water District must be to preserve and protect the environment for future generations. Our tenure and stewardship of the land is all too brief and our heirs deserve a quality inheritance. Not an inheritance of land gutted, rutted and depleted because of poor economic policy, unnecessary recreational demands and developers power politics.

I urge your support of the Staff Report as reflected in the Master Plan.

My thanks to you and the Directors for your attention to my concerns.

Very truly yours,

*Lee Block*

Address:

*2618 Stone St.  
Berkeley, CA 94709*

175

## Responses to Comments 175-193

The following individuals submitted copies of the form letter shown on the previous page:

- Leo Black,
- Helen Wynne,
- E. Ankersnoit,
- Mike J. (signature is unreadable),
- Doris and Al Brongeliton,
- Esther Baginsky,
- Norma Van Orden,
- Mary Meade,
- Betty Thornally,
- Kazire and Michael Granich,
- Rosemarie Hafford,
- Carmine Blocksom,
- Robert Grinstead,
- Ella Jane and John Skinner,
- Bert Freeman,
- Bonnie Davidson,
- Lottie and Paul Rosen,
- Rose Vivian Boch, and
- Rachel and Leo Levinson.

The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

505 Cragmont Ave  
Berkeley, CA 94708  
9/18/95

71

John Gioia, President  
EBMUD Board of Directors  
375 11th St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Gioia,

At a recent business meeting of the  
Berkeley Hiking Club, the new  
Watershed Master Plan was  
discussed. I urge support  
of the Staff Report.

I 194

Sincerely yours,  
H. Rex Thomas

## **Responses to Comments from H. Rex Thomas**

194. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

72

1160 Clarendon Crescent  
Oakland, CA 94610  
September 24, 1995

Mr. John Gioia, President  
EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Mr. Gioia:

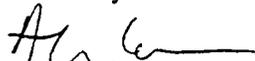
I am writing as a EBMUD ratepayer regarding the Environmental Impact Report for the EMBUD Master Plan. I am a 39-year-old father of two, I own a home in Oakland, and I am a cyclist. I want to urge you to reconsider the staff's current recommendations to prohibit the use of bicycles on fire roads. The public lands you administer are a great public treasure, and there is absolutely no reason to prohibit the responsible use of bicycles on existing roads in EBMUD lands. Many public agencies throughout the country have demonstrated that, with reasonable regulations, mountain bikes can be used on public lands without harm or adverse impact on other users or beneficial uses.

It seems that some of you staff members believe that bicycles are bad for the environment, or for the purity of the water in EBMUD reservoirs. This is simply not true. The Seney study from the University of Montana concluded that while bicycles have more impact on trails than hikers, bikes have less impact than horses. Water turbidity is a function of erosion caused by the roads themselves, in addition to grazing, service vehicles, and other recreational uses of lands. Any additional erosion caused by bicycle use would likely be so small that it could not even be measured.

Another point to keep in mind is that bicycles do not cause undue safety risks. Experienced land managers (including EBRPD staff) will testify that bicycle accidents are few in the number and do not present an unreasonable load on public agencies.

Finally, please remember that the vast majority of mountain bike riders are responsible, tax-paying citizens of this region who have a legitimate right to use public lands in a reasonable manner. As you are aware, the mountain bike community has organized a bike patrol to educate riders in the EBRPD, and cyclists are big contributors to volunteer trail programs. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. My daytime number is 510-373-7142, and my home number is 510-444-7908.

Sincerely,

  
Andrew Gunther

195

## **Responses to Comments from Andrew Gunther**

195. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

73

BERKELEY HIKING CLUB  
POST OFFICE BOX 147  
BERKELEY, CALIF. 94701

18 September 1995

John Gioia, President  
EBMUD Board of Directors  
375 11th Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Gioia,

At its annual meeting on 17 September 1995 the membership of the Berkeley Hiking Club directed me to advise you on the views of the club with respect to the Master Plan for use of watershed lands as prepared by your staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee.

First, I would like to express the appreciation of the Club for the opportunity and privilege of hiking on the fine trails your organization has established on watershed lands. In many instances these trails provide a necessary connection into or between Regional Park lands.

With respect to your Master Plan we urge that you support and adopt the recommendations of your Staff to maintain the present level of usage limited to foot travel and equestrians. We are particularly concerned that the lands not be opened to mountain bikes or other mechanical modes of travel which can be quite damaging to trails and the environment.

The Club has a particular concern with safety for hikers on trails that are used by bikes. The Berkeley Hiking Club has a predominately older group of hikers, many in their 70s and 80s, who are not as agile at dodging fast moving mountain bikes as some younger people may be. While the majority of mountain bikers are careful to follow the rules and stay within the speed limits, there are still enough daredevils who speed and use single track trails or make their own trails as to constitute a hazzard to foot traffic. I have personally observed mountain bikes on closed watershed trails as well as noticed tire tracks on such trails.

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I thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul Popenoe*  
Paul Popenoe, President

cc: Rosemary Hafford

## **Responses to Comments from Berkeley Hiking Club, Paul Popenoe**

196. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

74

1727 Santa Clara Street  
Richmond, CA 94804  
September 18, 1995

John Gioia, President  
EBMUD Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Mr. Gioia:

Please reconsider the Draft EBMUD plan, which excludes mountain bikes from EBMUD lands. We hike on EBMUD lands frequently (Trail Use Permit # 21873), and believe that mountain bicycles should be allowed on EBMUD lands

We believe bicycle riding will have a negligible impact on water purity on EBMUD lands when compared to grazing, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, motor boating, and roads.

Mountain bicycles are allowed in state parks and water district lands in Marin County. The Wilderness Society, who at one time opposed mountain bicycles, now encourages appropriate, expanded access for mountain bicycles on public lands The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB) has a volunteer bicycle trail patrol in the East Bay Regional Parks to educate trail users about safe and courteous bicycling, and BTCEB has helped maintain trails in the regional parks.

Many mountain bicyclists ride to trail heads, and it is one of the few trail uses that does not require motorized access to staging areas Mountain bicycling has allowed more people to enjoy and preserve our open spaces.

Please circulate this letter to other board members.

Sincerely,  
*Pierre La Plant*  
*Margot I. Cunningham*  
Pierre R. La Plant, Ph. D.  
Margot I. Cunningham



197

**Responses to Comments from Pierre R. La Plant, Ph.D., and Margot I. Cunningham**

197. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

75

5552 Broadway  
Oakland, Calif. 94618-1748  
September 10, 1995

Mr. John Gioia  
Member, Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, Calif. 94623

Dear Mr. Gioia:

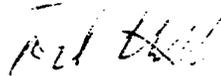
I have been informed that you will soon be considering whether to permit the use of mountain bikes on East Bay MUD lands. I am writing to urge you to permit their use.

I will not insult your intelligence by portraying the introduction of mountain bikes as unmitigatedly beneficial. To be candid, I must acknowledge that reckless cyclists occasionally create a nuisance, including for other cyclists, and that the speed at which bicycles are capable of traveling may sometimes disturb the tranquility of the environment for other users.

But these legitimate concerns must be balanced against the great loss to the public, including me, that results from prohibiting bicycles on East Bay MUD land. There are thousands of responsible cyclists who would like to use your land to improve their physical and mental health. Surely the impact of a bicycle is less than that of a horse or a motorboat, both of which I understand are permitted to use your facilities.

I strongly urge you to authorize bicycle riding on East Bay MUD land. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Ted Stroll

198

## **Responses to Comments from Ted Stroll**

198. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.

76

September 24, 1995

2908 Cindy Court  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623  
Attn: Mr. John Gioia

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that EBMUD is considering permitting bicycle usage of fire roads in the watersheds. I think that it would serve the publics best interests to do that.

It is my understanding that bicycle usage of fire roads would have an insignificant impact on water turbidity and it would greatly improve access of public lands to responsible many citizens. Enhancing appreciation for these natural entities will expand support for preserving them.

I am an active voter, a taxpayer, a homeowner and father of two young children. We enjoy riding our bicycles in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. The number of trails available however is extremely limited. We would appreciate the privilege of having access to watershed fire roads also.

Please vote for fire road use in the master plan.

Sincerely:

*Justus Wunderle*  
Justus Wunderle



199

## **Responses to Comments from Justus Wunderle**

199. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands at the beginning of this chapter.



77

Community Development Department

County Administration Building  
651 Pine Street  
4th Floor, North Wing  
Martinez, California 94553-0095

Phone: 646-2034

September 27, 1995

Contra Costa County



Harvey E. Bragdon  
Director of Community Development

East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Natural Resources Department - MS 902  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

Attn: EBWMP

Dear Mr. Abbors;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan. Both Roberta Goulart and I enjoyed our participation as members of the CAC in providing input into the Plan policies; generally we are supportive of the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan as drafted.

We hope that the plan, including any amendments your Board feels appropriately will form the basis of day to day management decisions for watershed lands. We hope that your Board will direct staff to include reference to how decisions comply with this Master Plan policies in internal staff memo's and as input to your Board on policy items which go to the Board for decision. Unless you make this a real working document, it will sit on a shelf and will have been resources and opportunity wasted. These concepts could be added to pages 1-7 and 1-8 under "use of the East Bay Watershed Master Plan".

Provisions should be added to the end of the chapter providing for amendments to the plan. The Master Plan needs to be made a living document; it's predecessors never achieved that status and rapidly because irrelevant.

Now to specific suggestions I feel would enhance the plan:

- The discussion of cultural resources on page 2-13 of the draft overlooks the fact that when EBMUD acquired watershed lands decades ago from pioneer families, the District also received ownership of the gravesites of several pioneers. The Master Plan should include policies on the continued maintenance of these vestiges of early County settlement. I have been told some of the old deeds included requirements for EBMUD maintenace. It might be that page 3-31 would be a better location for such a policy.
- Policy WQ.4 could be read to mean a further reduction of existing trails which currently are used by the public. Is that it's intent?
- Policy WQ.25 might be modified to require remediation for problems caused by grazing or that bonds be posted to cover the costs should remediation be required.

I 200  
I 201  
I 202  
I 203

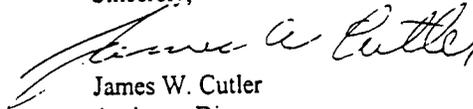
- A new biological policy could be considered for page 3-21 which indicates that when wildfires do occur on District lands, that they should be treated as a opportunity to bring future habitats into consistency with the plan. The whole issue of post fire recovery appears to be overlooked. I 204
- Policy FOR-13 should consider removal of the words “special-status” from the text. Non-protected species can also benefit from downed material. I 205
- Policy DRT.14 might be made more reasonable if the words “after mitigation” were added to the end of the sentence. It appears to be written stringently. I 206
- While most people presume watershed lands are not to be used for sport hunting, I could find no policy on either that or the carrying of guns on district lands. New policies on page 3-25 to deal with this may be appropriate. I 207
- The Land Ownership section beginning on page 3-34 appears to vary substantially from the specific CAC recommendations on that subject. I 208  
District staff should provide to the Board a copy of the CAC recommendation and a report to the Board on the appropriateness of bringing this section into closer alignment with the CAC recommendation should be made to the Board..
- Policy LO4, as written, may not be consistent with individual property rights, Experience has shown other public agencies that “less-than-fee” acquisition are less desirable than fee acquisition. They can cost up to 90% of fair market value and still not provide management control of the land. The last 2 items under this policy should be removed and the concept rethought.. I 209
- Policy LO.5 and LO.6 appear to be written to allow or even encourage the sale of district lands e.g. Pinole Valley Watershed. While staff has informed me that isn’t the intent, the current wording is very far from the CAC proposal. This whole LOS set of policies should be reviewed relative to the CAC proposals on Land Acquisition. I 210
- A new policy should be added to page 3-39 encouraging the two counties, state agencies and other local agencies to develop compatible GIS systems which could be shared to the benefit of all. I 211
- Policy SP.8 references a “blue ribbon panel’s”. Who that refers to or why its referenced as a policy is unclear. I 212
- Policy SP.10, should be enlarged to include Contra Costa County and the impacted fire districts to the list of participants. I 213
- Policy SP.11 will be difficult to implement since these roads provide access to the general public and are governed by the California Streets and Highways Code. Closure in actual emergencies, by law enforcement personnel, can be accomplished. This policy, as written, will be difficult to accomplish. I 214
- Policy SP.21, may be adequate as written. My concern is that if such a multifunction facility at San Pablo Reservoir is considered for year round use, it might effect the bald eagles winter use of San Pablo Reservoir. It could be rewritten to read “Consider development of a multi-use community facility, after adequate environmental review.” I 215

- Careful thought needs to be given to P.3. The ground squirrel is considered a pest in many areas; it can affect grazing both on-site and on adjacent private lands. I 216
- Policy P.12, lists El Sobrante as a city. El Sobrante is an area shared by Richmond and the County. This should be reworded. I 217
- Pages 5-7 references the County and the eight adjacent cities Briones Hills Agricultural Preservation Agreement. We would request a policy specifically be added having EBMUD endorse that Preserve. I 218
- Page 5-16 number 2, references the California Shakespear Festival facility under Orinda. While it is in the Orinda area, its under the land use control of the Contra Costa County and should be relocated to that section. I 219
- Lastly, the plan suggests that fire protection proposals should be coordinated with the County Board of Supervisors. Since the draft Plan proposes actions which appear different from the normal fire suppression practices, the suggestion for EBMUD Board Members and staff to discuss this with the Board of Supervisors is important since that Board controls most fire agencies in the County. I 220

While many of the comments are small in nature, I hope they reflect the seriousness with which we take the important planning effort and that they are helpful.

