

EAST BAY REGIONAL



PARK DISTRICT

03 NOV 20 PM 2:08

November 18, 2003

Contra Costa County
 Community Development Department
 651 Pine Street, 4th Floor, North Wing
 Martinez, CA 94553
 Attention: Deidra Dingman

Re: DEIR for WCCSL Bulk Materials Processing Center and Related
 Actions

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Dear Deidra:

Thank you for providing East Bay Regional Park District with the opportunity to comment on this project DEIR.

The project lies adjacent to a planned segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail) and incorporates a spur of the Bay Trail circling the boundary of the landfill. East Bay Regional Park District has been working with the West Contra Costa Wastewater Agency to extend the Bay Trail from Wildcat Creek to San Pablo Creek, next to the boundary of the landfill. The recently completed engineering/feasibility study identifies the trail alignment and points out the convenient connection to the planned parking area and trail system included in the DEIR for the landfill. This trail connection should be noted in the DEIR as well as the opportunity for shared use of the parking for Bay Trail purposes.

5-1

The Park District operates many miles of shoreline trails, and we have learned many lessons on barrier and trail designs. Based on our experience, we have found that few members of the public gravitate to slogging into a muddy marsh, whereas dogs do not make such choices. Because there will be no access for dogs or other pets along the trail, the need for a barrier planting of blackberry and poison oak seems very unnecessary as proposed in the plan. The attraction of the trail is to view natural areas, not hide them.

5-2

In addition, both blackberry and poison oak are more adapted to and prefer woodland environments with adequate moisture to keep them vital. This location would not likely support that type of planting without irrigation and the on-going and time consuming maintenance associated with managed landscaping. If a barrier is absolutely required, a low profile fence that does not obscure view should be more than enough of a deterrent.

5-3

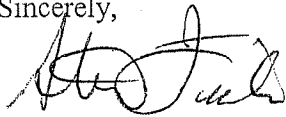


Ms. D. Dingman
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The Park District supports the development of a recreation component for this site as the location provides some wonderful bay viewing experiences. The opportunity to connect to a regional trail leading to other destinations, such as Wildcat Creek Trail, and in the future, Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline, also make this an important piece in Richmond's public shoreline resources.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me should you have questions about any of our design and management strategies for shoreline trails.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Fiala", written in a cursive style.

Steve Fiala
Trails Development Program Manager

cc: L. Thompson, SF Bay Trail Project
B. Beyaert, TRAC