

Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar
PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 | midcoastcommunitycouncil.org*

Gus Mattammal | **Gregg Dieguez** | **Scott Bollinger** | **Ann Rothman** | **Dan Haggerty** | **Claire Toutant** |
Chair Vice-Chair Treasurer Secretary | **Kimberly Williams**

Date: April 10, 2024
To: David Smith, Golden Gate National Parks
Kirsten Holder, National Parks Service
From: Midcoast Community Council
Subject: Community Feedback from our March 27th meeting on Rancho Corral de Tierra

The Midcoast Community Council thanks you again for coming to our March 27th meeting to share the current state of planning for Rancho Corral de Tierra. In addition to the community feedback you heard directly in the meeting, we also received a large number of written comments before, during, and immediately after the meeting - continuing to this day. A compilation of those written comments is attached for your review.

In addition, a chart classifying the individual comments is attached. The chart identifies several themes in the written comments and tallies up all instances of each theme, so you can see which themes are most commonly articulated. For example, the most commonly cited theme, the adverse effect of eliminating or significantly curtailing equestrian activities in RCdT on the local economy, showed up in 59% of the comments. Preserving the long-established equestrian culture in the area came in a close second, at 57% of comments. The full list of themes and frequencies of occurrence are in the attached chart. The individual comments are numbered and referenced as well for your convenience.

The MCC looks forward to being a productive partner with GGNRA as we continue to help give voice to the members of our community, many of whom have deeply felt emotional connections to RCdT in its current state and capacity, and we hope to help guide the upcoming project to a successful result, one that meets the needs and concerns of all stakeholders.

Respectfully,

s/Gus Mattammal, Chair

	50.00%	59.52%	57.14%	50.00%	38.10%	9.52%	23.81%	26.19%
Exhibit	<u>Insufficient Input or communication</u>	<u>Adverse Economic Impact</u>	<u>Area History of Equestrian Use/Culture</u>	<u>Lack of available alternatives (proximity and/or affordability)</u>	<u>Maintain current number of horses</u>	<u>Enviro impacts are solvable</u>	<u>Horses as therapy</u>	<u>Other safety/quality of life issues</u>
1	x	x	x	x				
2	x	x	x	x			x	
3	x		x		x	x		
4							x	
5			x					
6	x		x	x	x			
7				x	x			
8								x
9	x	x	x		x			
10	x		x		x			
11	x							
12		x		x				
13		x	x					
14	x	x	x		x	x		
15			x	x				
16	x	x		x			x	
17	x							x
18		x						x
19	x	x		x				
20	x	x	x	x				
21	x	x	x		x	x	x	
22		x	x	x			x	x
23	x							x
24				x				
25		x	x	x	x			
26	x		x		x			x
27	x	x	x	x	x			
28	x		x	x	x			

Exhibit 1

Annie Ellicott <annie@leapup.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 4:01 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com, Coastside Horse Council <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

I am a longstanding equestrian, open space advocate and horse-boarder. I was beyond shocked to learn of the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra. This plan (with NO public input solicited or received) should be immediately shelved and a representative community group should be assembled which appropriately recognizes the many interests of equestrians, among others, who use this land and their facilities. Since the local community has zero interest in getting rid of folks boarding their horses, I am curious about where this plan even came from? How is it that it was never made public, had no public review and is dated 2021??

The local economy depends on the business equestrians bring to this area. They work with dog walkers, hikers, naturalists and others to maintain trails and provide safety to those using them. There has been a thriving horse community in this area for decades which embraces many, from summer camp kids to farriers to feed store owners to boarders and trail riders. Horses are part of California's history but unfortunately, increasingly under threat. The equestrian community has been disenfranchised repeatedly with barns closing all over California for decades. There are no other horse boarding options within a reasonable commute from the Moss Beach area which are not already full (Half Moon Bay) or are unaffordable (Woodside, Palo Alto etc.) The GGNRA needs to actively serve the interests of the entire community in Rancho by improving access for all members of the public to horses, including boarders, not reduce access for specific groups they choose to single out as "unworthy".

I am saddened by this situation as GGNRA is supposed to be a good steward public lands. I hope they will take the right step here in the face of widespread community distrust and disappointment.

Exhibit 2

Winton H. E. Davies <daviesw@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 4:25 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com, Coastside Horse Council <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

My name is Winton Davies, we live in the Inner Sunset in San Francisco, and our family have a half-lease on a horse that is boarded at Ocean View Farms. My family lives in the city and this is the closest horse boarding facility that we have access to. The last place was in Pacifica but it closed to become a mega-church. My son who suffers from Sensory Processing Disorder experiences therapeutic relief when he is able to ride a horse regularly.

If this boarding is taken away it will not be possible for him to continue to maintain this relationship with horses as the other options are too far away. I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside. It is quite shameful that the Parks Conservancy have tried to railroad this through without consulting the regular users of these facilities and trails. One wonders what their real motivations are - semi-privatization of Rancho, installation of their own managers and profit centers (see this article for example, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/privatization-coming-to-national-parks-what-does-that-mean>)

Yours faithfully,
Winton Davies

Exhibit 3

Amy Tezza <vallemar2@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 5:58 PM

Dear MidCoast, community council members and officials from the GGNRA,

My name is Amy Tezza. I represent Coastside dogs, which is an organization dedicated to improving dog access to public lands. I've also lived on the Coastside for almost 30 years walk my dog regularly in Rancho regularly and I maintain dog poop bags stations while there.

I didn't see any mention of the dogs in your plans for this area, but I hope you will continue to permit dog access. My experience walking in this area, surrounded by a horse ranches, has been conflict free. I don't have any issues sharing the trails with the horses and they seem to have no issues with me.

Apparently there were plans to potentially reduce the number of ranches in this area, however I don't know of anyone who actually lives here thinks this is a good idea. And horse boarding facilities need to be retained as there is a large equestrian community here on the Coast.

Horses and horse riding are an integral part of living here in the MidCoast. I don't want to see any restriction in the number of horses or number of ranches in the new plans. If there are concerns about trail, erosion or fecal contamination of waterways, I am sure ways to mitigate such factors while maintaining the horses and ranches in the area.

Our community does best when we can all interact peacefully during our outdoors adventures. Bikes, dogs, people and horses can (and do) all coexist. Eliminating horses from this area or curtailing the number allowed would radically change the nature of the Coastside.

Better communication from GGNRA (local, public meetings) would be helpful in addressing and hopefully allaying some of the concerns and about the "new plans" for this area.

Hoping to hear some more details about proposed changes at the meeting tonight.

Sincerely,
Amy Tezza
Coastside Dog

Exhibit 4

Anna Isler <annaisler1@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:08 PM

I am writing in support of keeping the current amount of horse boarding facilities.
They are worthy neighbors, many of whom provide therapeutic riding for members of the coast, including my daughter.
Thank you for your willingness to listen.

Anna Harris
Pacifica (and supporter of Moss Beach Ranch)

Exhibit 5

Sheila Brogna <sheilabrogna@sbcglobal.net>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:33 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

I live in Montara and have a small ranch in the back there where I keep 4 horses...my friends and I regularly ride through CDT and the surrounding trails....We very much appreciate the stables there, because there are other riders around, and the trails and pathways are maintained for riding. The equestrian community is a vital part of this area, and I don't think reducing it enhances the area at all! There are plenty of opportunities for hiking, bicycles, and dog walking in the area....we don't have to reduce horse boarding for that. Having the boarders and riders make this open space much safer and more accessible. I oppose the reduction in the boarding facilities.