I look forward to receiving the adopted Plan. If there are questions on these comments feel free to call me at 646-2034.

Sincerely,



James W. Cutler  
 Assistant Director,  
 Comprehensive Planning

JWC:drb  
 JWC1995\drb\Watershed.ltr  
 c:\diandocs\watershed.ltr

cc: Roberta Goulart



**Responses to Comments from Contra Costa County Community Development Department,  
James W. Cutler**

200. The Comment is acknowledged. The District agrees that the Board of Directors should be informed by staff of how decisions it is asked to make comply with the EBWMP. Similarly, the District agrees that the EBWMP will likely need to be amended as conditions change and new information becomes available. The District is committed to developing specific program implementation plans that will be funded through the District's budget process. These implementation plans will reflect the guidance presented in the EBWMP.
201. The comment is acknowledged. The District has added guideline CR.12 in Section 3 of the EBWMP, which indicates the District will continue to maintain vestiges of early county settlement on District property, especially where land deeds require protection.
202. The District's primary mission is water quality protection. Existing fire roads and trails are a source of sediment and nutrients that flow into reservoir waters. Although it is not the specific intent of this policy to reduce the amount of trail access available to the public, infrequently used or unnecessary fire roads and trails may be eliminated to reduce sediment and nutrient input to the reservoirs.
203. The comment is acknowledged. Guideline WQ.36 is intended to provide direction to staff as part of overall watershed management. The remediation concept described in this comment has been incorporated into guideline LG.9.
204. The District concurs that the issue of vegetation recovery after fire should be addressed more fully in the EBWMP. The District has added guideline BIO.13 to the biodiversity program in Section 3 to address the need for maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity.
205. The District concurs that common species can benefit from dead and downed material. The management emphasis described in this guideline, however, is for special-status species. No changes are necessary.
206. The comment is acknowledged. Guideline DRT.14 has been modified by the addition of the words "after mitigation", as recommended.
207. The District concurs that a specific policy prohibiting sport hunting and firearms on watershed lands should be added to the EBWMP. Refer to the developed recreation and trails program in Section 3, guideline DRT.10.
208. The EBWMP land ownership program has been amended slightly to limit guidelines related to disposal of District-owned property and this will be available for Board consideration.
209. The District recognizes that acquisition of "less-than-fee" title to land can sometimes be nearly as costly as fee-title acquisition. Guidelines contained in the land ownership program

of the EBWMP are intended to maximize the District's control of watershed lands that could affect future reservoir water quality. Guidelines have been modified to reflect fee acquisition of watershed land as a first priority.

210. The intent of guidelines LO.5 and LO.6 is not to encourage the disposal of any lands owned by the District, but rather to provide information that can be used in making ownership decisions. The District does not have such an inventory at present. The District believes that, as a good land steward, it should develop such information. Guideline LO.6 also recognizes that the District has allocated \$2 million per year to acquire strategically important lands and that additional funds could be generated, if needed, by the sale of lands that are determined to be less important to the District.
211. The comment is acknowledged. Board policy governs sharing of geographic information system (GIS) data with public and private entities.
212. Reference to the blue ribbon panel has been deleted from the EBWMP.
213. The comment is acknowledged. The agencies mentioned in this comment have been included in guideline SP.14.
214. The comment is acknowledged. The District recognizes that guideline SP.15 will be difficult to implement and desires to work closely with the necessary agencies to determine the feasibility of implementing this guideline. Road closure under certain high-fire-hazard conditions is considered an important option for the District to pursue in concert with other responsible and affected agencies.
215. The District concurs with this recommendation. The suggested changes have been made to guideline SP.26.
216. The guideline is intended to recognize both the positive and negative influences of ground squirrel recolonization of the Pinole watershed. The District believes that this species should be closely monitored to ensure that any recolonization has maximum beneficial effects.
217. The comment is acknowledged. The suggested changes have been made to guideline SP.16.
218. The District does endorse the Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve Area (BHAPA) compact and has added guideline CC.7 to Section 5 reflecting the District's position on the BHAPA.
219. The comment is acknowledged. The guideline has been relocated as requested.
220. The District concurs regarding the importance of coordinating fire protection policies with Contra Costa County and will actively work to implement this guideline through the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Howard R. Fuchs  
655 Glenside Drive  
Lafayette, CA. 94549  
September 6, 1995

Mr. John Coleman, Director  
EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA. 94623

Dear Mr. Coleman,

This month the Board is again addressing trail access for mountain bikes on EBMUD watershed land. It is a subject in which I am very interested and last year wrote to the board on the same subject. I am a 51 year old businessman who owns a small construction company and pays his share of taxes. My favorite recreation is mountain bike riding and participating in related activities.

One of the activities is a program called "Rides for Kids". The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay sponsors this bi-monthly event and hosts various underprivileged boys and girls clubs throughout the East Bay. We would love to take these kids for a ride on the beautiful lands in the EBMUD watershed.

Bikes do not harm the environment, leave no waste, trod lightly on trails and provide great recreation for many folks. On a recent ride, I saw some novice riders huffing and puffing up a hill to a rather remote area of Mount Diablo. I am sure that they would have never seen or visited this area if it was not for mountain biking, I know I wouldn't have.

Mountain bikers have been characterized as a bunch of crazies. This is not the case. We are responsible, have a "Bike Patrol" to patrol trails and encourage other riders to be responsible, spend our time on trail maintenance and try to give the greater outdoor enjoying community a sense that both we and our bikes can be good citizens.

I respectfully request that you and your fellow board members look favorably on the idea of allowing mountain bikes on EBMUD land fire and access roads. You control some of the most scenic land in the East Bay. Please let all trail users have access.

Thank you,



Howard R. Fuchs

220a



**Responses to Comments from Howard R. Fuchs**

220a. Refer to the responses to comments 1 and 2.



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~~RECEIVED~~

SEP 11 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

September 7, 1995

Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4240

SUBJECT: Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan

Dear Members of the Board:

Background

Since 1992, the East Bay Municipal Utility District has been engaged in a comprehensive assessment of the physical and biological resources that exist on East Bay watersheds. The program has been designed to aid management of District lands along the lines expressed by the Board of Directors' mission statement (p.1.2) "...to ensure high-quality water and wastewater services and to protect the environment for future generations."



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In this mission statement the Directors, in addition to recognizing the importance of storing and delivering high quality drinking water, recognized the importance of maintaining the environmental integrity of the District's holdings. They recognized that the District's lands, long largely protected from human development and disturbance, supported high-quality habitats and resources for a wide variety of plant and animal species and "...that managing lands and reservoirs to protect water quality and important high-quality biological resources can best be achieved by promoting biological diversity (biodiversity)(p.1.1)...the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which the occur."

This goal of ecosystem protection was reiterated in item three of the guiding principles in the Board's policy direction (p.1.3), "Respect natural resources; sustain and restore populations of native plants and animals and their environments."

Associating water quality with ecosystem protection has influenced the direction of the current "Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan" and its accompanying "Programmatic Environmental Impact Report" (published August, 1995 by the EBMUD with assistance from Jones and Stokes Associates, et al.). These documents are currently under review.

In 1992, I was retained by the District as a biological consultant. I was requested to formulate a program of long-term inventory and monitoring of plants and animals on East Bay watersheds to guide management of the biota on District holdings, in line with the Board's concern for ecosystem protection on the watersheds.

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\* References are to page numbers in the "Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan."

Preparation of the long-term monitoring program is nearing completion. At the outset it was recognized that to reach the goal of biodiversity enhancement and protection we required (1) a comprehensive inventory of species of plants and animals present or expected on District holdings, and (2) we would need to locate and track selected target species in order to follow their population trends. With the assistance of District staff, we have now completed a comprehensive inventory of the vertebrate animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals) and vascular plants, (current species counts standing at 322 and 684 species, respectively) and have developed field study procedures for observing, recording, and monitoring biota. Two documents, now in press, will soon be available pertaining to these subjects: Guidelines I, Gathering and Recording Wildlife Information and Guidelines II, Species Lists and Maps. Species targeted are: (1) those provided federal or state protection (endangered or threatened species) and species not legally protected, that are rare or of special concern; (2) "indicator" species -- those presumed to be indicative of environmental trends and condition of the environment; (3) "keystone" species, upon which many other species depend; and (4) certain pest or feral species that have the potential to cause deleterious environmental changes on the watersheds. It is important to know precisely where these targeted species occur on District holdings, thus localities of observation are plotted on aerial photographs and the information is entered into the District's computerized Geographic Information System.

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan (EBWMP) lists five alternatives: (1) the EBWMP; (2) no-project; (3) increased water quality emphasis; (4) increased revenue emphasis; and (5) recreation emphasis. Approximately the same level of funding would be available to implement the programs under each of the alternatives.

To aid the Board in its selection of an alternative, I offer the following comments pertaining chiefly to biological aspects that, I believe, are pertinent to making a choice.

A. The Relationship Between the Protection  
and Enhancement of Biodiversity  
and Water Quality

1. Stability and Resilience of Complex Ecosystems

Complex living systems are more stable and resilient than simplified ones. With few exceptions (species in decline) each species has the reproductive potential to overrun the Earth, but in complex systems there are many competitors, thus rarely can a species approach its reproductive capabilities. This ecological truth is important to the protection of water quality on the District's watersheds. By maintaining a high level of biological diversity (species variety), we minimize the chances for pest-species flareups and the release and spread of pathogens. Small

rodent and certain insect populations are notorious for their explosive growth when natural checks are weak. Species flareups of disease-carrying vector organisms have the potential for negatively affecting water quality.

Loss or decline of the larger top predators - Cougar, Coyote, Bobcat, Golden Eagle, and Horned Owl can result in increases in populations of smaller predators such as the Opossum, Raccoon, Striped Skunk, Long-tailed Weasel, and certain snakes, that then may over-exploit their prey. In some areas in eastern U. S., small predator increases have had devastating effects on bird populations. Insectivorous birds are a mainline defense against insect population explosions.

Humanity is engaged locally and world-wide in dismembering and simplifying natural living systems. The outcome is increasing "biological pollution" in the form of intruding feral or exotic species and the emergence of new, and resurgence of old, disease-causing organisms. Once simplified, a natural living system requires decades for recovery, if it can do so at all. The resilience of the system may be degraded beyond recovery.

## 2. Complex Ecosystems in Buffering and Absorbing Toxic Substances

Plants vary greatly in the amounts of certain chemicals they take up from the environment. Some of these chemicals are products of the Industrial Age, and are toxic to humans. Animals may obtain toxicants from feeding directly on plants or indirectly on herbivores. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), DDT (still present in the environment) and certain other pesticides, and other man-made contaminants are now known to mimic some naturally-occurring hormones. Some, when ingested by pregnant females, can seriously derail normal embryonic development. One of the ways they do so is by out-competing natural hormones for some of the receptor sites of the cells of developing embryos, including those of humans, thereby disrupting normal development which can lead to a variety of disabilities including cancer in later life. Many are estrogenic, mimicking the natural hormone estrogen, and have feminizing effect on males. Some toxicants cause outright damage or death without following the endocrine route.

Complex ecosystems, with their diverse array of plant and animal species, and their many biochemical pathways, provide a variety of buffers that impede or slow the rate at which toxics, precipitated from the atmosphere, can reach reservoir waters.

The condition of the drainage systems leading into reservoirs is particularly important in the "biofiltration" process. If their wetland borders, seeps and springs are degraded by loss of species diversity, denudation of plant cover, break down of stream banks, compaction, desiccation, and contamination caused by overgrazing, their filtering effect will be greatly impaired.

Although some contaminants may become widespread, through biomagnification in the food chain, in both terrestrial and aquatic environments, levels in the water itself may be low. The biota thus acts as a toxic sink, a sink that ultimately is disassembled by the action of decay organisms that, in general, tend to reduce the sink's contaminant load.

