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SAN RAFAEL OPEN SPACE REPORT ON:  
CHINA CAMP SHORELINE AREA:

1- The site is easily accessible to most residents of Marin. It is 15 minutes from Novato and 25 minutes from Sausalito. Major and easy access is provided by South San Pedro Road ( generally 4 lanes ) and to a lesser degree by North San Pedro Road, ( 2 lanes ). The site is transversed by north San Pedro Road for a distance of approximately three miles between McNear's Beach and Buck's Launching near Santa Venita.

2- Special features of the site include: three to four miles of Bay shoreline ( beach, cliffs, mud flats, salt marsh ); it includes the historic China Camp settlement which was home to nearly 10,000 Chinese in the late 1870s and early 1880s; it contains at least two still existing indian mounds, most likely more; would preserve four major canyons and many small ones, from the bay shore to the hill crest at over 1,000' elevation; hosts tens of thousands of shore birds as well as numerous species of fresh water and upland birds; etc...

3- Site use can vary greatly, from low impact uses in the hills, ( hiking, horseback riding, photography, etc. ); to scientific and educational uses at Echo Hills Ranch; to family activities on the flats, ( picnicing, site seeing, biking, bird watching); to activities along the shoreline, ( wading, sun bathing, fishing, canoeing, etc...).

4- Adjacent populations also vary to some degree. Santa Venitia at the west end of the site is a community of older and more moderately priced housing. Peacock gap at the South-east end of the site represent the opposite. Glenwood is adjacent to the site but is seperated by a high ridge, it is similar to Peacock gap but not quite as expensive. All of these communities are adjacent to existing open lands, however Santa Venitia can be considered impacted due to the cutting-off effect North San Pedro Road has by seperating the community from the open space.

5- Development of this site would create a massive traffic circulation problem in the East San Rafael-Santa Venitia area. The hundreds of cars this development would generate would necessitate the widening of North San Pedro Road to four lanes, some less extensive road improvement would have to be made on South San Pedro Road. Sewage, air pollution, noise pollution and other negative effects would also occur.

The site, if preserved, would preserve the last place in the entire Bay Area where an unimpaired natural landscape stretches from Bay shore to mountain top. While there are a few existing bay shoreline parks around San Francisco Bay they do not meet all the qualifications underlined above; each lacks one or more of these attributes.

See # 3 above for benefits accrued to the area and local needs met.

6- While this area is addressed in the Preliminary Plan the site is almost entirely outside the San Rafael city limits and therefor cannot recive open space bond money. This page and the attached report are informational only. It is hoped that this area can be preserved by the State of California; this is our aim. I hope this committee and the city of San Rafael will support us in this effort.

7- Additional Comments: See attached report ( preliminary ).