Sheila Brogna

Exhibit 6

Cris Bliss lavenderfanatic@yahoo.com
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com
Cc: coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:51 PM

Hello. My name is Cris Bliss. I have lived here on the coast since I was 5 years old. My family and I have ridden and boarded horses here as well. I am not wealthy. I could never, ever afford to own any coastal property that I could keep horses on. I have 3 horses and a llama happily living at a ranch on Rancho Corral de Tierra. It is a beautiful, peaceful, and well maintained ranch called Ember Ridge. My oldest horse living there, Joker, is 36 years old. My llama Sierra is 30 years old. They live a wonderful life on Rancho.

I am writing with deep concerns about the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra and the disastrous effects it will have on the local equestrian community. I rely on these facilities and have no other options for boarding or riding horses in the Coastside community. I recently read GGNRA's Rancho Corral de Tierra draft Comprehensive Site Management Plan proposing eliminating two boarding stables, and consolidating and downsizing the other two. 220 horses being boarded at RCDT would be cut down to 40 horses or fewer. If this boarding is taken away, my family and I will not be able to afford boarding at areas that are much more expensive than at RCDT or farther away. The Coastside community of regular Rancho users and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy that contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County. The local horse community would be destroyed. There have been no public meetings about the plan in Moss Beach and Montara despite the GGNRA's claim that they have collected community feedback.

I am asking that community meetings about the plan be held in the neighboring Coastside communities, and to include equestrians, who have regularly visited and cared for RCDT for decades. We are a huge part of this community. We deserve to be heard. I am also asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses. This is an important part of our lives and community. I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture that is already thriving and enriching our lives here now and forever.

Best regards,
Cris Bliss

Exhibit 7

Jennifer Harden <82soiljen@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:53 PM

For the past 40 years, I have boarded horses on what is now Rancho Corral de Tierra. I can't afford private land; boarding nearby is now restricted to Rancho stables. I am a care-giver for my family and need to be closeby for emergencies, thus stables on Rancho lands are my last resort. The plan and its goals and metrics for "the park" needs to be revised to accomodate horses I, now deemed "recreational " animals much like Rancho.

We as horse owners are in the crosshairs between open space and federal parks. We need special attention to preserve and sustain horses on the coast.

- I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding .
- The GGNRA plan should reflect commitment to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses.

Jen Harden
Sent from my iPhone

Exhibit 8

Double J Ranch <backahorse@hotmail.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 7:05 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

I am the Director of the Double J Ranch located at [1208 Alamo St, Montara CA 94037](#). I understand your objective of trying open up the park to more users. What I think you do not understand is that by opening up the area to more non-equine users, you are threatening the lives of all users. Horse trail riding does not mix very well with hiking and bicycle riders. Currently the proportion of equine riders to other users provides an adequate safety margin so that there have been very few serious accidents. As it is, I have encountered some close calls where my horse has almost collided with a hiker.

Over the years I can recall a group of school kids picnicking right on the trail as well as persons sitting on the trail enjoying the view. When you increase the use of the trails, what you will get is an increase in the number of stupid people doing stupid things. Your Plan will definitely increase the probability of a serious accident.

People will say that you will just need to have better control your horse which is true. But equine persons know that horses can be stupid themselves when they spook from the rustle of animals in the bushes or like my horse that can go nuts when he passes other horses.

You are probably going to do what you set out to do regardless of what the equine people say but I hope you remember this email when someone is killed from a horse related accident.

One suggestion is that your plan should include the widening of trails so that there is always room for two-way traffic since a horse will most of the time try to avoid colliding with someone if there is room to do so.

Regards, Joe Sarasua

Exhibit 9

Jennifer T <jennifer.tarkiainen@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 7:16 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

Dear Council,

My name is Jennifer Tarkiainen, long-time resident of Half Moon Bay and my family enjoys riding and ensuring ongoing access for horses at Rancho Corral de Tierra.

It is disappointing to learn that the Coastside community of regular Rancho users and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy that contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County. When will Coastside residents be asked to provide feedback?

There have been no public meetings about the plan in Montara despite the GGNRA's timeline that showed during the already completed "community brainstorm and feedback" phase the "project team will collect community feedback, develop project goals, and share draft planning alternative scenarios" (2020 – 2023).

I am asking that community meetings about the plan must be held in the neighboring Coastside communities, not only on the Bay side of the county, and to include equestrians, who have regularly visited and cared for RCDT for decades.

I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses.

I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Tarkiainen

Exhibit 10

Graham Brew <gecbrew@yahoo.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 7:35 PM

Reply-To: Graham Brew <gecbrew@yahoo.com>

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

I am writing concerning the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra. I live closely adjacent to the Rancho and visit almost every day. The equestrian community is a beloved and vibrant part of this community and this landscape. They make wonderful neighbors and have been part of the fabric of the Coastside for generations. The proposed massive reduction in equestrian boarding seems both unnecessary and rushed. I have not been made aware of any public consultation prior to making these sweeping and far-reaching suggestions. What is the sudden motivation for this unannounced change? I strongly support leaving the long-established equestrian boarding at Rancho Corral de Tierra at the current levels.

Respectfully, Graham Brew, Montara, CA

Exhibit 11

Caeli Collins <caeli.collins@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com
Cc: coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 7:57 PM

I'm writing to express my concern with the GGNRA master draft plan for Rancho Corral de Tierra. The plan has failed to meet the standard I expect when proposing a change of this magnitude that affects this much of our community. There should be public hearings and opportunities for input as part of the master plan planning process, not after a draft is already published,

It is apparent from the draft proposal that the horse community was not part of the process, and that the staff that wrote the draft plan has little to no concept of the value the community holds the horse community in. This area is supposed to be a shared resource, one used by all of the community and the draft plan eliminates a significant population of regular users of the area.

The plan talks about having the project team collect community input as part of the development process, but this appears to have been sadly lacking, and the current "Tea with" meetings make a mockery of the idea of community outreach in terms of notifications and access.

My request is for a restart of the process, with a true community outreach program that is well publicized and planned with plenty of time for people to attend. It is very concerning the way the present plan has been developed and I request immediate attention to improving the proposal.

Regards,

--

Caeli Collins, a coastside resident

Exhibit 12

DeLeeuw DVM <deleewdvm@yahoo.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 10:11 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

To whom it may concern at GGNRA,

My name is Kari DeLeeuw and I am an equine veterinarian who lives walking distance from Rancho Corral de Tierra. I moved here from WA in 2008 after hiking, mountain biking and riding horses with a friend who lives in the neighborhood.

I've purchased a home, created a business and raised a family around the horse community here. My boys and I ride our horses on the GGNRA land multiple times per week and it would be devastating to lose that.

I am an Equine Veterinarian and 75% of my patients are on the Coastside, with the majority of those at Ocean View, Ember Ridge and Moss Beach Ranch. Losing this would have a major financial impact on my family.

I would like to invite anyone who works at the GGNRA to accompany me on a ride (no experience necessary, I'll lead you on a gentle horse) through MBR, ER and up above Pigs Pond. Once you feel the difference and experience the trails on horseback, you will not want to destroy this magic. Many of my clients have worked all their lives to be able to have a horse. Most could not afford board over the hill. It will be tragic for so many of them, I can't even imagine. It is also extremely stressful on horses to move ranches. Many of the horses at these ranches have lived there most or all of their lives, and have had the same horses surrounding them for years. Some are extremely old and trailering would not be safe. Please take their needs into consideration also.

Thank you for your time,

Kari DeLeeuw

Kari De Leeuw DVM, CVA, VSMT, CCIR
Equine Holistic Sports Medicine

Exhibit 13

Beth Pielert <bpielert@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 11:56 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

Since I was a little girl, I've been an avid horse and nature lover. Growing up in Minnesota, I was a feral child, staying out all day, eating crab apples as I roamed the creeks and woods near my house. When I was really lucky, I got to escape to Wisconsin and ride my friend's chunky appaloosa named Bear.