### 3. The Relationship Between Biodiversity Management and Rates of Erosion

The wearing down of land uplifted above the waters of the Earth has been going on since the beginning. From our human perspective, what is of concern are accelerated rates that cause us problems. On reservoir lands, the slower the rates the better. Siltation is ultimately the death-knell of reservoirs and, during the interim, can be the bane of the water quality expert. Of concern is not only the accumulation of sediments, but the chemistry and biological constituents in the erosional stream that may affect human health. In a diverse living system, as pointed out earlier, the biota more effectively filters the flow than in a degraded, simplified one.

Further, if the land is managed to simulate, so far as possible, natural fire regimes and natural grazing levels, catastrophic fires followed by surges of ash and nutrients into reservoirs can be minimized. Heavy nitrogen input from ash, animal wastes, and atmospheric fall-out can cause reservoir algal blooms and other changes that affect water quality. Thus, the goal on the District's watersheds is not only to maintain a diverse native biota, but to also move toward a more natural one through reducing, where possible, the spread of non-native pest species, some of which are fire prone (French and Scotch Broom, for example).

In addition to catastrophic fires that can accelerate erosion, other sources of erosion such as grazing and, currently, illegal trail bike use should be evaluated and acted upon.

A healthy upland biota, with its numerous soil-forming and processing plants and animals - the worms, other invertebrates, burrowing rodents, fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms, and its mantle of plant and animal life, acts like a sponge in absorbing and gently releasing water. It is the best of all forms of erosion control.

### 4. Conclusion

To maximize the role of biodiversity in maintaining a high-quality water supply, it is important to consider the ratio of reservoir size in relation to its undeveloped watershed. A 1/1 ratio obviously would be less satisfactory than a 1/10, in which the protective effect of biodiversity (along the lines previously discussed) would be far greater. It is also important, so far as possible, in any future land acquisitions to enclose within the District's boundaries parts of existing reservoir watersheds that lie outside present boundaries, thereby giving the District control over what happens on those lands.

Board of Directors  
September 7, 1995  
Page 5

B. District Watersheds as an Educational Resource

At a time when there is widespread and rapidly accelerating assaults on the remaining wild places on Earth, wildlands in and near cities assume a high level of educational importance. Urbanization is a fast-growing world-wide trend. It is expected by 2025, that 60 percent of the world's population will live in urban areas (United Nation's estimate - see Vital Signs 1995, World Watch Institute). This portends a major separation of people from the land and the living systems upon which we all depend. It calls for an emphasis in public education on ecology and hands-on outdoor environmental studies. Our urban parks, reserves, and watersheds will become of increasing importance in providing citizenry with first-hand knowledge about the land and its wildlife that can help people make well-informed decisions concerning land use and social changes that will be necessary during the critical times ahead. The District currently recognizes the importance of its holdings in public ecological education and expects to involve people who use the District's lands in some of the long-term biological studies underway on the watersheds.

Sincerely,

*Robert C. Stebbins*

Robert C. Stebbins  
U.C. Berkeley Emeritus Professor of Zoology



## **Responses to Comments from Robert C. Stebbins**

221. The District appreciates the commenter's recommendations and views regarding biodiversity and protecting complex biological ecosystems, and they will be considered when the Board of Directors considers EBWMP adoption. The information presented in this letter does not indicate that specific areas of the EBWMP should be amended, and no changes have been made as a result of this information.

80

**HYDE & HOLCOMB**

AN ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING  
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
LAWYERS

1646 NO CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD  
SUITE 550  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

PATRICK M. HYDE  
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
DAVID J. HOLCOMB

TELEPHONE  
(510) 939-7700  
FACSIMILE  
(510) 939-2248

September 7, 1995

EBMUD  
John Coleman, Director  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Re: Master Plan Re-Draft; Bicycle Use

Dear John:-

I speak for over 40 members of the Coast Range Riders, a recreational mountain biking club. We are all professionals, business people, engineers, managers and skilled workers, as well as residents and homeowners served by EBMUD. Weekly we visit the regional parks, and open spaces in the East Bay for 15 to 25 miles of bicycle touring.

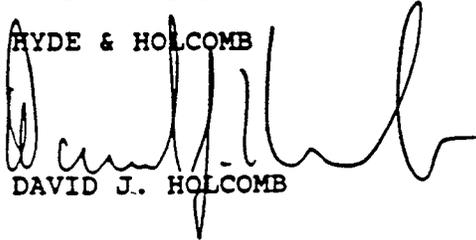
There is no rational basis for EBMUD to exclude us entirely from recreational use of its property. We are conscientious trail users who appreciate, and deserve, the outdoor experience as much, if not more so, than any other group. Off-road bikers are dedicated to the healthy benefits of touring in the beautiful East Bay hills and parks, and fully appreciate the need to protect the natural settings which we so greatly enjoy in so doing. We do not pollute, and we follow regulations (like using bells and keeping to designated trails), as well as self-imposed guidelines like the IMBA rules and the Off-Road Cyclists's Code.

Please give bicyclist's a fair consideration, and please don't allow bias or politics to dictate an unjustified ban of bikes. We would like to experience and appreciate the scenic and natural beauty of EBMUD areas. Does it really make any difference whether we get there on 24 pounds of apparatus, or 2000 pounds of horse, or 5 pounds of Vibram soled boots?

Very truly yours,

HYDE & HOLCOMB

DAVID J. HOLCOMB



DJH:bms

222

**Responses to Comments from David J. Holcomb**

222. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

81

5552 Broadway  
Oakland, Calif. 94618-1748  
September 10, 1995

Mr. John Coleman  
Member, Board of Directors  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, Calif. 94623

Dear Mr. Coleman:

I have been informed that you will soon be considering whether to permit the use of mountain bikes on East Bay MUD lands. I am writing to urge you to permit their use.

I will not insult your intelligence by portraying the introduction of mountain bikes as unmitigatedly beneficial. To be candid, I must acknowledge that reckless cyclists occasionally create a nuisance, including for other cyclists, and that the speed at which bicycles are capable of traveling may sometimes disturb the tranquility of the environment for other users.

But these legitimate concerns must be balanced against the great loss to the public, including me, that results from prohibiting bicycles on East Bay MUD land. There are thousands of responsible cyclists who would like to use your land to improve their physical and mental health. Surely the impact of a bicycle is less than that of a horse or a motorboat, both of which I understand are permitted to use your facilities.

I strongly urge you to authorize bicycle riding on East Bay MUD land. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Ted Stroll

222a

## **Responses to Comments from Ted Stroll**

- 222a. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

September 18, 1995

Director John Coleman  
EBMUD Ward 2  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

Dear Mr. Coleman,

Thank you for participating in the EBMUD Board hearing of Sept. 12, 1995 at Walnut Creek's Park Place. I appreciate the courtesy you extended to all the speakers and consideration of their points of view.

I was the last speaker of the evening. You may recall that I have an old running, foot injury which prevents me from taking long hikes. **In order for me to participate in the same activities that the other groups of users wish to enjoy and take for granted, I need access to the East Bay Watershed on my mountain bike.**

| 223

Education and cooperation are the keys for allowing all of us who enjoy the less commonly traveled road to enjoy the scenery and beauty abundant on EBMUD trails and fire roads. None of us want to travel on surface streets amongst cars.

Education works. I know to dismount my bike and talk to an approaching horse and rider because a friend who is a member of the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay taught me trail etiquette. Now, I am a member and pass the word to others. Horse sense is not common sense - it must be learned. This and nine other "rules of the road" appear in every issue of the Council's newsletter. Posting these guidelines at trail heads would be no different that posting guidelines for hikers or equestrians on how to preserve the watershed that we all cherish.

| 224

Cooperation is readily seen to work in the Walnut Creek's Shell Ridge Open Space and Mt. Diablo trails. Groups work to improve trails. Following the posted rules allows all users to enjoy the outdoors experience. Even the occasional illiterate cow has no problem mixing with the other users out for exercise or a trip in the park!

**I firmly believe that education and cooperation can solve all potential problems associated with multi-use of the District's fire and service roads.** However, unless "single-track" trails are made one-way, I must agree that they should be closed to bicycles and perhaps equestrians, too. Usually, there just isn't enough room for horses or bicycles to negotiate safely passing another user. Slippery grass, narrow paths, and steep banks do not facilitate passing. Although I would dearly love adoption of the compromise solution of making single-track trails one-way, I realize it could impose an undue hardship upon hikers whose range is more limited than the other two user groups.

| 225

Thanks again for your consideration in allowing ALL responsible users the opportunity to enjoy the EBMUD Watershed. I would appreciate you showing this letter to the other board members.

Sincerely,

*Gary S. Montante*

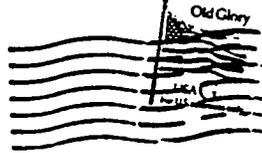
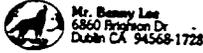
Gary Montante, 340 Shady Glen Rd., Walnut Creek, 939-4049

## **Responses to Comments from Gary Montante**

223. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.
224. The comment is acknowledged. The District appreciates the information presented by the commenter regarding trail etiquette and education.
225. The comment is acknowledged. The District appreciates the comment regarding one-way, single-track segments. The EBWMP does not recommend changes in trail use.



83



RECEIVED  
SEP 21 1995  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Board of Directors, EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623

To whom it may concern: 9/20/95

It has come to my attention that bicycles will be banned from the EBMUD trails and fire roads. The reasons given for the bicycle banning are contrary to known facts in the bicycling community. EBMUD states that bicycles have a negative impact on water purity. This may be true in a small sense, but its impact is negligible or on the same scale compared to other recreational uses such as hiking, horse-back riding and motor boating. Water turbidity is in fact caused by the roads and trails themselves, grazing as well as use of service vehicles and run-off from development of surrounding lands.

EBMUD states that bicycle safety factor will be costly. Any sporting activity does involve some risk. This includes horseback riding which is not banned, as well as riders who venture off onto trails lost without directions or dare say attempt to rock climb in the wilderness. Accidents occurring with these activities are the same as cycling if not more. According to experienced land managers, bicycle accidents are few in number and manageable. The same is said for hiking and horse-back riding.

226

They are not banned - why is cycling?

Cyclists are voters and rate payers who comprise a huge proportion of recreational users of public lands. We are big contributors to volunteer trail programs such as trail maintenance, bike patrol and trail development projects. Mountain biking in general has brought in a greater percent of the community to appreciate the parks and nature in general. I myself did not realize how many parks and open land are encompassed within the East Bay region til I participated in Mountain biking. I am a pharmacist and graduate of U.C.B & U.C.S.F. The friends I ride with are professionals and college educated.

Being users of the open land, the bicycling community is as deeply committed to preserving the environment as any other recreational user. There is no legitimate reason to be excluded under the usage proposal. Any exclusion considered is in fact discrimination plain and simple. Please use some common sense and heart and open the land to a committed group of the environment.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ben Lee, Pharm.D.

## **Responses to Comments from Dr. Ben Lee**

226. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

84

September 24, 1995

2908 Cindy Court  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623  
Attn: Mr. John Coleman

Dear Sir:

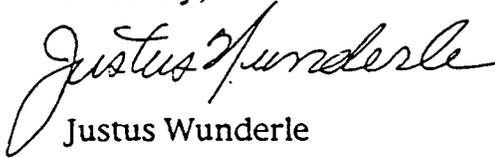
It has come to my attention that EBMUD is considering permitting bicycle usage of fire roads in the watersheds. I think that it would serve the publics best interests to do that.

It is my understanding that bicycle usage of fire roads would have an insignificant impact on water turbidity and it would greatly improve access of public lands to responsible many citizens. Enhancing appreciation for these natural entities will expand support for preserving them.

I am an active voter, a taxpayer, a homeowner and father of two young children. We enjoy riding our bicycles in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. The number of trails available however is extremely limited. We would appreciate the privilege of having access to watershed fire roads also.

Please vote for fire road use in the master plan.

Sincerely,

  
Justus Wunderle

|

227

## **Responses to Comments from Justus Wunderle**

227. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

Renée Roberge  
141 Flora Avenue #3  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

85

September 26, 1995

John A. Coleman, Director Ward 2  
EBMUD  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, CA 94623-1055

Dear Mr Coleman,

It seems to me that humans, as a species, are reluctant to face change. Witness our gradual acceptance of automobiles, television, and computers. Either dismissed as a passing fad or out of reach financially to the masses, many items of modern society were not embraced overnight.

Such is the case with mountain bikes. It's been nearly 20 years since the first modified hybrids were raced downhill on Mt Tamalpais by an elite group of young daredevils. It's been nearly ten years since the mainstream sales boom that caused so many mountain bikes to flood the trails, evoking consternation among the hikers and equestrians. But now it is 1995 and in the past 12 months three major bike shops in my area have gone out of business (Lafayette Cycleworks in Lafayette, Octopus Cycles and Diablo Bike both of Walnut Creek). Many hikers and equestrians will admit to having a mountain bike or two in the garage. The latest issue of Mt Diablo Medical Center's "Health Watch" features a photo of senior citizens posing with their fat-tired bikes.

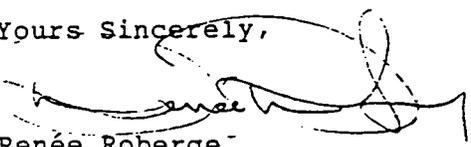
The hype is over. Mountain bikers are no longer the outlaw hotdoggers. They are just people like you and like me, young and old, families with kids. There remains of course a small group of scofflaws, but according to testimony and studies we are discussing less than 1% of all bicyclists. In any human endeavor there will always be a fringe element.

In view of these facts, I am asking the Board, in reviewing the Master Plan, to take into consideration that mountain bikers are indeed legitimate members of the Trail Community. They are being accepted by Land Use Managers around the nation. Studies have proven the erosion arguments invalid. The only arguments left against mountain bikers are unfounded emotional ones.

228

You have a permit system in place. Use it to regulate the number of bicycles. Please don't close the door on this opportunity to keep in step with the 90's. We look to you to exercise your roles as visionaries. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Renée Roberge

## **Responses to Comments from Renée Roberge**

228. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

Walnut Creek  
Sept 27, 1995

Mr. John A. Coleman,  
East Bay  
Municipal Utility District.

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Thank you for your letter. I am writing this to add another thought to my comments at the Walnut Creek meeting.

After listening to the other speakers, it struck me that the arguments about tire marks or horse hoof damage to fire roads were just "nit picking", as were the other comments of special interests. And I honestly cannot understand why horses should be privileged over bicycles on fire roads.

Sincerely,

Frank C. Blanchard

## **Responses to Comments from Frank C. Blanchard**

229. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.



87

LAW OFFICES  
**GOFORTH & LUCAS**

A LAW PARTNERSHIP  
ONE CONCORD CENTRE  
2300 CLAYTON ROAD, SUITE 1460  
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA 94520  
TELEPHONE (510) 682-9500

MICHAEL D. GOFORTH  
CHRISTOPHER R. LUCAS

FACSIMILE (510) 682-2353

REFER TO FILE NO:

Facsimile #(510) 284-8132

September 28, 1995

John A. Coleman  
Director Ward #2  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 11th Street  
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Mr. Coleman:

I am a forty-three year old avid mountain biking enthusiast and long time resident of the Bay Area. I have lived in Orinda, Walnut Creek and Concord. I have ridden with many of my friends and associates on various mountain biking trails and fire roads for a ten year period. I am very familiar with the desirability of trails for this low impact environmentally sound recreational use. I speak for many other residents who feel the same.

Much EBMUD land surrounding is open space thoroughly suitable for mountain bike use whether on single track trails or on fire roads.

I have seen areas of intense mountain bike use in Concord, specifically across from the Old Cowell Smoke Stack on Ygnacio Road in the quarry. Although at the end of a dry season small areas of these single track trails will appear to show some use, it is negligible compared to erosion such as is caused by foot traffic and invisible compared to any sort of erosion caused by horses.

All signs of this intense use disappear over the winter.

The point is, our trails and fire roads are meant for recreational use. A mountain bike is an extremely light devise with specialized tires. You go through the environment quietly usually leaving absolutely no trace, not even any skids.

Even very intense use leaves no permanent trace. The quarry area has been very popular for over 10 years.

Mountain biking is a popular way to cover large areas, to take advantage of the rolling terrain and to carry enough water.



230

COFORTH & LUCAS

Please consider very carefully that up roar over mountain biking occurred only because of their relative newness in the 1980's. Selfish people exaggerated their own inconvenience and fabricated other objections. This was a period of adjustment. Hikers were not accustomed to mountain bikers, and mountain bikers were not accustomed to hikers or horses. Naturally there were some very rare incidents. Since then, trail etiquette has been established and all users of public recreational property get along just fine and don't have any problems.

Objections to mountain bikes are absurd and hysterical.

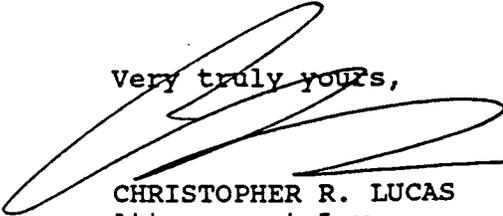
Claims of erosion and environmental harm by mountain bikes have always been nothing but myth. There has never been any harm to trails or the environment done by mountain bikes that doesn't disappear after winter rains. When I talk about this I'm talking about the most intense use ever seen. Usually the mountain bikers spread out over distances of many miles and cross any one area only once leaving no trace whatsoever.

Mountain bikers do it because they love their environment.

The vast majority of trail users whether horses or hikers will agree that mountain bikers equipped with bells and a sense of right-of-way have become responsible and caring users of the recreational lands. Mountain bikers are a mode of access and a mode of use that is aesthetically pure, perfectly suited to the weather and ambiance of the area, and less environmentally destructive than either walking or horse back riding. Don't limit anyone's use of East Bay mud lands. Most mountain bikers pursue this sport not to race down the hills at high speed but for the aesthetic pleasure of climbing and of being able to enter the environment quietly and with no impact. Do not be swayed by any sort of slanders against mountain bikers. We are responsible recreational users who do no harm and have been around for a long time and have established our responsibility and credibility.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to respond to the above. You would never know how numerous and enthusiastic mountain bikers are by their affect on the trails because they leave no trace and bother no one despite their huge numbers.

Very truly yours,



CHRISTOPHER R. LUCAS  
Attorney at Law

CRL:kcr

## **Responses to Comments from Christopher R. Lucas**

230. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

## **Responses to Comments from Vince Sciortino**

232. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

90



HOLTZ ENTERTAINMENT CONSULTANTS  
3441 SOLANA COURT  
LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA 94549  
(510) 284-3544  
OUR FAX - IS 510-283-5985

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL**

TO: EBMUD NO.: 284-8132  
~~835-3000~~

ATTENTION: JOHN A. COLEMAN FROM: DAVE HOLTZ

RE: \_\_\_\_\_ JOB NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF PAGES: 1 DATE: 9-29-95 TIME: 9 AM  
(INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

COMMENTS

DEAR MR. COLEMAN,  
I AM A 15 YEAR RESIDENT OF LAFAYETTE AND  
HAVE WALKED AND HIKEED MOST OF EBMUD'S  
TRAILS. I AM 64 YEARS OLD AND STRONGLY  
BELIEVE ALL USERS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO  
THE BACKCOUNTRY LAND AND TRAILS. I HAVE  
OBSERVED MOUNTAIN BIKER FOR QUITE AWHILE AND  
FOUND THEM TO BE COURTEOUS TO HIKERS  
AND EQUESTRIANS. I FIND IT HARD TO  
BELIEVE THAT BICYCLES WILL AFFECT THE  
WATER QUALITY MORE THAN HORSE AND  
CATTLE AND THEIR FECE S AND URINE.  
THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR FAIR  
DECISION.

Dave Holtz

233

## **Responses to Comments from David C. Holtz**

233. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

91

***Team Wrong Way***  
 9959 Broadmoor Drive San Ramon, California 94583-2712  
 (510) 551-8212 (510) 551-8785 FAX GINMTB@AOL.COM

September 29, 1995

John A. Coleman  
 Director, Ward No. 2  
 East Bay Municipal Utility District  
 FAX: (510) 284-8132

Dear Mr. Coleman:

In a democratic society, a group which makes up the majority usually has some say, don't they? In a democratic society, the "old guard" either doesn't exist or have much power, right? In a democratic society...

Why is it that the OPINION of the minority outweigh the FACTS of the majority? How many studies need to be done to show that user conflict on trails is relatively rare? "Emotions only" rarely tell the story - FACTS are the only true way to get the real story.

In the past, mountain bicyclists were classified as "renegades", "trouble makers", "safety risks", and were prohibited from riding in many areas. Eliminate bicyclists, eliminate the potential for bike-related accidents and injuries. As a member of the safety profession, we term this as "EXPOSURE AVOIDANCE." Eliminate any exposure, and you won't have any losses. However, this is usually NEVER practiced. It doesn't make any sense in the real world.

The mountain bike community continues to believe that MULTIPLE NON-MOTORIZED trail use offers the MOST BENEFITS for the MOST VISITORS. Even the Sierra Club, a long time foe of mountain bicyclists, has changed their position on bicycles (amazingly enough, 60% of Sierra Club members own mountain bicycles - I wonder why they changed their minds?!).

Legitimate park visitors should be treated as customers and parks should try to meet customers' needs. Mountain bicyclists are very much a legitimate park visitor. All the mountain bike community is asking for is SOME FAIRNESS WHEN IT COMES TO DETERMINING WHICH TRAILS ARE AND AREN'T SUITABLE FOR MOUNTAIN BIKES - NOT BASING TRAIL ACCESS ON EMOTION OR PERSONAL BIAS.

As an affiliate club of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), we are more than willing to assist you in conducting a trail inventory, trail maintenance, patrols, etc. And I'm certain that other clubs in the Bay Area would be willing to participate as well. Furthermore, we respect the rights of other trail users. Believe it or not, we do believe there are some trails which are not appropriate for mountain bikes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you would like to further discuss this issue, or if I can be of assistance, please contact me.

Mike Gin, President  
 Team Wrong Way



234

## **Responses to Comments from Team Wrong Way, Mike Gin**

234. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

92

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** September 29, 1995  
**TO:** John A. Coleman, Director, Ward No. 2  
**FROM:** Cameron Oden  
**SUBJECT:** Trail Access

---

Pleas consider opening EBMUD trails to mountain bikes. EBRPD, CCWD and others have opened their areas to mountain bikes successfully. I would be willing to participate in volunteer efforts to educate mountain bikers in the area.

I 235

Cameron Oden  
(510) 370-8975 Home  
(510) 516-8033 Work

## **Responses to Comments from Cameron Oden**

235. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

- Fax Cover Sheet -

**Date:** 9/29/95  
**Pages:** 1  
**To:** John A. Coleman  
Director Ward No. 2  
**Fax Phone:** 510-284-8132  
**From:** Rory C Vander Heyden CFP  
INTELLIGENT INVESTING,  
(510) 827-4271 Fax:  
**Subject:** TRAIL ACCESS FOR MOUNTAIN  
BIKES RE: General Plan

The dirt roads are already used by hikers, horses, EBMUD trucks and heavy machinery. Mountain bikes erode trails on a level some-where ~~between~~ between hikers & horses; proper trail maintenance will minimize this impact.

Mountain bikers are responsible, helpful members of the trail-use community. They build & maintain trails, they patrol the open spaces and, for the most part, they respect other trail users. Fire roads should be open to bikes, and so should some singletracks, at least on a trial basis. Sincerely Rory.

236

## **Responses to Comments from Rory C. Vander Heyden**

236. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.



94

JOHN A COLEMAN  
DIRECTOR, WARD#2  
ERMUD

SIR,

THIS IS MY REQUEST FOR YOU TO SUPPORT THE MOUNTAIN BIKE COMMUNITY BY ALLOWING ACCESS TO US IN THE SURROUNDING AREA TRAILS, ESPECIALLY YGNACIO VALLEY NORTH AND SOUTH.

I BEG OF YOU TO CONSIDER THAT WE MOUNTAIN BIKERS ARE ALSO WATER USERS AND THEREFORE RATE PAYERS IN YOUR AREA. WE DO CARE ABOUT TRAIL EROSION AND WATER QUALITY, AND MOST OF US DO WHAT WE CAN TO CONSERVE AND PRESERVE.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT 99% OF MOUNTAIN BIKERS ARE COURTEOUS TO HIKERS AND EQUESTRIANS. YOU SHOULD NOT PENALIZE THE MAJORITY BECAUSE OF THE MINORITY 1% RUDE MOUNTAIN BIKERS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT 99% OF THE EQUESTRIANS ARE COURTEOUS,

237

AND I DO NOT JUDGE THE ENTIRE  
GROUP BECAUSE OF THEIR DISCOURTEOUS  
10/0.

I AM SURE THAT YOU ARE AWARE  
THAT CATTLE AND EQUESTRIANS CAUSE  
FAR MORE EROSION DAMAGE THAN  
MOUNTAIN BIKES.

IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE IN  
MY 7 + YEARS OF MOUNTAIN BIKING  
THAT EQUESTRIANS AND BIKERS DO  
GET ALONG WHEN THEY ACT COURTEOUSLY  
TOWARDS EACH OTHER.