Owning a horse was a dream and it wasn't until I turned 40 that I finally found my horse, a one-year-old filly named BL. I brought her home to the Coastside where she has resided near the Rancho Corral de Tierra since 2012.

One of the amazing things about access to Rancho is the opportunity to encounter hikers, birders, people with their dogs, bikers, and even seniors who get driven out on occasion for an 'excursion'. Sharing my horse with them reminds me of myself when I was a little girl—delighted at the wonder of being near such a beautiful creature.

As a resident of Half Moon Bay, I love driving down HWY 1 where I occasionally get a glimpse of the Vaqueros with their white hats and detailed saddles riding along in the late afternoon. I treasure the unique horse culture here on the Coastside. It's part of what makes our home so special.

Horses have been here for hundreds of years and have been an essential part of the landscape. I cannot imagine it being any other way. As Alice Walker once wrote, 'Horses Make a Landscape Look More Beautiful'. I urge you, our elected officials, and the GGNRA to please preserve the horse culture here and the socio-economic benefits they bring to our community. Shrinking boarding opportunities will result in horses fading away.

Thank you for your consideration.

B. Pielert, proud horse momma and Coastsider.

Beth Pielert

Producer/Writer/Director

Exhibit 14

Brenda Melton <brendamelton4@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 9:07 AM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

Hello,

My name is Brenda Melton and I live in Montara. My family enjoys hiking, biking and dog walking on the trails at Rancho Corral de Tierra. My kids enjoy horseback riding at our local ranches. These activities are a big part of why we live here.

I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra and the seemingly negative effects it will have on the equestrian community, in addition to having questions regarding the proposed camping areas.

The GGNRA's Rancho Corral de Tierra draft Comprehensive Site Management Plan proposes eliminating two boarding stables, and consolidating and significantly downsizing the other two; 220 horses being boarded at RCDT would be cut down to 40 horses or fewer. I have reviewed the 2023 plan and understand there are habitat restoration and floodplain issues that need to be addressed. I support this, and also believe it can be done without decreasing the boarding capacity for our local stables. The Coastside community of regular Rancho users and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy when they contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County.

There have not been public meetings about the plan in Montara/Moss Beach despite the GGNRA's timeline that shows they already completed the community brainstorm and feedback phase. I am asking that community meetings about the plan be held in the neighboring Coastside communities, not only on the Bay side of the county, and to include equestrians, who have regularly visited and cared for RCDT for decades.

I am asking that the GGNRA modify its current draft plan that calls for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses. I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside. Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Melton

Exhibit 15

Kris Thoren, T-GN <Kris.Thoren@tecan.com>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 10:52 AM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

Hello, my name is Kris Thoren and I live and keep my horse at a local Coastside boarding facility.

I am very concerned about the GGNRA draft plan for Rancho Corral de Tierra. I rely on horse boarding facilities in the Rancho and have no other options for boarding or riding in the Coastside. The current plans for eliminating/consolidating/ and generally downsizing boarding stables is truly alarming, both in terms of my own horse and also the loss of the general equestrian/rural character that is an important facet of the Coastside's ambiance and culture. We should not be endeavoring to change and eliminate the very things that give the Coastside its unique character.

Thank you for your time,

Kris

Exhibit 16

Name: Ellen Shireman

City: San Francisco 94110

RCDT Activities:

Horseback trail riding, horse arena use, riding lessons at RCDT horse ranches, having my horse trained by professional trainer at an RCDT horse ranch, private boarding, trail hiking, dog walking.

Questions for the GGNRA Superintendent:

1) Your proposed RCDT plans (2021 +draft 2023) propose elimination or severe restriction of private horse boarding, public riding lessons and training arenas.

o Where do you think the horses will go to?

o Where are the stables or ranches within 50 miles of Half Moon Bay that can accommodate an influx of 200 horses?

o Where will non-horse owners have access to riding lessons?

2) Each horse is cared for by a family and team of professionals. The current census of 220 horses represents over a thousand people, that are actively engaged in the RCDT.

o Why has there been no outreach to these daily users of the RCDT?

o When were public hearings held in the Half Moon Bay Area?

3) Each horse requires the services of farriers, veterinarians, equine dentists, trainers, riding teachers and of course, feed stores.

o What outreach has been done to warn these service providers of the upcoming losses to their businesses?

4) Your proposed RCDT (2021 +draft 2023) plans' elimination of private horse boarding, will close the children's summer-camp horse programs, equine therapy program for neurodiverse children and young adults, and potentially the 4-H Club. The programs will close because they need to own and board horses that are specially trained to work with the public.

o Why is no accommodation for these valuable public programs included in your plans?

Exhibit 17

Manisha Davesar <mkipp49@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 11:59 AM

Hello

I am a resident of the coastside; I have been for the last 8 years while my husband was born and raised here.

Over the years we have seen an influx of rush, traffic, and people. While we are happy everyone is able to enjoy the beautiful coast, I think it is highly unethical and inequitable to remove horse ranches in Montara, which would displace a non profit equine program so that people can camp overnight.

With beach goers and campers, we have experienced people be disrespectful to our properties and beaches. Our neighbors have found beach goers peeing on the side of our fence. That is not the kind of tourism I want, especially at the cost of displacing a vibrant community and rescued animals.

You can't just think about how this would generate money, rather you also have to think about the people and communities you are impacting by this decision. It isn't just the residents like me, but also people who work on these horse ranches and the animals themselves. You get a lot of \$\$ in property tax, maybe pay city officials less and use that money for the communities you are supposed to serve, instead of trying to generate even more tourism that negatively impacts the people and animals in the area.

Have you actually surveyed what the community wants? Have you actually conducted a community needs or impact assessment? As a social scientist/ applied researcher, I find it concerning that a decision is being made without engaging the broader community.

Exhibit 18

Sean Hanson <shanson@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 12:26 PM

My name is Sean Hanson and I am a resident of Montara. I am writing about the GGNRA draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra and the negative effects it will have on my community.

The removal of several equestrian ranches will be devastating in multiple ways; evicting a non profit serving a diverse and underserved community, eliminating ranches used by the San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group that rescued over 150 animals during the CZU Lightning Complex Fires, as well as decimating the local economy supporting these ranches with maintenance, feed, veterinary care, training, ferrier and other services.

I am also very concerned about the proposed camping sites. Geico, State Farm, and other major insurers are no longer renewing homeowners insurance in the area due to increased fire risk. Introducing overnight camping will expand the difficulty and cost of obtaining a required service to continue living in the area. In addition, Jim Sullivan has mentioned reports of water contamination but failed to provide any data to support these claims, and overnight camping will likely increase any such contamination.

Lastly, without significant infrastructure improvements the influx of visitors will multiply congestion and stress on already fragile resources where we regularly lose power and cell phone service for days on end, and traffic already blocks narrow highways and streets impeding emergency vehicles and public transportation.

In conclusion, the GGNRA is acting in bad faith by not substantiating claims or engaging the local community before putting forth a plan with such drastic changes. I sincerely hope the GGNRA incorporates feedback and submits a revised plan addressing the concerns of the people who call the mid coast home.

Thank you for your time,
Sean Hanson

Exhibit 19

Dianne Gresser <diannegresser@yahoo.com>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 1:28 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

To Whom it may concern at GGNRA,

My name is Dianne Gresser and I have been living, riding, and boarding horses in Moss Beach and Pacifica for over 25 years. I have shared the trail system at Rancho Corral de Tierra with ecologists, hikers, bird watchers, other equestrians, bike riders, dog walkers, and have contributed economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside.

Eliminating two boarding stables and consolidating- majorly downsizing the other two: **would be truly devastating**. Many, including my horses, would be displaced with no viable options nearby. Vets, ranch workers, trainers, boarders, HORSES, and families that depend on services offered by these facilities would be greatly impacted and, in many cases, lose their livelihood.