ONCE AGAIN, I AM CONFIDENT  
THAT YOU WILL ALLOW MOUNTAIN  
BIKERS ACCESS TO THE SURROUNDING  
AREA AND I HOPE TO SEE YOU  
AT THE NEXT MEETING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,

Tom BRUCKERT

WIK 676-328

FAX 676-7045

address: Concord Police Dept  
Willow Pass Rd & Parkside Dr.  
Concord, CA

94519-2578

## **Responses to Comments from Ron Bruckert**

237. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

95

PEDDER, STOVER, HESSELTINE & WALKER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
3445 GOLDEN GATE WAY  
POST OFFICE BOX 479

LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA 94548-0479

(SIO) 283-6816

FAX (SIO) 283-3663

RICHARD A. MALOTT  
ENTRUSTEE

STANLEY PEDDER  
JOHN A. STOVER  
W. G. HESSELTINE  
TIMOTHY B. WALKER

ROBERT R. HALL  
STEWART W. LENZ  
HELENA R. SELF

October 2, 1995

Via Facsimile

John A. Coleman, Director of Ward No. 2  
East Bay Municipal Utility District

Dear John:

I live in Lafayette, near the trails to Las Trampas Regional Park. Mountain bike riders are a menace. They ride on private property, they ride fast, they are dangerous to hikers and horses, and they leave open ranchers' gates and let the cattle get out. At the entrance to the park instead of taking their bikes through the rather cumbersome iron gate which is meant for hikers, horse and whatever, for speed reasons they simply cut through the existing wire fence, leaving it wide open. They do this type of thing time and time again. They have no courtesy, they are slobs, and they are dangerous. Last Sunday while riding on private property, a swarm of 10 came downhill on a very narrow trail. As my horse was walking up with me on him, the horse had no place to go, and rather than being crashed into by a bike, the horse whirled, dipped under a tree, I didn't dip, and I was thrown to the ground. I chewed out all 10 bikers and chased them off the property. Who needs it.



238

Very truly yours,

PEDDER, STOVER, HESSELTINE &  
WALKER

STANLEY PEDDER

SP/amk

## **Responses to Comments from Stanley Pedder**

238. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

96

October 3, 1995

Mr. John A. Coleman  
Director, Ward No. 2

BY FACSIMILE  
510/284-8132

**EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**

**RE: Trail Access for Mountain Bikes**

Dear Mr. Coleman:

I strongly support trail access for mountain bikes and believe EBMUD should revise its general plan and open trails for mountain bikes. I ride 4-5 times per week with a group of mountain bikers who are all their 40's. The riders include 2 doctors, a general contractor, an insurance executive, a lawyer, and small business owners. Riding is great exercise, its fun, it takes skill, we all enjoy each others company, and we enjoy riding in the hills.

When we ride we rarely even see horse riders or hikers. I would bet there are far more mountain bikers in the hills of the East Bay than hikers and horse riders combined. I have never had a problem or caused any danger on my bike to any other users of park trails. Bikes also don't deposit the unattractive waste that horses do. Mountain bikers are responsible users of trails in the East Bay hills and should not be shut-out. Your efforts to open trails for mountain bikes would be appreciated.

|

239

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dewar  
193 Hemme Ave.  
Alamo, CA 94507  
510/831-9435

## **Responses to Comments from Thomas A. Dewar**

239. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.



GEN. MGR. OCT 19 1995

RECEIVED  
OCT 20 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

CITY COUNCIL  
Gayle B. Uilkema, Mayor  
Ivor Samson, Vice Mayor  
Judy Garvens  
Anne Grodin  
Donald L. Tatzin

October 11, 1995

Dennis M. Diemer  
EBMUD  
Interim General Manager  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland CA 94607-4240

Dear Mr. Diemer:

Thank you for giving the City of Lafayette the opportunity to review the EBMUD master plan. The City of Lafayette is most interested in the proposals that affect the facilities in Lafayette such as the reservoir, aqueducts and filter plant.

The City Council would like to have a copy of the implementation plan as soon as it becomes available so as to evaluate specific actions which may affect Lafayette. The Lafayette City Council specifically had concerns related to the proposed trail closure plan for days with high fire danger. The Master Plan indicated that the upper Lafayette reservoir trails would be closed on days of high fire danger. Would this be during red flag warning days? How would visitors be notified of the closure?

| 240

Please provide the City Managers's office with the implementation plan and the above additional information when it becomes available.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gayle B. Uilkema.

Gayle B. Uilkema  
Mayor

POST OFFICE BOX 1968  
3675 MT. DIABLO BLVD., SUITE 210, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549-1968  
TELEPHONE: (510) 284-1968 FAX: (510) 284-3169

## **Responses to Comments from Gayle B. Uilkema, Mayor, Lafayette**

240. The District intends to coordinate the implementation plan for its fire and fuels management program with all of the jurisdictions that may be affected by such actions. Details of the implementation plan, particularly regarding details of trail closures, are not yet available. Once detailed implementation plans are developed, they will be made available to all jurisdictions that may be affected by them.

September 13, 1995

MEMO TO: Steve Abbors, Manager of Local Watershed & Recreation Division

FROM: Rosie Mick, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Comment Re EBWMP

I received a call from Mr. Walter Byron [REDACTED] who stated that, although he was unable to attend the public hearing on the draft Master Plan on September 12, he would still like to comment on the Plan. Mr. Byron stated that he has been a EBMUD trail permit holder for many years and, as such, hikes our trails frequently. Mr. Byron made the following points:

- ◆ he believes that allowing mountain bikes on trails would ruin them;
- ◆ he finds bikers discourteous as they do not call out when approaching hikers; and
- ◆ several years ago he was involved in a serious biking accident, while hiking, in which he was hit by a bike.



241

RM:rm

14 CORNWALL CT  
OAK 94611

p:\data\ebwmp.com

## **Responses to Comments from Walter Byron**

241. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

49

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1995

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

John Gioia, President  
EBMUD Board of Directors

Dear John,

As a longtime resident of the East Bay (I went to nursery school on Bonita Avenue here in Berkeley and am now finishing a PhD at the University here) I have always appreciated the lands surrounding this increasingly crowded conurbation as a place of beauty, inspiration, and exhilaration. I'm sure you share my feelings for such open spaces, otherwise you would not be on EBMUD's Board. I am particularly pleased that you have done the work necessary to maintain these lands for public enjoyment, so thank you.

However, it has come to my attention that in drafting the new master plan for trail and fire road use the Board has decided to continue to prohibit bicycles from enjoying access to some of the finest sections of trail West of Utah. This is an unnecessary exclusion. In doing so, many responsible citizens are needlessly antagonized. Consider the benefits of allowing cyclist access: organizations such as the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay can provide much-needed volunteer help in patrolling trails and fire-roads and in maintenance. Further, if the Board is worried about cyclist's impact on trails, consider the University of Montana study which concluded that horses cause more damage than even the most aggressive of knobby-tired riders. Nor do bicyclists have a measurably negative impact on water purity or the integrity of watershed areas. In short there are quite measurable benefits in allowing responsible cycling on EBMUD trails and fire roads, not least of which is the health-conscious image cycling promotes.

I therefore urge you to reconsider the prohibition against bicyling on EBMUD land. Consider cooperation with responsible cycling organizations and encourage sensible recreation. Do not be swayed by the actions of a few irresponsible thrill-seekers; with proper monitoring such as that provided by the volunteer patrols of the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay such individuals will be easily controlled.

Sincerely,

Jesse A. Dizard

RECEIVED

OCT 27 1995

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jesse A. Dizard  
2644 Dwight Way #6  
Berkeley, CA 94704

9/6/95

242

RECEIVED  
OCT 25 1995

## **Responses to Comments from Jesse A. Dizard**

242. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

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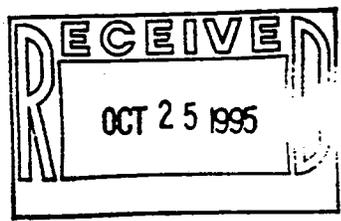
OCT 27 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1995  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

3854 Greenwood Ave  
Oakland Ca. 94602

September, 1995



John Gioia, President  
EBMUD Board of Directors  
37511th St.  
Oakland, Ca. 94607

Dear Mr. Gioia,

I understand the EBMUD Board of Directors has yet to decide on its position regarding the new watershed master plan. This plan is good because it emphasizes protection of water quality and biodiversity with recreational access remaining the same, and grazing prohibited in environmentally sensitive areas as well as mountain biking. It is also important to have wildlife corridors identified and protected and fire protection expanded. I hope the board goes ahead with it.

243

Sincerely,

Larry Schmidt

## **Responses to Comments from Larry Schmidt**

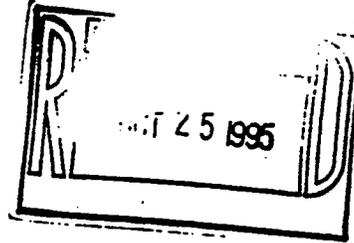
243. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

William A. McGee  
2217 Parker St.  
Berkeley Ca. 94704-2711

RECEIVED  
OCT 27 1995  
NATURAL RESOURCES

RECEIVED  
OCT 24 1995  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

John Gioia  
President EBMUD Directors  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland Ca 94623



Dear Mr. Gioia,

Bicyclist are voters and rate payers who are recreational users of public lands. They deserve to be treated fairly.

We are the only widespread non-motorized recreational users that are excluded from fire roads and trails on EBMUD lands. There is no justification for this.

Please circulate this letter to the other board members.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*William A. McGee*

William A. McGee

244

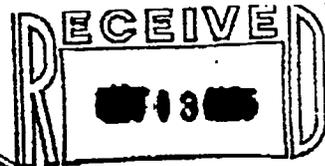
## Responses to Comments from William A. McGee

244. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

102



BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
300 A & B BUILDING

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

October 5, 1995

Mr. Stephen E. Abbors  
Manager Watershed and Recreation  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
375 11th Street  
P.O. Box 24055  
Oakland, California 94607-4240

VIA FAX: (510) 287-1819

Dear Mr. Abbors: *Steve*

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed East Bay Watershed Master Plan and its Draft Environmental Impact Report. The enclosed comments are offered as a follow up of the letter sent by Director Michael A. Dobbins, dated September 29, 1995.

These comments are of a technical nature and are intended to supplement the ongoing relationship between our agencies. We welcome formal and informal interaction at the academic and administrative levels of the campus and offer our assistance in fulfilling the mission and goals of the Watershed Master Plan.

We are familiar with the resource-based approach that the District has taken toward the planning and environmental analysis process for the development of the East Bay Watershed Master Plan. The campus has been pleased to participate in several of the workshops sponsored by your Community Advisory Committee as part of the process.

These comments will focus on three areas: 1) comments on the Master Plan and its provisions, 2) comments on specific items in the DEIR, and 3) suggested opportunities for joint project development and research programs.

Master Plan Comments

The Plan should be designed to implement the "Missions" through the Guiding Principles as stated on pages 1-2 and 1-3. We agree with the priorities as stated: to manage the natural resources to

↓ 244a



provide high water quality and to protect the environment for future generations.

We are particularly concerned about the management strategies in those lands owned by the District, outside the water storage drainages (tributaries) in the Oakland-Berkeley hills. Specifically, we are concerned about the lands at the top of the ridge and sloping toward the Bay which, generally border the Hill Area of the UCB campus. Your documents clearly recognize this area as critical urban/wildland interface zones requiring carefully considered management strategies developed in conjunction with other agencies. The University suggests that discussions be promulgated to determine future strategies for erosion and fire fuel mitigation along the areas above and below Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Some of the options have been addressed in the forthcoming VMC Fuel Management Plan that will be heard and approved by the multijurisdictional Hills Emergency Forum. However, the need for aggressive pollution prevention actions for non-drinking water supply for the drainages and receiving waters of the San Francisco Bay Estuary are extremely important to the campus, the cities of Oakland and Berkeley and to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. For example, the campus Strawberry Creek Environmental Quality Committee is concerned about the erosion and siltation created in the upper watershed of the regulated streams flowing through the campus as well as the point and non-point sources on the campus and environs. It is hoped that the information and technology that your district has developed for drinking water supplies will be of use in drainages influencing other watersheds, thus assuring that pollution created on District lands do not compromise other watersheds.

245

The campus would appreciate receiving copies of fuel management prescriptions being applied to adjacent properties for review and interpretation. For example the use of equipment and goat grazing on adjacent properties will influence how the University accomplishes its fuel reduction program. We invite the District to assign an appropriate staff person to serve on our Hill Area Fire Prevention Committee so that we can mutually benefit from each other's experience and do a better job of coordinating fuel management activities. This is an action oriented committee which develops the campus budget and sets the management prescription to be taken each year.