The Coastside community of regular Rancho users and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy that contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County. **When** will Coastside residents be asked to provide feedback? We would love that opportunity.

There have been no public meetings about the plan in Montara despite the GGNRA's timeline that showed during the already completed "community brainstorm and feedback" phase the "project team will collect community feedback, develop project goals, and share draft planning alternative scenarios" (2020 – 2023).

I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding. The decision requires mindfulness and consideration of all the impacts it will make.

Please come visit us.

Thank you,

Dianne Gresser, Pacifica CA

Exhibit 20

On Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 1:17 PM Diane Johnson <bearbeads@aol.com> wrote:

Diane Johnson
El Granada, CA

My family has enjoyed horse riding and hiking the beautiful trails for many years!

- I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho and the negative effects it will have on the equestrian community.
- I have boarded horses for over 25 years at rancho in moss beach. There is no other option for me that would be convenient or affordable.
- I am asking that community meetings about the plan must be held in the neighboring Coastside communities, not only on the Bay side of the county.
- I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding.
- I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside

Exhibit 21

Coastside Horse Council <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 2:42 PM

The Board of the Coastside Horse Council is writing to the MCC to express our deep concern with the GGNRA, which is presenting an update on the RCDT Comprehensive Site Management Plan at tonight's meeting. We are concerned that the plan calls for eliminating equestrian ranches and removing most of the 220 horses boarded at RCDT by Coastside residents. This will devastate the vibrant equestrian community, which has been an integral part of RCDT lands for decades, providing economic benefits for the Coastside.

We ask the Superintendent to address critical issues about the plan and its development that the GGNRA staff has not adequately answered. **The GGNRA's response that this is only a preliminary draft plan should not be used as an excuse to avoid answering questions. All of their online documents call for the removal of the majority of horses from the RCDT. They must explain why.**

- How many of the 220 horses that are currently boarded in stalls or pastures will be allowed to remain under the plan?
- The current plan will remove a significant source of recreation and education for children who love riding lessons, learning about horsemanship, and forming new friendships. How does the GGNRA reconcile this with its mission as a recreation area?
- The GGNRA claims that these horses are the source of water contamination. What supporting data does the GGNRA possess?
- What is the role of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, which solicited feedback about Rancho throughout greater San Mateo County yet bypassed local stakeholders and user groups in its 2022-2023 community engagement study?
- How does the GGNRA reconcile continuing to solicit feedback for the Rancho plan with the contradiction of its own public timeline showing that the "community brainstorm and feedback" phase has already been completed, where the "project team will collect community feedback, develop project goals, and share draft planning alternative scenarios" (2020-2023)?

The Horse Council is asking the GGNRA for transparency and a dramatic shift in your responsiveness to Coastside families caring for animals at Rancho and taking care of this land for generations.

Larry De Young
President, Coastside Horse Council

Exhibit 22

Molly Rice <drgulch@yahoo.com>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 3:43 PM

Reply-To: Molly Rice <drgulch@yahoo.com>

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

Dear GGNRA,

I'm writing in response to the master draft plan for Rancho Corral de Tierra and its negative impact on equestrians and horses. I am a Montara resident for over 2 decades and my children are 3rd generation Half Moon Bay residents. I am a local veterinarian and I moved to Montara after graduating vet school because of the equestrian facilities next to the trail system. I value the peace and tranquility and nature that GGNRA has preserved and very grateful for it. I enjoy seeing my fellow equestrians, quietly gliding across the trails but cringe when I see large hiking groups, speaking loudly, letting their dogs run off leash, flying drones and leaving trash and dog poop. I fear that your plans would increase this noisy/negative traffic and adversely impact wildlife, the nature and people like me who rely quiet, peace, and nature, with their horse, for their mental health.

Eliminating 2 boarding facilities would leave many horses and owners with no options as many local horse owners (who likely also rely on their horses for their mental health) would not be able to afford other boarding facilities. It would have a huge negative financial impact on the owners and employees of the ranches as well. It would change the culture of the coastside and be devastating to those of us who came to and stay on the coastside because of the horse culture and facilities.

Please give us a chance to voice our opinion and re-consider your plan and how it would impact residents and equestrians and the local culture.

Molly Rice, DVM
Montara, CA

Exhibit 23

Aura DeMare <aurademare@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 3:26 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

Hello,

My name is Aura DeMare and I have been a resident in Montara since June of 2016. I use the GGNRA trails and adjacent State Park lands on a daily basis with my on-leash dog, often with friends who visit from out of town. I have also volunteered with the conservancy to help clear invasive species in the area. I enjoy sharing the trails with the local horse community and others, and want to ensure all of the local community is involved in any planning for this area. What we have now is a very synergistic and respectful use of land by dog walkers, hikers, equestrians, and even mountain bikers. I am aware that the local community has been very involved in establishing and maintaining a model use of this land, and have clearly earned a valued presence in deciding how this resource is maintained going forward.

I have some concerns that the nearby community has not been involved or included in plans that will directly affect us, including the potential removal of horse boarding facilities, and I am concerned that the small amount of land stewardship and education by the Conservancy has been poorly developed, noting two examples: the cartoon signage that was placed in three areas depicts unrealistic versions of animals that can be encountered in the area; and current flyers soliciting volunteers invite them to work in a "National Park", which the GGNRA is not, rather it is a National Recreation Area. I respectfully request that those familiar with the history and nature of the land, i.e., those who live and board animals here, and those who have worked tirelessly to create the shared environment that is here now, be included in any planning going forward.

Thank you,
Aura DeMare
Montara Resident

Exhibit 24

Anne Chen <anne@annechen.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 2:41 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com, coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

To the Midcoast Community Council:

I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA Master draft plan at the Rancho Corral de Tierra and the negative impacts it'll have on my family and the community.

My husband and I were first introduced to the Rancho Corral de Tierra when I started taking horseback riding lessons at Ocean View Farms. In 2019 we purchased our home in Montara and moved from San Francisco because the Rancho trails allowed us to enjoy our hobbies, horseback riding and cycling, together.

We now have our own horse, one that has lived at Ember Ridge for more than 14 years. We rely on the equestrian facilities and will have no other options for boarding or riding horses on the coastside based on the draft plan.

We, along with everyone who comes to visit us, would never have known of the beauty of the Rancho Corral de Tierra if it weren't for horses. I urge you to think of the benefits horses bring to our community and ask that GGNRA solicits feedback from coastside residents and equestrians on the future of Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Thanks for your consideration.

Anne Chen

Exhibit 25

Dorothy Cordell <dotcordell@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 11:41 AM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

Greetings,

My name is Dorothy Cordell, I live in El Granada and keep my horses at Ember Ridge ranch Moss Beach CA. I enjoy Rancho and have lived near it for many years, my family and I enjoy hiking, biking, dog walking and horseback riding on the Rancho.

I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA master plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra and the negative effects it will have on the equestrian community.

I board my horses on Rancho. I rely on these facilities and have no other options for boarding or riding horses in the coastside community. The GGNRA's Rancho Corral de Tierra draft Comprehensive Site Management Plan proposes eliminating two boarding stables, and consolidating and significantly downsizing the other two: 220 horses being boarded at RCDDT would be cut down to 40 horses or fewer.

If this boarding is taken away it will not be feasible for me to afford boarding at areas that are much more expensive than at RCDDT or farther away.

I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses.

I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside.

Thank you

Exhibit 26

Jennifer Castner <pennifer@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 4:27 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: Coastside Horse Council <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>, Camozzi Robin

<rcamozzi@hmbfeedandfuel.com>

I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra (RCdT) and the negative effects it will have on the equestrian community.