246

The campus would appreciate notification of future implementation actions resulting from approval of the Master Plan in Gateway Valley and in all areas adjacent to University owned land and within the west-facing slopes of the East Bay Hills in lands owned by the District. For example if new roads or trails are constructed or uses changed, the campus requests early notification and agrees to respond quickly to such notification. Of particular concern would be alteration to communication or

247

water storage facilities or construction of buildings or other structures.

247 cont.

In addition, any environmental documents prepared for projects within these areas, including ministerial actions requiring Categorical Exemptions may be of importance to the campus. We request to be notified of all pending actions and to receive copies of all environmental review documents

248

The District has recognized the need to involve local communities in resource protection and management by recommending the implementation of a process of which the University is highly supportive. Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) holds great promise as a method to resolve problematic situations which stresses cooperation and collaboration. The campus, the District, and other agencies and individuals are already developing such a program for the Caldecott Tunnel Conservation Corridor (p. 4-3). Your Master Plan recommends a similar effort for several of your watersheds (San Pablo, p. 4-3, Briones, p. 4-6, and Upper San Leandro, p. 4-9). The campus supports these efforts and suggests that the non-reservoir watershed of Pinole Creek might be a good candidate as well because of its importance to biological diversity and opportunity for developing sustainable and environmentally beneficial agricultural enterprises. As will be discussed in section 3), we have some ideas on how to implement these programs and would like to discuss them with you.

249

Draft EIR

The programmatic EIR prepared by the District is one of the most thorough environmental documents I have reviewed. The analysis of 5 alternative approaches should enable the District to decide upon all options and potential impacts. After review of the document, we tend to agree that the preferred Alternative (number 1) strikes a reasonable balance and emphasis between the mission goals, public use, and economic feasibility. It appears to do the best job of protecting resources as an investment in the future.

250

The DEIR mentions working with agencies within reservoir watersheds to reduce point and non-point pollution but does not mention the watersheds outside of reservoir drainages where the District owns land and areas adjacent to other jurisdictions with water quality obligations. As mentioned above, we would like to work with the District to develop mitigation to reduce potential erosional and siltation impacts from these areas as well (page 4-2).

251

The campus has been working with the District and others in an attempt to secure the Caldecott Tunnel area as a long-term linkage for the movement of animals and plants and as a significant bridge between the major watersheds owned by the District and others. This corridor is essential for the prevention of fragmentation of dwindling habitat for organisms such as the Mountain lion, Alameda whipsnake and others (page 4-12). The Mitigation Measures should provide a requirement that any recommended changes to land use resulting from implementation of the Plan be subjected to the same level of analysis of impacts on vegetation and wildlife which went into the Plan. That is, a thorough survey using the methods developed by the District in cooperation with Professor Robert Stebbins of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology should be required. These techniques are rapidly becoming the standard for the East Bay and elsewhere.

252

Of particular concern to the campus is that the proposed Plan approach the issues of fire and fuel management and erosion control in the most realistic manner. The report recognizes that the protection of biological diversity and water quality on District lands and adjacent areas depends on the prevention of conflagrational fires that can occur in areas with heavy, long-burning fuels. These fires can create intense and difficult to control wildfires. Such areas along the urban/wildland interface are the subject of constant concern and management effort that the District shares with its agency and private neighbors (page 22).

253

Joint Project and Research Opportunities

Campus academic and administrative units have experience developing and implementing projects and conducting research which could benefit the District. For example, the College of Environmental Design has been approached about developing a program for implementing a CRMP for the Caldecott Tunnel Conservation Corridor. The College can call upon the faculty and students to do studies and develop strategies for implementing actions through the graduate courses and studios. These programs would explore CRMPs as the assignment of a studio in the Department of City and Regional Planning or Landscape Architecture. The plan is to do such a course this Spring for the Caldecott Tunnel CRMP.

254

The College of Natural Resources is interested in developing spacial data capabilities for CRMPs to be used in conjunction with Biodiversity planning and management. They can capitalize on the newly installed CAMFER program (a repository of extensive natural resource information which is available to and used by

faculty and graduate students to enhance policy decisions by providing the best available scientific information in the most usable form).

The campus has other opportunities to serve the community and agencies through the School of Public Policy, the Law School, the various museums located on Campus, and the vast network of libraries.

Specific research projects can be designed to answer questions and solve problems which may arise during the preparation of the District's implementation programs. For example there is interest in the College of Natural Resources in working with the District to develop a sustainable, environmentally sound and economically feasible agroecology model and program for the Pinole Watershed.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and other District staff to discuss these and other issues. Please contact me at (510) 643-8777, FAX (510) 642-9442 or e-mail at sanders@dofm.berkeley.edu.

Best regards,



Dale Sanders, Senior Planner  
Physical and Environmental  
Planning

cc. Vice Chancellor Mitchell  
Associate Vice Chancellor Bean  
Assistant to the Vice Chancellor Travers  
Director Dobbins

254 con't.



## Responses to Comments from University of California at Berkeley, Dale Sanders

- 244a. The comment is acknowledged.
245. The Comment is acknowledged. Based on the District's GIS database and as shown in Figures 2-1 and 2-6 of the EBWMP, the District's Siesta Valley property is entirely within the watershed of San Pablo Reservoir. The District has identified developed watershed interface zones on District property to ensure that appropriate management and coordination occur with adjacent jurisdictions in high-priority areas. The Grizzly peak interface area has been identified as a high-priority area for fire and fuels management. The need for erosion control measures on District property for effects on university property are not anticipated because all of the District's property in this area is within the San Pablo Reservoir watershed. The District welcomes the opportunity to discuss interface issues with the university and intends to continue communicating and coordinating with adjacent jurisdictions.
246. The District will provide copies of its fuels management plan once it is updated and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Hill Area Fire Prevention Committee.
247. The comment is acknowledged. The District intends to notify and involve adjacent jurisdictions in decisions that may affect neighboring property. The EBWMP does not recommend altering communication or water storage facilities or constructing buildings or other structures at its western boundary.
248. The District will publicly disclose and distribute environmental documents as requested for actions that could involve the campus.
249. The comment is acknowledged. The District would welcome discussion of the university's ideas regarding the Caldecott Tunnel CRMP and CRMP's in other watersheds.
250. The District acknowledges the university's preference for Alternative 1.
251. The District would welcome discussion of specific issues related to erosion. Refer also to the response to comment 245.
252. The comment is acknowledged. As indicated on page 4-12 of the draft programmatic EIR, the EBWMP would commit the District to participate in multiagency planning and management efforts to maintain connections between habitat areas, including the Caldecott Tunnel corridor. The draft programmatic EIR does not identify additional mitigation requirements associated with the EBWMP beyond those already included for the Caldecott Tunnel corridor because none of the actions proposed in the EBWMP would significantly affect this corridor.

253. The District acknowledges the university's concerns regarding conflagrational fires, and the fire and fuels management program has provided for a combination of mechanical, grazing, and prescribed fire methods to reduce fuel loads in high-priority areas.
254. The District appreciates the university's offer to conduct research programs and coursework that could benefit the District's watersheds and welcomes the opportunity to discuss research opportunities with the university. Requests for research and other activities may be reviewed for consistency with the EBWMP under the watershed project evaluation process.

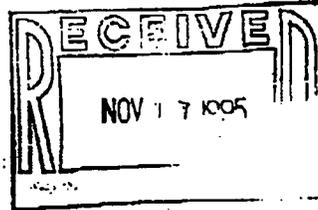


IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
Sacramento Field Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1803  
Sacramento, California 95825



In Reply Refer To:  
1-1-95-IA-1478

November 9, 1995

Mr. Stephen E. Abbors  
Manager of Watershed and Recreation  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Natural Resources Department-M.S.902  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, California 94607

Subject: East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) Draft East Bay Watershed Master Plan and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR).

Dear Mr. Abbors:

This letter responds to your August 11, 1995 request for comments on the above referenced documents. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) appreciates the opportunity to comment; unfortunately, due to constraints on our funds and staff within the Endangered Species Program and the nonspecific nature of the DPEIR, the Service is unable to make specific comments at this time.

Our inability to review your request does not relieve you of your obligation to ensure compliance with Section 9 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (Act), which prohibits the taking of any federally-listed species. As defined by the Act, take means "...to harass, harm, pursue, hunt shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct." Before any specific projects are implemented, the applicant should conduct appropriate surveys to determine if federally listed animal or plant species inhabit the proposed site and are likely to be taken as a result of project implementation. We also recommend that surveys be undertaken for the proposed and candidate species that may occur in the project area. The results of these surveys should be published in any environmental documents prepared for the project.

Should you determine that a project may adversely affect a listed species, and should there be a Federal agency involved with permitting or funding this project, initiation of formal consultation with this office pursuant to section 7 of the Act is required. Such consultation would result in a Biological Opinion rendered by the Service that addresses effects to listed species.

If a Federal agency is not be involved with a project, an "Incidental Take Permit" authorizing take of a listed species must be obtained pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act before any taking can lawfully occur. Such a permit authorizes take of threatened or endangered species

255

incidental to otherwise lawful activities. Issuance of a Section 10(a) permit is contingent upon submission of an acceptable habitat conservation plan detailing the amount of take, the impacts of this take, mitigation measures the applicant will implement to offset the impacts of the anticipated take, and funding mechanisms to insure implementation of the mitigation measures.

When a Federal agency is involved with permitting or funding a project which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species, the Act requires the agency to confer with the Service. A conference is defined as a process which involves informal discussions between a Federal agency and the Service under section 7(a)(4) of the Act regarding the impact of an action on proposed species and includes recommendations to minimize or avoid the adverse effects to the species. If requested by the agency and deemed appropriate by the Service, a conference may be conducted in accordance with the procedures for formal consultation. An opinion issued at the conclusion of the conference may be adopted as the biological opinion when the species is listed, if no significant new information is developed and no significant changes to the Federal action are made that would alter the content of the opinion. Although take only pertains to listed species, an incidental take statement can be provided with a conference opinion and may be subsequently adopted by the Service once the species listing is final.

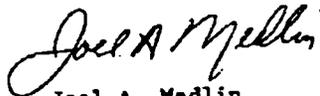
255 con't.

Conferencing on proposed species is not required if a Federal agency is not involved with the project, however, the Service recommends that adverse impacts are addressed. We also recommend addressing candidate species. One of the benefits of considering these species early in the planning process is that by exploring alternatives, it may be possible to avoid conflicts that could develop, should the species become listed before the project is complete.

If the project will impact wetlands, riparian habitat, or other jurisdictional waters as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), a Corps permit shall be required, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Impacts to wetland habitats require site specific mitigation and monitoring. You may request a copy of the Service's General Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines or submit a detailed description of the proposed impacts for specific comments and recommendations.

We appreciate your concern for endangered species. If you have further questions, please call Ms. Kelly Geer of this office at (916) 979-2725. For questions regarding wetlands, please contact Mark Littlefield of this office at (916) 979-2113.