The GGNRA's RCdT draft Comprehensive Site Management Plan proposes eliminating two boarding stables, and consolidating and significantly downsizing the other two.

My horse is stabled at Ember Ridge at RCdT, and he has lived coastside since 2005. He is blind and physically unable to be moved off-site. I will have no choice but to euthanize him if GGNRA eliminates horse boarding.

The Coastside community of regular Rancho users and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy that contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County.

I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses.

I am asking that the GGNRA preserve equestrian culture and its economic and social benefits that are vital to the Coastside. Not only do equestrians use the horse ranches, but – just a few examples – hundreds of local school children visit for riding lessons and camps, tourists enjoy trail rides, equestrians participate in maintaining trails, participating in local parades, and the San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group (<https://smclaeeg.org/>) trains and practices at Ember Ridge Ranch, tirelessly serving the entire Coastside community and beyond.

(During the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire and in cooperation with fire and rescue, 198 volunteers (many of whom have horses and trailers at RCdT ranches) safely moved and provided housing, care, and feeding for 1,546 animals, more than a few on RCdT sites.)

Sincerely
Ember Ridge horse-owner
Jennifer Castner (East Lansing Michigan)

Lori Rhodes <redtail_ranch@icloud.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 5:56 PM

Dear Midcoast Community Council,

- I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra and the negative effects it will have on the equestrian community.
- I am the owner and operator of Redtail Ranch of Montara. My husband and I operate Redtail Ranch on our own - we have no employees. We are unique in the Rancho equestrian centers in that half of the property is GGNRA and half is our private property.
- We have about 20 horses at our boarding stable. We subsidize horse ownership on the coast. Many of my borders moved to the coast so that they could be close to horses. We do this because we are a passionate about horses on the coast.
- The GGNRA's Rancho Corral de Tierra draft Comprehensive Site Management Plan proposes eliminating two boarding stables, and consolidating and significantly downsizing the other two; 220 horses being boarded at RCDT would be cut down to 40 horses or fewer.
- If boarding spaces are reduced, our owners may have to move to other areas, euthanize their horses, or sell them.
- The Coastside community of regular Rancho users, lease holders, and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy that contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County. When will Coastside residents be asked to provide feedback?
- There have been no public meetings about the plan in Montara despite the GGNRA's timeline that showed during the already completed "community brainstorm and feedback" phase the "project team will collect community feedback, develop project goals, and share draft planning alternative scenarios" (2020 – 2023).
- I am asking that community meetings about the plan must be held in the neighboring Coastside communities, not only on the Bay side of the county, and to include equestrians, who have regularly visited and cared for RCDT for decades.
- I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses.
- I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside.

Lori Rhodes
Redtail Ranch

Exhibit 28

Linda Brovarney <linda.brovarney@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 7:57 PM

Dear Mid Coast Council,

I am very concerned that there is a plan for equines that may no longer be housed on GGNRA property. We have not been adequately notified or included in any plans that the Mid Coast Council has proposed. I boarded my horses in Santa Rosa for 3 years. I live in Montara and was fortunate to have found a place in Moss Beach that was available for me to move my horses. It was a fantastic opportunity for my horses to be close to me so that I could see them daily and that I could ride my horses on GGNRA property. I have boarded them here for 5 years. There are very limited opportunities for horse boarding on the coast. The HMB community has been a horse community since the 1840s when it was an agricultural and fishing community. Horses have been part of the landscape since then. To take away that history would take away a lot of its charm. Not one of my friends and neighbors doesn't LOVE the equine feel on the coast. We rode our horses through Montara singing Christmas Carols this past November and people were cheering and taking pictures because it was a beloved site. Also, if you cut the number of boarders here, there will not be enough facilities on the coast to accommodate the horses. If you decrease the number of horses that can be boarded, then what will happen to the rest? Owners may have to sell their beloved animals if there is no place for them OR if the costs become prohibitive.

PLEASE WITHDRAW YOU CURRENT PLANS THAT CALL FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HORSE STABLES AND BOARDING. I ASK THAT THE GGNRA COMMIT TO PRESERVING HORSE STABLES THAT ACCOMMODATE THE CURRENT NUMBER OF HORSES THAT CAN BE BOARDED.

Sincerely,

Linda Brovarney
MBR Horse Boarder and Montara Resident

Exhibit 29

Peter Finch <peterfinch@ymail.com>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 8:54 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Moss Beach resident who is writing to express my concern over the effects the proposed GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra could have on that local equestrian community. Specifically, I'd like to express my concern over the effect it could have on one member of the community; my Autistic son Davis.

Ten years ago, I introduced my son to Square Peg Foundation. It's a horse rescue/adaptive riding center which currently operates out of the Ocean View area of Rancho Corral de Tierra. To put it simply, Square Peg is the most important thing in my son's life. He loves the horses. Through the Golden Gate Regional Center, he has even landed a paid internship helping feed the horses. Needless to say, maintaining an equestrian presence in Rancho Corral de Tierra fervent desire.

Thank you!

Peter Finch

ps I also like hiking with my dog on the trails above Seton Medical Center

Exhibit 30

Stefanie Fitz <stefanie.fitz@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 7:10 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stefanie Fitz, I have been a Coastside resident for 48 years and have my entire family here. I live in Montara and absolutely love hiking and walking with my children through the astonishing trails provided by our natural landscape.

I also recently bought a horse, boarding at Moss Beach Ranch, to further enjoy this natural landscape.

My daughter, now 11 years old, has also taken to riding horses and rides the trails with friends and family. We have made lifelong friends through this community of horses and I know we would not be the same without these friendships. Owning a horse has taught us patience, responsibility, hard work, and how to interact with all people of various backgrounds and ages.

Taking this away would not only destroy the lives people have built for themselves financially but emotionally this would devastate the entire community of horse owners that find beauty and peace while spending time at the ranch making social connections with each other and their horses.

Please consider these people and the horses that also love this space they call home. Hiking, biking, and riding horses is a part of this coastside and I know we do not want that to change in this space that is so hard to find anywhere else.

Thank you.

Stefanie Fitz
Cora Fitz
Steve Fitz
Bo Fitz

Sent from my iPhone
Stefanie Fitz

Exhibit 31

Megan <mmulderick@yahoo.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 8:43 AM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

I have lived in the Montara / Moss Beach area since 1976 and boarded my horses in the area surrounding Rancho riding there daily. I managed a boarding facility directly across from Rancho for multiple years. The boarders were all lifelong equestrians and all rely on the close access to RCDT. The GGNRA's RCDT draft Comprehensive Site Management Plan proposes eliminating two boarding stables, consolidating and significantly downsizing the other two. The current 220 horses being boarded at RCDT would be cut down to 40 horses or fewer. If this boarding is taken away it will not be feasible for most all current boarders utilizing these facilities to afford boarding at areas that are much more expensive and farther away.

The Coastside community of regular Rancho users and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy that contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County. There have been no public meetings about the plan in Montara or Moss Beach despite GGNRA's timeline that showed during the already completed "community brainstorm and feedback" phase the "project team will collect community feedback, develop project goals, and share draft planning alternative scenarios" (2020 – 2023). I am asking that meetings about the plan be held in the neighboring Coastside communities, not only on the Bay side of the county, and include equestrians, who have regularly visited and cared for RCDT for decades. I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables that accommodate 220 horses. I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside.

Regards,

Megan Mulderick

Exhibit 32

Anna Roger <annakroger@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 5:51 PM

My name is Anna Roger and I live in Montara. I am writing about my vast concerns regarding the GGNRA draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra and asking that it be withdrawn. I board my horse at Oceanview Farms and moved to the coast specifically to be near my horse, and I know others who did as well. If the ranches on GGNRA are closed/drastically reduced, it will completely decimate the horse community here and push people out of the area. There are very few other options on the coast and the barns over the hill are exorbitantly priced and too far away.