Sincerely,



Joel A. Medlin  
Field Supervisor

cc: ARD-ES, Portland, OR  
Wetlands

## **Responses to Comments from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Joel A. Medlin**

255. The comments are acknowledged. The District's EBWMP is intended to provide watershed management guidance to ensure that watershed protection and biodiversity goals are met. The District will meet the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act in coordination with the USFWS.



pubhear.wkt

Last Name First Name		Organization	Comment Summary
<b>EBMUD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING SEPT. 12 1995</b>			
Littlehale	Sarge	council member, City of Orinda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o (see Mr. Littlehale's written letter - he basically read his letter) Letter #2</li> </ul>
Carlton	Alan	Sierra Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o speaker card submitted - no show</li> </ul>
Nelson	John	Diablo Valley Radio Controllers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 5-6 acres for model airplane airport; 40 more acres for fly zone (incl parking, facilities, etc.) - possibly Pinole Valley</li> </ul>
Kelley	Micheal	IMBA; Bicycle Trails Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports mountain bike access onto EBMUD fire roads.</li> <li>o Environmental impacts - studies &amp; land mgrs. say somewhere between horse &amp; hiker.</li> <li>o Water quality - small compared to other uses (other recreation, mgmt activities, etc.)</li> <li>o Bicycles are only mentioned in the unfavorable #5 alternative; feels bikes are consistent with proposed master plan</li> <li>o Bikes are low intensity use; consistent with protection of resources &amp; water quality; give priority to serving broadest spectrum of the community.</li> <li>o In the plan, where hikers and equestrians are mentioned - also mention cyclists</li> <li>o Cycling fits into all of the alternatives.</li> <li>o There are a great number of opportunities to provide for more regional trail connections utilizing service roads.</li> <li>o Volunteers can provide support to District staff in providing labor, patrol, etc.</li> <li>o Plan needs to offer more flexibility for the future (to expand and add trails as demands increase)</li> <li>o At minimum, allow bikes on regional trails crossing EBMUD land.</li> </ul>
Williams	Craig		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports mountain bike access onto EBMUD fire roads.</li> </ul>
Fazel	John	Orinda Trails Council; CAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o People want to have reasonable access to open space via trails.</li> <li>o People need to be able to see the land in order to have a desire to protect it.</li> <li>o Wording in the master plan is "generic" in nature where original intent could be lost.</li> <li>o (see letter from Orinda Trails Council - Mr. Fazel's comments are read from this) Letter #30 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</li> <li>o 3-23 Recreation &amp; Trails - no net increase (if you add a use, others may have to be eliminated); don't "grandfather" in existing uses - you need to review their impacts also. Uses like grazing and shoreline fishing create more impact than trail use.</li> <li>o Any trail closures should not be done without public input.</li> <li>o Mr. Fazel believes that the EBWMP does not reflect what the CAC discussed and agreed to.</li> <li>o Mt. bikes should be considered; maybe on a trial basis (personal opinion)</li> </ul>

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Bluhon	Peter	East Bay Area Trails Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Discouraged that plan has no forward thinking policies on trails.</li> <li>o Mr. Bluhon's comments all come directly from his letter. Letter #11</li> <li>o Feels that the Trails Adjunct Committee's (TAC) suggestions were consistent with Mission Statement &amp; Guiding Principles - but these recommendations somehow disappeared and do not show up in the plan. Feels that the BOD should re-visit the TAC's suggestions and look at areas that can be included into the Final master plan.</li> <li>o Bikes can be allowed on fire roads.</li> <li>o Bikes are a form of recreation that is here to stay.</li> <li>o Lack of future planning and flexibility.</li> <li>o "Neighborhood" connector trails to regional trails + loop trails should be encouraged.</li> </ul>
Fuhrer	Micheal	Bicycle Council of the East Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Include policy that allows cycling on the watershed in the master plan.</li> <li>o At a minimum - allow bikes on regional/multi-jurisdictional trails that cross watershed land.</li> </ul>
McGee	William	East Bay Bicycle Trails Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cyclists are voters and ratepayers; they should be treated fairly.</li> <li>o Bicycling should be added to users allowed on watershed.</li> <li>o There are problems with all trail user groups, not just bikes.</li> </ul>
Bedall	Fred	Sierra Club - SF Bay Chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports direction of draft plan - EBMUD is in unique position to be able to put the resources first.</li> <li>o If you increase recreation levels, your resource managers will ultimately have to become primarily recreation managers.</li> <li>o Reducing grazing impacts will be a good move.</li> <li>o I am a cyclist, but I know that I can get off my bike and hike on EBMUD lands.</li> <li>o Although Sierra Club recognizes Mt. Bikes as valid recreation activity, but in appropriate places (EBMUD land is inappropriate).</li> </ul>
Woost	Mark		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Please consider allowing bikes on the fire roads.</li> <li>o If other uses are going to be allowed horses, hikers, shoreline fishing, grazing - these all add sediment into the reservoirs.</li> <li>o Practically all studies shows that bikes do not produce any more erosion than horses or hikers.</li> <li>o Bike groups can provide trail construction and maintenance.</li> </ul>
Davis	Ray		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Orinda residents do not drink water from San Pablo Reservoir - that is why they are not concerned about water quality.</li> <li>o Concerned about use of reclaimed water within San Pablo Reservoir watershed.</li> <li>o Watershed management and appropriate land use is the most important area to focus on (rather than treatment) to protect water quality.</li> <li>o pg 5-6 Palos Colorados in Moraga. This proposed development is moving forward without EBMUD input. Why? EBMUD should get involved in this process. Plan mentions "litigation" - what litigation? Also, plan says that this development has essentially been finalized (this is not correct). Also, grading mitigation that is mentioned can't be done.</li> <li>o Supports plan - shouldn't require much changes.</li> <li>o Also supports trail comments of John Fazel.</li> </ul>

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WALNUT CREEK SEPT 12, 1995

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Goldstein	Joseph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports proposed plan.</li> <li>o Opposes Mt. bike access on trails.</li> </ul>
Halfert	Rosemarie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Impressed of the work that has been completed. Supports staff report.</li> <li>o Supports emphasis on water quality and biodiversity</li> </ul>
Roberge	Renee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports mt. bikes access onto EBMUD trails.</li> <li>o Bicycling needs to be recognized as a legitimate trail user group.</li> <li>o Negative stories about mt. bikes are from the 1980's.</li> <li>o Look at the studies - look at the facts about erosion impacts.</li> <li>o You can put the bikers on the permit system.</li> </ul>
Lynch	Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o As time goes on...there are fewer and fewer problems reported about mt. bikers.</li> <li>o Other groups are aware bikes are out there and bikers are aware of the other groups that share the trails.</li> <li>o Bikers work just as hard on maintaining the trails as any other user group.</li> <li>o Don't understand why you think we do more damage than other trail groups - all we leave behind is a little sweat, some dust.</li> <li>o Horses leave alot behind.</li> </ul>
Fiala	Steve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plan as many wonderful merits.</li> <li>o Slight flaw of plan - lack of policies that give flexibility for dealing with future public trail needs.</li> <li>o Need policy to provide opportunity to expand trail system - this is consistent with the District's watershed management goals. (e.g., connections to other trail systems, allowing use of some existing fire roads as public trails.)</li> <li>o Need to take full advantage of volunteer resources that are out there. Although this may take some staff time, the payoff is excellent.</li> <li>o Commend efforts for improved disabled access; support facilities should also be established for these users.</li> <li>o Bicycles at Lafayette Reservoir - currently limited; please consider removing these limitations.</li> <li>o Bicycles on the watershed - this plan needs to allow flexibility; possibly do a pilot project as many other agencies have done.</li> <li>o This plan needs to be able to adapt to the future.</li> <li>o Water quality is important to ratepayers, but so is recreation.</li> </ul>
DeFremery	Don	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o I'm a hiker.</li> <li>o Mt bike access - should be allowed on fire roads; not on single track.</li> <li>o Consider allowing the expansion of the trail system onto existing fire roads.</li> </ul>

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Toland	Jim	Director, CCRCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o There are inconsistencies from what has been presented tonight and what is in the EIR.</li> <li>o Fire section has not received the detailed scrutiny that it should - go back to the drawing board on this with fire agencies.</li> <li>o Fuel loading is mentioned, but more specifics need to be addressed in this plan. How can you determine risk without more detailed study in this area.</li> <li>o 2 acre limit on clearcuts is not flexible enough - if there is some vegetation that you want to remove and the opportunity is there, do it.</li> <li>o Concerned about grazing reductions (he did not give any specifics)</li> <li>o Feels concerns about pathogens from cattle entering the water supply - UC Davis seminar in June; experts say it is not a concern.</li> <li>o CCRCD will submit written comments.</li> </ul>
Cutler	Jim	Contra Costa County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Watershed lands are not parks; your district has a different role and purpose.</li> <li>o Some more detailed discussions that the CAC had done on the subject of land acquisition policies does not seem to appear in the master plan document. Although these discussions might be too detailed for a master plan document - staff needs to communicate fully to the BOD what the CAC discussed on this subject (Policy 21).</li> <li>o Briones Hills Agricultural Preservation Agreement - this is referenced in this document, but does not describe the District's position on this agreement. Staff needs to report more fully to the BOD on this subject.</li> <li>o Fire management - glad to see the District is interested in working with the county on this area.</li> <li>o Commends EBMUD in their leadership in biodiversity planning.</li> <li>o see Jim Cutler's written comments - Letters # 14 and # 77</li> </ul>
Lewis	Mark		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports "all non-motorized access to the watershed lands".</li> <li>o Mt. bikes are allowed on lands that surround many lakes and reservoirs.</li> <li>o Erosion from bike use is minimal. Horses cause greater erosion impacts.</li> <li>o Hikers and bikers improve trail impacts caused by horses by compacting the trail.</li> </ul>
Kratche	Ralph		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Believe that he submitted Letter #12</li> <li>o Supports biodiversity improvement plans and reduction in grazing.</li> <li>o Supports bicycle access on EBMUD fire roads, not on single-track.</li> </ul>
Blanchard	Frank		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If water quality is #1 priority - allowing horses and cattle (and not allowing bikes) doesn't make any sense.</li> <li>o Q: If bicycle riding was allowed on trails prior to allowing equestrian access - would the District be saying no to the horses?</li> </ul>
Weinstein	Bert	Bicycle Trails Council - East Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports mt. bike access to EBMUD lands, specifically on fire roads that are already open to the public.</li> <li>o Water quality - horses, hikers, EBMUD trucks, heavy equipment, cattle already traverse these roads - but mt bike access is being denied because of negative impacts to water quality.</li> <li>o Erosion - on fire roads, mt. bike impacts would be minimal.</li> <li>o User conflicts - other speakers, park district stats will contradict any claims that user conflicts are worse with bikes on trails.</li> <li>o I guess staff just doesn't want to bother - ignoring a significant segment of the recreation public.</li> <li>o Your staff is wrong - there is no other logical conclusion.</li> </ul>

Farrie	Dean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports mt. bike access onto EBMUD</li> <li>o Mt. bikes have much less impact on trails than horses any day.</li> <li>o Hate to see access denied to such a large and growing trail user group (probably the largest trail user group now).</li> <li>o Mt. bikers are very thoughtful group of people.</li> </ul>	25
Cardinel	Dean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Opposes mt. bike access onto EBMUD trails.</li> <li>o Erosion - bikes have greater impact than horses. (greater speeds, leaving "continuous track" in trail)</li> <li>o User conflict - bikes move too fast; increased safety concerns for other users.</li> <li>o Every use has some kind of impact.</li> <li>o Horses leave an intermittent track; thus not increasing erosion due to runoff.</li> </ul>	26
Carr	Katherine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Moraga Horseman: official position to oppose mt. bikes access on EBMUD trails. Concerns about user conflict, erosion, and impacts on trail conditions, bike speeds &amp; distance they can travel.</li> <li>o As a lessee - concerned about trespass problems with trail users off trail.</li> <li>o Supports continuation of grazing program. Reduces fire hazards and does not have the viewshed impacts of discing.</li> <li>o Supports changes to grazing program to protect water quality, improve habitat and biodiversity, and range conditions.</li> <li>o Need to work closely with operators.</li> </ul>	27
McCormick	Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cyclists vote, pay taxes and water bills.</li> <li>o There are more cyclists than either of the other two trail user groups.</li> <li>o Supports mt. bike access to EBMUD fire roads.</li> <li>o User conflict - we are getting along fine.</li> <li>o Speed limit - no cyclist in their right mind would maintain high speed on a multi-user trail with tight turns.</li> <li>o Horses impact trails much more than bikes.</li> </ul>	28
Fend	Laura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Appreciates rotational grazing on their EBMUD lease; enjoys relationship with staff.</li> <li>o Opposes bikes on EBMUD trails.</li> <li>o Compare Kings Canyon Loop Trail (EBMUD) vs. East Ridge Trail (EBRPD). On East Ridge - erosion is much more due to bicycle access.</li> <li>o Safety - concerned with speed of bikes and interaction with horses. Nice to have a few trails where we can feel safe.</li> </ul>	29
McCormick	Tracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o All user groups can get along with each other.</li> <li>o Supports mt. bike access on EBMUD watershed trails.</li> <li>o Try a pilot project on a single loop - evaluate this new use.</li> <li>o It isn't fair that this user group is not allowed.</li> </ul>	30
Kirby	Glenn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Commends staff on EIR. Also good elements in the Master Plan.</li> <li>o Recreational and trails - the policies in the draft master plan seem to be result of staff caution rather than forward thinking.</li> <li>o Understands that existing situations (fiscal, available resources) may be limiting, but this does change over time and that the plan should be written to adapt to these changes. Recreational needs and demands will also change over time.</li> <li>o There are opportunities where trail connections can be added, support regional trails, local community connectors, etc.</li> <li>o Multi-user conflicts can be resolved over time.</li> </ul>	31