While the loss of private boarding would harm me and my family, it would be absolutely devastating for the non-profits/community programming at these ranches. Square Peg Foundation does amazing work with some of the most vulnerable populations in our community, bringing much needed racial and socioeconomic diversity as well as neurodiversity to the coast, allowing many previously underserved members of the community to benefit from the GGNRA land. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and I can attest to the phenomenal work they are doing. The volunteer-run San Mateo Large Animal Evacuation Group has also done tons for the community and has taken in and cared for countless animals. It would also take away many local jobs from people who rely on these ranches for their businesses.

I have huge concerns about the impact of proposed camping sites. There is already such a high fire risk that we are struggling to get our homeowners insurance renewed and have been refused by many companies. Camping would drastically increase fire risk as well as the horrendous traffic issues, lack of emergency vehicle access and infrastructure the coast already struggles with. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Exhibit 33

patricia defechereux <defechereuxp@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 2:50 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

To whomever it concerns

I am deeply concerned about the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra and the negative effects it will have on the equestrian community.

I live in Montara on Cedar street and walk in Rancho almost every single day. I am an animal lover and an equestrian. Though I dont own a horse, I enjoy the daily access to horses, and to the amazing number of horse programs that are available to communities both locally and from other bay areas and beyond, including children, people living with disabilities, seniors, etc, as well as rescue programs.

I am a professional health care researcher and would like to bring to your attention the mounting evidence on health benefits provided by being around horses, adding to the increased wellness of being in nature.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8698107/>

The GGNRA's Rancho Corral de Tierra draft Comprehensive Site Management Plan proposes eliminating valuable horse programs, not only impacting the clients of these programs but also threatening the folks who are making a living on those ranches.

I was told that the Coastside community of regular Rancho users and park stakeholders were not notified or included in outreach by the GGNRA and Parks Conservancy that contacted people and solicited feedback about the plan in greater San Mateo County.

I am also very very concerned about the impacts of building parking lots, and other such infrastructures which will lead to further congestions and noise pollution in the area I am asking that the GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses.

I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to the Coastside.

Respectfully yours

Dr Defechereux, PhD

Exhibit 34

bertille legrand <bertillelegrand@yahoo.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 11:54 AM

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024

To whom it may concern:

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to share our concerns and ideas about the planning for Rancho Corral De Tierra.

I am a vital stake holder of the regional parks and a community member. I am an equestrian and ride the Rancho Corral De Tierra trails regularly . I was surprised and am very concerned that GGNRA master draft plan is considering reducing the number of boarding stables.

The leased equestrian operations are a vital part of the area.

- 1- They connect people to the park
- 2- They have a positive impact on the surrounding area
- 3- They bring diversity
- 4- They build community in a natural environment
- 5- They help maintain a natural environment
- 6- They are an historical part of the landscape
- 7- They build equitable access through programs and accessibility
- 8- They create a welcoming sense of belonging and a way to celebrate the landscape
- 9- They deepened our relations with horses, people and the landscape.

My recommendation is that GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that the GGNRA commit to preserving horse stables and boarding that accommodate 220 horses.

As you may realize now, the stables serve the community very well with tremendous benefits to the local economy.

I will end my comment with a personal note:

<< Meeting a horse on the trail brings a great deal of pleasure and smiles to other trails users. So many times other trail users ask me questions about my horse, ask to pet the horse, and take photos. They say “This made my day” . Why should we take that simple pleasure away?>>

Most Respectfully,
Bertille Legend.

Exhibit 35

On Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 1:19 PM <miramark9@comcast.net> wrote:

My name is Marian Pott. My husband, Craig Pollock, and I raised our 2 kids on the Coastsides, living in Half Moon Bay since 1994. I have a local dog training business, my husband works for a national company, and we enjoy the beaches, trails, community events, and everything dog and horse.

As a boarder at Moss Beach Ranch for over 15 years, I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA Master Draft Plan concerning Rancho Coral de Tierra. This plan is disastrous for the Coastsides equestrian community. I, and others like me in the horse community, have no other options for boarding or riding horses. Over the years we have seen other boarding facilities disappear for one reason or another, leaving the few remaining facilities we have today. Most of us are ordinary folk with ordinary incomes. It will not be feasible for any of us to board at more expensive communities over the hill, not to mention having to leave the area to enjoy our horses and the community they and we are a part of.

This Coastsides equine community was not notified or included in outreach by GGNRA and Parks Conservancy. Our voices must be heard. As a group, the equestrians have the most to lose if such a plan goes forward. We need to be a part of any planning that concerns our horse boarding and training facilities. Many employees work at these ranches and also have families to support. Many of these people live on the facilities. Us boarders, riders, students, trainers support their livelihood and appreciate their hard work.

I am asking that GGNRA withdraw its current draft plans that call for the elimination of horse stables and boarding and that GGNRA commit to preserving the Coastsides equine legacy which includes the boarding facilities that accommodate at least 220 horses. We need this culture to be honored, preserved, protected for decades to come - it is a vital part of the unique and our beautiful San Mateo County Coastsides.

Marian Pott

Exhibit 36

Ashleigh Bennett <ashbennetkoloa@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 3:57 PM

I have great concern about the future plans for eliminating horses from ranches on the coast. I have three horses at Moss Beach Ranch. I do not only board my horses there I also work there full time. These ranches are a huge part of this community. We teach hundreds of kids and adults and employ a great number of people. The effects of these plans that are being presented have devastating consequences. The families that live, work and come to enjoy the ranch every single day is proof enough how important these facilities are. This is people's livelihood. If community is truly important to your plans you would realize how these plans are life altering for so many. I look forward to being part of the plans and solutions.

Thank you,
Ashleigh Bennett

Exhibit 37

Emeline Rivault <emeline.rivault@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 5:15 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

My name is Emeline Rivault and I live in Montara.

I am writing with concerns about the GGNRA Master draft plan at Rancho Corral de Tierra.

In addition to hiking every day on the trails of Montara Mountain, I also use the Ocean View farm facilities to care for and ride horses, as well as taking riding lessons.

I also ride my neighbor's horse on the trails of Montara Mountain, and I sometimes meet with riders who board at Ocean View farm so we can ride together.

People are happy to see us when we ride on the trails, especially when they have children, who are very curious about horses.

During the Tea on the Trails event that took place last Saturday, I heard from the park rangers that GGNRA want to make sure everyone knows about Montara Mountain's trails and can easily access them. As an avid hiker, I have noticed that, on nice sunny days (more specifically weekends), people park on both sides of highway 1 to go the beach, not to hike on the trails. I am concerned that building parking lots where Ocean View is would increase traffic and accidents on Highway 1, but would not necessarily increase traffic on the trails as people really want to enjoy the beach.

Additionally, people are also using the Grey Whale Cove parking lot for beach access, which causes many people to be running across Highway 1 to gain beach access.

I am asking that the GGNRA preserve the equestrian culture and its economic benefits that are vital to Coastsides.

Thank you

Emeline Rivault

Exhibit 38

Carol Martin <crtmartin@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 5:50 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>,
"coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>

Hello to everyone! My name is Carol Martin. I live in Montara and have been a coastside resident for 45 years. I have always loved horses but have never owned one.

Even so I have leased a horse at Moss Beach Corral and have taken lessons there. My daughter learned to ride at Moss Beach Corral. I have enjoyed riding other people's horses on the beautiful trails of Montara for the past 7 years.

Horses are a very important part of our coastside culture. They have lived peacefully and in harmony with the land for decades. I have shared the trails with hikers, bikes and dogs. I have never had a dangerous experience.