Brown	Ken	Calif. State Horsemen Assoc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o It is my understanding that EBRPD staff wishes bikes were never allowed on their trails.</li> <li>o Cyclists on EBRPD lands, once only allowed on fire roads - are seeking access to some single track trails.</li> <li>o Opposes mt. bike access on EBMUD trails.</li> </ul>	32
Braussart	Micheal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports mt. bike access on EBMUD.</li> <li>o Cyclists are considerate people.</li> </ul>	33
DuPont	Nancy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Likes the master plan.</li> <li>o Mt. biker help and courtesy has improved greatly.</li> <li>o Speed is a problem - contributes to increased conflict with other trail users.</li> <li>o If you allow bikes, keep them on the fire roads.</li> <li>o Does EBMUD have the patrol to monitor this use?</li> </ul>	34
Fontanne	Gary		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Has foot injury - riding a bike is only option for travel</li> <li>o User conflict - cooperation can eliminate any problems that exist.</li> <li>o Riding on paved roads is dangerous.</li> </ul>	35
<p><b>RICHMOND SEPT. 14, 1995</b></p>				
Najdio	Dan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Said that he was asked by EBMUD staff to do a mountain bike feasibility study in EBMUD watershed lands in 1985-86; also asked to prepare a report that analyzed conditions and appropriateness for bikes. Rode EBMUD lands for 10 months. After 10 months - EBMUD asked him to stop the study, throw away maps and info collected and told him bikes were going to remain prohibited.</li> <li>o Much of EBMUD land is appropriate for bikes because of the existing fire road network (wide, long sight distances)</li> <li>o At least consider a trial period at a specific location.</li> <li>o Can also limit bike access to only the dry months of the year.</li> </ul>	36
Brown	Ron	Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Appreciates support for regional trail linkages and trying to improve trail permit availability.</li> <li>o Pleased with the plan.</li> <li>o Multi-use: recognize cyclists as legitimate trail user group; add guideline that would state EBMUD would look into and evaluate possible areas where mt. bikes could be permitted on EBMUD lands and still be consistent with mission statement and guiding principles. Believes that there are some areas, including the Ridge Trail, where this can be accomplished.</li> <li>o Regional Connector Trails: Plan states regional trail connectors could be looked at in established trail corridors. Believes that there are additional opportunities to utilize existing fire roads for these trails. These should be considered.</li> <li>o Volunteers: Expand policy that will evaluate use of volunteers for trail maintenance to also include trail patrol.</li> <li>o Permit System: Expand policy that asks to evaluate how permits can be more easily obtained to include locations on the trails; purchasing one-day permits.</li> <li>o Potential trail elimination: Any plans to potentially eliminate trails should be reviewed by the public.</li> </ul>	37

Edmonds	Brad	Bicycle Trails Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports bike access on EBMUD fire and access roads.</li> <li>o BTC supports all muscle-powered and non-polluting recreation uses on Bay Area open space.</li> <li>o Does not oppose permit system.</li> <li>o Water quality impacts - small relative to runoff from paved areas and streets.</li> <li>o Bike access should be approved because riders are (1) tax- and ratepayers (2) represent up to 1/2 of the trail user community.</li> <li>o BTC are open space advocates and strong protectors of open space.</li> <li>o In other parts of the country - bikes are allowed on both fire roads as well as some single-track trails; different trail user groups can get along.</li> <li>o Seney study (Montana) - showed bikes have minimal erosion impact.</li> <li>o Mt. bikers are not rogue adventurers; We are responsible members of the trails community. BTC has long history of education and maintaining a bike trail patrol.</li> <li>o Director Seikirk asked about the figure of 48% - how was this computed? (he didn't have an answer). Said he could track down the info.</li> </ul>
Voorhis	David		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports allowing llama access on EBMUD trails (use as pack animals).</li> <li>o takes 8 llamas to have the same physical impact as 1 horse.</li> </ul>
Davis	Ray		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Opposes use of treated sewer water within San Pablo watershed; opposes new land uses proposed by City of Orinda on EBMUD waters</li> <li>o Palos Colorados: test in EBWMP on this development is flawed; public health &amp; safety problem - use of treated sewer water on golf course this development is within the USL watershed. Mr. Davis said that he contacted the subcontractor that prepared that prepared this information and was told that it would be corrected.</li> <li>o He said that this serious flaw in the EBWMP would lead him to file a complaint to the Grand Jury &amp; District Attorney.</li> </ul>
Lancaster	Lisa		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Opposes bike access on EBMUD watershed lands.</li> <li>o EBMUD lands are one of the few places where equestrians feel safe on the trails.</li> <li>o In 6 years - I have only once seen and met one EBMUD ranger on the trail. There is not enough people to patrol this use even if you have volunteer patrols.</li> <li>o Cyclists look for speed and to be aerodynamic; they don't follow the rules and laugh at you when asked to follow rules.</li> </ul>
Lynch	Scott		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Also commented at Walnut Creek hearing</li> <li>o Cited Seney study - bike impact somewhere between horses and hikers.</li> <li>o Supports mt. bike access to EBMUD fire roads.</li> <li>o Feels equestrians are just trying to keep their 28,000 private park to themselves.</li> <li>o Sees fewer and fewer conflicts on the trails each year, even though mt. bike numbers are increasing.</li> <li>o Volunteer bike patrols help educate; bikers are very respectful to equestrians and hikers.</li> <li>o Bike groups also provide valuable trail maintenance work as volunteers, even on trails not open to bikes.</li> <li>o Bike supporters are not trying to gain access at the expense of another user group - feel all groups should have access.</li> <li>o Not asking for special access, just equal access. We are taxpayers and ratepayers.</li> <li>o The difference between horses and mt. bikes - horses leave material that is detrimental to the water supply.</li> <li>o on Mt. Diablo - considering opening up some single-track trail to bikes for climbing only - not descents.</li> </ul>

43	Marsh	Bob	Pinole/Hercules Little League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Looking for a home for Pinole/Hercules Little League (possibly in Simas Valley)</li> <li>o 4 fields, 1,100 kids (including disabled), 2 acres per field needed (includes parking.</li> <li>o Looking for a home for Pinole/Hercules Little League (possibly in Simas Valley)</li> <li>o Looking for an open space location that won't impact residential areas.</li> </ul>
44	Arnold	Dave	Pinole/Hercules Little League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Recently, the current home for the little league has been in jeopardy.</li> <li>o This is a volunteer organization that supports kids and families.</li> </ul>
45	Johnson	Mary		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Would welcome courteous bike riders such as Scott Lynch on the trails.</li> <li>o Comparing open space areas here to areas in other states doesn't work because other areas have large parcels and smaller populations as compared to the bay area. Numbers of users is much higher here.</li> </ul>
46	Collins	Bill		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Supports bike access on the EBMUD watershed.</li> <li>o Seems obvious that a horse has more impact than bikes.</li> <li>o Tired of being associated with irresponsible trail users.</li> <li>o EBMUD is discriminating against bikers.</li> </ul>
47	Shannon	Victoria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Opposes mt. bike access on EBMUD watershed land.</li> <li>o Areas available to horses are limited and getting smaller in number.</li> <li>o There are individuals in all trail user groups that are not responsible users; however, I would suspect that trails open only to hikers and equestrians have fewer accidents.</li> <li>o EBMUD trails provide an excellent place for kids to learn to trail ride and a safe place for older people to ride..</li> </ul>
48	Bergman	Sue		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Opposes bike access on EBMUD watershed lands.</li> <li>o Main concern is the safety of the horses, not to keep the bikes out.</li> </ul>
49	Senti	Chris	Urban Park Concessionaires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Felt that the CAC process was excellent.</li> <li>o Amazed that nobody has commented on picnicking, boating, fishing - which are probably the biggest recreation uses on EBMUD land.</li> <li>o Feels that EBMUD provides high quality recreation, often greater than park districts, etc.</li> <li>o Mildly disappointed that there were not more recommendations to increase recreation on EBMUD lands, but understands that there are fiscal restraints and that recreation is only a small part of what the District does.</li> <li>o Encourages EBMUD to continue to provide recreation on watershed lands.</li> </ul>

**RESPONSE TO TESTIMONY RECEIVED  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**September 12, 1995 Public Hearing (Oakland)**

**Response to Comments from Sarge Littlehale**

1. Refer to responses to comments 3-6 that were submitted in writing.

**Response to Comments from Alan Carlton**

2. A speaker card was submitted but no comments were made during the public hearing.

**Response to Comments from John Nelson**

3. The comments regarding use of District property for a radio-controlled model airplane airport on 5-6 acres and a 40-acre fly zone is acknowledged. The District may elect to consider such a use of watershed property as part of its watershed project evaluation process. The EBWMP does not recommend the requested uses.

**Response to Comments from Michael Kelley**

4. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

**Response to Comments from Craig Williams**

5. The comment is acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

**Response to Comments from John Fazel**

6. The comments are acknowledged. Mr. Fazel's comments regarding access, mountain bikes, and environmental effects are acknowledged and have been addressed in response to comments 74-83 that were submitted in writing by the Orinda Trails Council. The comments regarding not grandfathering existing uses is acknowledged. The District has reviewed all

of the watershed uses as part of the master planning process. Many of the existing watershed programs and activities will be continued, such as concessionaire operations at San Pablo and Chabot Reservoirs, trail use, and Lafayette Reservoir recreation operations. Some additional recreation program elements have been recommended, such as trail access associated with the Bay Area Ridge Trail and American Discovery/Coast to Crest Trail and community center facilities at San Pablo Reservoir. The EBWMP recommends only minor increases in recreation facilities or use levels and, in general, does not provide for expansion of recreation or trail facilities into watershed areas that do not already support these activities.

The EBWMP provides considerable flexibility in managing high-priority watershed programs, including maintaining the current recreation program, to ensure that watershed management is comprehensive and well coordinated among competing programs.

#### **Responses to Comments from Peter Bluhon**

7. The comments are acknowledged. All of Mr. Bluhon's comments have been addressed in responses to comments 20-26 that were submitted in writing by the East Bay Area Trails Council. The District did consider the Trails Adjunct Committee's (TAC) comments during the master planning process and has balanced the needs of the recreation program with those of other high-priority watershed programs, such as the water quality, biodiversity, fire and fuels management, and forestry management programs. Because the District's program funding is finite, a balance is necessary to ensure that watershed programs are implemented wisely and in a fiscally responsible manner. Providing for future expansion of the District's recreation programs would require staff and program funds to be shifted from other high-priority programs.

#### **Response to Comments from Michael Fuhrer**

8. The comments are acknowledged. All of Mr. Fuhrer's comments have been addressed in responses to comments 11-14 that were submitted in writing.

#### **Responses to Comments from William McGee**

9. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Fred Bedall**

10. The comments regarding staff priorities, reducing grazing impacts, and mountain biking are acknowledged.

### **Response to Comments from Mark Woost**

11. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Ray Davis**

12. The comments regarding water quality, watershed management for appropriate land uses, and support of the plan are acknowledged. The discussion of Palos Colorados in Section 5 of the EBWMP has been amended slightly to reflect current conditions.

## **September 12, 1995 Public Hearing (Walnut Creek)**

### **Response to Comments from Joseph Goldstein**

13. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Rosemarie Haffert**

14. The comments are acknowledged.

### **Response to Comments from Renée Roberge**

15. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Scott Lynch**

16. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Steve Fiala**

17. The comments regarding trail access are acknowledged. The EBWMP does not recommend substantial expansion of the District's trail system. Future proposals may be evaluated at the District's discretion using the watershed project evaluation process. Guideline DRT.20 indicates that the District will explore the feasibility of volunteer programs for trail maintenance. The EBWMP does not recommend changes to the Lafayette Reservoir bicycle policy. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments of Don DeFremery**

18. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Jim Toland**

19. The comments are acknowledged. Mr. Toland's comments are addressed in response to comments 93-119 submitted in writing from the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District.

### **Response to Comments from Jim Cutler**

20. The comments are acknowledged. The land ownership program guidelines have been modified slightly to be consistent with Policy 21 guidance. The District has also added guideline CC.7 in Section 5 of the EBWMP to address the District's endorsement of the BHAPA. Refer also to responses to comments 200-220 submitted in writing.

### **Responses to Comments from Mark Lewis**

21. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Responses to Comments from Ralph Kratche**

22. The comments are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Frank Blanchard**

23. The comments are acknowledged. The EBWMP presents guidelines in the water quality program and livestock grazing program that address reducing effects of cattle and horses on watershed resources and reservoir water quality. The District cannot directly answer the commenter's hypothetical question regarding conflicts between bicycles and horses. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Bert Weinstein**

24. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Dean Farrie**

25. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

### **Response to Comments from Dean Cardinet**

26. The comments regarding mountain bike use are acknowledged. Refer to the District's general response to comments regarding bicycle access on watershed lands presented at the beginning of this chapter.

## **Response to Comments from Chris Senti**

49. The comments regarding the CAC process and current recreation use are acknowledged. The District believes that, given its primary purpose as a water supply agency, it currently provides outstanding recreation opportunities at facilities run by concessionaires and District staff.