The stables and horse owners are the best stewards of this beautiful land. They truly care that it is taken care of and accessible to all. I don't know where these horse boarders are going to go if there are only 40 horses allowed to be boarded. I'm asking for GGNRA to commit to preserving these stables and allow the 220 horses to stay.

Respectfully,

Carol Martin

Exhibit 39

V Tube <victorlohcom@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 3:31 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Victor Loh and I am writing to voice my concerns about the GGNRA Master draft plan for Rancho Corral de Tierra.

I am a Montara resident who enjoys hiking, biking, and dog walking on the local trails, and one of the reasons my partner and I moved to the coast was the convenient and affordable access to boarding and riding for her horse. She currently boards at Ember Ridge and over the years we have come to recognize the tremendous positive impact of the coastside horse community. Not only does the presence of horses and ranches enrich the lives of the young people, working adults, and retirees involved, it supports a number of local, family-owned businesses and service-providers who would be negatively impacted by the sharp reduction in boarding capacity for stables in the area.

I kindly ask you to consider the social and economic impact of the draft plan on the local horse community and listen to the concerns of the people who will be affected. Thank you.

Victor

Exhibit 40

Melinda R Takeuchi <takeuchi@stanford.edu>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 4:12 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: "coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com" <coastsidehorsecouncil@gmail.com>, Melinda R Takeuchi

<takeuchi@stanford.edu>

I, Melinda Takeuchi, together with my family, bought a horse property on Sunshine Valley Rd., Moss Beach, across the street from Rancho Corral de Tierra, 25 years ago--specifically for its proximity to the coast's longstanding, vibrant horse culture. Now retired, I have competed in numerous ridden and carriage driving events, and to say I am an avid trail rider in RCDT is an understatement. I have also volunteered at an institution providing equine therapy to disabled veterans and children (NCEFT in Woodside). I have experienced firsthand the magical healing power of horses. I adopted a wild mustang from the program at the correctional facility in Carson City, NV, which saves the lives of BLM horses and affords career opportunities to inmates by teaching them to train the animals. At the age of 80 I am still riding RCDT trails. But since it is inadvisable at this age to go out alone, I make a point of meeting up with one of my many horsey friends from the stables in the Rancho. And now you are proposing to rip this essential boon out of my life.

Do you have any idea how disruptive and heartbreaking your proposal for decimating these long-established stables on RCDT is? Not only will 180 horses and their owners be displaced, the disappointment will metastasize outward to the spouses, children, children's friends, stable proprietors, support staff, professionals, and people like myself who do not fall into any of the easily defined categories.

RCDT is sacred space to many of us. It is unthinkable that it should be desecrated in the manner you propose. I am begging you, with all the earnestness I can muster, to rethink this destructive and ill-conceived plan.

Sincerely,
Melinda Takeuchi
Professor Emerita, Stanford University

Exhibit 41

Sarah Schilbach <sschilbach@gmail.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 8:19 AM

Dear Midcoast Community Council,

I would like to provide you with my letter that I sent to Anna Eschoo, NPS and GGNRA. I listened to the YouTube meeting after the meeting occurred and appreciate your concerns and questions. I live in Montara and am an avid hiker, biker, dog walker and most notably horse person. I strongly support keeping the horse ranches as they are. My letter is attached.

Sarah

Sarah Schilbach

March 22, 2024

Ref.: Response to Draft GGNRA plans of 2024 and 2021 Rancho Corral-de Tierra

Dear Anna Eschoo,
Dear GGNRA, David Smith (NPS), Billy Shott (NPS) and Charles F Sams III (NPS),

I would like to comment on the January 2024 DRAFT Preliminary Plan and April 2021 report entitled, "How to manage the Rancho Equestrian Facilities within Rancho Corral de Tierra in Montara and Moss Beach located on the San Francisco Coast, California."

I have been a Montara homeowner and resident since 2006 and have boarded horses in Montara since 1997. I am a small business owner in Half Moon Bay and an active trail user. Twice a day, accompanied by my dog, I hike, mountain bike, and ride my horse on the trails in Montara and Moss Beach. The aforementioned 2021 and 2024 reports state that they were written with public input; however, even though I consider myself an informed and active community member (I am a trained volunteer with the local Large Animal Rescue group and have responded to emergencies using my truck and trailer), I have never seen any public notice or been alerted by a neighbor; I have never seen any call for public comment or input on an online forum such as NextDoor, or been informed by a community member of such. As this is public land, and I am a taxpayer, I am deeply concerned and shocked at this seeming inconsideration and lack of a plan for public input and a public hearing.

In my 18 years of owning a home here in Montara and walking its trails, I have witnessed a promising evolution in community stewardship to care for the environment and trails. This has occurred despite differences in perspectives and activities amongst all stakeholders; that is, hikers, dog walkers, bicyclists, equestrians, motorcyclists, etc.). Many have cooperated to manage the land they traverse, and this has happened in cooperation with NPS' contributions as well. Most notably, I've observed fantastic drainage management and trail repair, especially of the Farmers Daughter Trail.

The purpose of my statement is to delineate three requests:

- 1) Maintain the current shape, function, and acreage of the three boarding stables and ranches named in the report (Ocean View, Moss Beach Ranch and Ember Ridge);
- 2) Make trails more accessible to the public by adding parking, bathrooms, and trash removal;
- 3) Educate visitors and the community by utilizing current trail users as volunteer docents in their daily hikes and rides via foot, bicycle, or horse. I am a community member who is willing and able to do this.

Sarah Schilbach

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I understand the purpose from the 2021 and 2024 NPS Reports to be the following:

- Make trails more accessible and usable for hikers, including the installation of a visitor center for education and parking
- Eliminate private boarding
- Restore floodplains
- Create overnight camping
- Incorporate equestrian rentals
- Access for mountain bikes and dog use is unclear

While combing the preliminary plan and report, I saw no evidence of a stated problem that has resulted from the existing equestrian facilities. Why are equestrians, who invest in the land and help maintain it, being implicitly accused or eliminated for an unnamed problem? The report did not provide data to support nitrogen burden or the negative impact of horse facilities. If the problem were clearly stated, ranches are and would provide solutions for management.

My concerns may be summarized as the following:

1. Horse boarding is limited as it is. Ranches like Ember Ridge, Ocean View, Moss Beach Ranch and Redtail Ranch are a gem as they provide affordable horse boarding. Unless one owns their own property on the coast, it is nearly impossible to own a horse on the San Francisco Peninsula due to the high cost of keeping a horse, including board, vet, shoeing, extra feed, dental, emergencies, etc.
2. Horse ranches are education centers and provide employment for locals. At Ember Ridge the FFA (Future Farmers of America) has been a favorite class at Half Moon Bay high school, offering students an opportunity like no other to learn animal husbandry and farming skills. Vocational classes such as these have long been edged out of the public school system. Ember Ridge does an amazing job of teaching and preserving a way of life as well as a life skill for countless teenagers. 4H and Pony Clubs as well as horse shows and horse camps for local and regional families, especially the Moss Beach Equestrian Center, have also been an important and visible educational venue.
3. The language of the report undervalues the lifework of ranchers and leasers of boarding facilities. Management of ranches is a life commitment not a job. The report terms this as "concessionaires" and I understand this is a term used in such writing; however, the writers and readers of this report may not comprehend some crucial aspects of this work. Namely, ranch managers face significant obstacles to providing reasonably affordable horse boarding in the current climate of increased land lease fees, steep hay price increases, and high insurance costs. They maintain buildings and equipment and horse care/emergencies (and this is time/work they are not paid for). They are dedicated to

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- keeping horses as part of the community and offer their sweat, labor, and volunteer hours.
4. The report overlooks the obstacles to lumping together existing ranches as part of the proposed plan, as all three facilities are unique and serve diverse populations. Moss Beach Ranch and Ember Ridge are ecosystems all their own and host riders and equestrians from a variety of disciplines: dressage, jumping, western competition, horse handling, natural and beginning horsemanship, team penning, gymkhana, etc. Ocean View Ranch is now providing a state-of-the-art therapy riding program, giving special needs children a unique opportunity to learn about their own bodies by connecting with the heart and spirit of horses. Some of these horses themselves have been rehabilitated from a sad and abusive career on horse race tracks. It's unfortunate that Redtail Ranch, which has hosted clinics by visiting experts on horsemanship, dressage, as well as teaching children with autism to handle horses, has agreed to close in 2030. Combining management of these facilities is like changing the borders of neighboring nations in an arbitrary manner, which has all too often been the pattern by imperialist and colonizing forces in modern human history.
 5. The draft plan and report use of the term "Day horse trail riding," which seems to be defined as "Horse rental" at Ember Ridge, is terribly misleading. It does not provide adequate learning opportunities for the community. The demand already outweighs what is offered there. It is true that an established horse rental already exists on the coast at "Sea Horse Ranch" (south of Rancho and north of Half Moon Bay on Highway 1). However, anyone who has ever experienced the real gift of being with horses and learned even the basics of how to care for them understands that the experience of visitor who pays an hourly fee and is handed a horse that has already been cleaned and saddled, and then rides the same loops, sees the scenery, dismounts and then re-enters their car without the experience of caring for the horse before and after the hour-long ride, misses out and leaves misses out on the deeper experience of being on the land. Renting a horse for an hour is more akin to renting machinery, such as a bike or motorcycle. It's impossible to replace the educational aspect of what I believe GGNRA is seeking. In addition, safe rental horses require training, time, care, fitness, and continued use. These are not animals that can be "seasonally grazed", pulled out of pasture and then have the public ride them. If GGNRA would provide the public with trained horses for rental, these need to be animals that live on this land.

My suggestion is to create a cutting edge program to educate the public in cooperation with what the community has already been maintaining. Sharing the trail with hikers, bikers, dogs and horses is an incredible learning opportunity. Start by educating us, the existing hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, as volunteers who may interact with the public! Use us as part of the solution! The following explanations further detail and

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unpack what I have already mentioned in the hopes that you might adopt some of these suggestions:

- Benefits of education on horse back: The general public doesn't understand horse behavior and treats them more as a motorcycle or bikes. These gentle and trusting giants have been part of American and Montara history. Horses have hearts that when we get quiet and take the time to connect, bring our own heart into a deeper connection. This is a similar connection that nature provides. Additionally, horses have been part of Montara history where, for instance, residents would ride to the Post Office or beach, as part of their daily routine.



- In my walks and rides, I have observed that people appreciate information about horses. Some feel comfortable to pet the horse or give a treat. Most ask questions, and children especially are fascinated by their size and movement. There is a local "Nature School" program with weekly sessions and kids are getting to see the same horses visit with them. Kids and adults have gotten to approach, observe, and ask questions
- The crossing of mountain bikers, with horses and hikers is a true dilemma, speaking as a horse person and mountain biker. While mountain bikers like to go fast downhill, horses and hikers usually go slow up- and downhills and become dangerous targets for all parties. The collisions and accidents I've both heard about, witnessed, or have narrowly escaped, are serious. Horses are prey animals and respond to fast moving objects by wanting to "run or flee". Mountain Bikers are often unaware of approaching horses or don't know what to do. Some even wear headphones or earbuds and are tuned out and completely unaware of the danger. The current signage of bikers yielding to hikers and horses does not work. Better signage or even better social media on the internet or bike shops of best practices of mountain bikers and horses would be useful. I found this video on YouTube called "Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers-Horse+Bike" very informative: youtu.be/Kh2ISRQqli4?si=lqei7F44FPaqLqXk

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- People in Montara are incredible and unique. You have likely seen the system of trash cans for dog poop that are organized by a volunteer system.



Pictures from page 23 and 26 of 2024 draft report

Without any prompting from GGNRA, our community has created an atmosphere of caring. Unfortunately, weekend visitors often don't share that same sense of responsibility and leave trash.

While the focus of the 2021 and 2024 reports are on public education and land restoration, with an emphasis on elimination and downsizing of existing horse ranches, I think a better focus for land restoration would be on educating the public about what we have already created as a community of volunteers and users of the existing trails and locale. Existing horse facilities will accommodate changes and reasonable demands by GGNR.

This letter is a plea to include us as educational partners and leave Rancho mostly how it is with the addition of better parking, visitor information, and trash collection.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schilbach, D.C.
Montara Homeowner and Resident since 1998
Business Owner, Schilbach Chiropractic, Half Moon Bay
Certified Volunteer, Large Animal Evacuation
Equine Owner and Horse Boarder (Renegade Ranch now called Redtail Ranch, Ocean View Farm, Ember Ridge Ranch) since 1997



Exhibit 42

Rob <coastside100@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 6:27 PM

To: "Kirsten Holder (NPS - GGNRA)" <Kirsten_Holder@nps.gov>

Cc: "Jason Trollope (NPS - GGNRA)" <jason_trollope@nps.gov>, "MidCoast Community Council (MCC)" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>, Gus Mattammal <midcoastgus@gmail.com>

Hello Kirsten and GGNRA,

It was nice to meet Kirsten and others NPS related folks at the recent 3/22/24 public outreach meeting on Le Conte St in Montara.

We discussed the NPS-GGNRA plan to develop the parcel of land in Montara along Highway 1 and the "POST Agricultural Field". This parcel was known as the "Fallow Field" when the GGNRA proposed parking and other facilities back in 2012. I see it labeled "Montara Open Space Parcel Future Acquisition" on current NPS plans.

I found what appears to be the current plans for this parcel in a document on the the NPS website:

From the 'Document List' on page:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=59575>

See the link to:

'Draft Rancho Corral De Tierra Comprehensive Site Management Plan' Preliminary Plan Jan 2023'

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=303&projectID=59575&documentID=134797>

See pages 40-44 of the above document for conceptual plans for the parcel which indicate a new road, parking and restroom facilities located far back from the highway, all the way (east) to the Farallone Trail.

There was significant community opposition to similar development proposed for this parcel back in 2012. This parking and facilities development is obviously destructive of the natural space and a large amount of the viewshed of the surrounding area. Every community member, or person I've encountered passing through the area, found the proposed development very inappropriate.

At the 3/22/24 Le Conte meeting I mentioned to Kirsten that there are a couple of web pages that were created back in 2012 to address and document the proposed parcel development issues. Here are links:

GGNRA - Rancho Corral de Tierra, Montara & Moss Beach , Trailhead & Parking Conceptual Plans, Presented at a public meeting, Montara, Ca. Nov 13, 2012

LINK :

<https://coastsidevideo.com/news/pages/coastsidevideo-news-121113-ggnra-rancho-trailhead-parking-concepts.html>

&

GGNRA, NPS public meeting, Montara, CA - Sept 10, 2012, re: Rancho Corral de Tierra, dogs, policies, parking, personnel

LINK:

<https://coastsidevideo.com/news/pages/coastsidevideo-news-120910-ggnra-meet-montara-lianes-lens.html>. (see a few public comments at 3:26)

The enabling legislation of the GGNRA (pdf),
https://coastsidevideo.com/news/document/ggnra_legislation--downloaded-from-NPS-website-170502.pdf

includes the requirement to "... *preserve the recreation area, as far as possible, in its natural setting, and protect it from development and uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area.*"

Please GGNRA, don't destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of this absolutely amazing area. Any new parking or other development, if at all in this space, should be located directly adjacent to the highway. If you break this space, it will likely never be repaired.

thanks,
Rob
Montara