Appendix A

Public Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS
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SEARS POINT RESTORATION PROJECT
DRAFT EIR/EIS PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING

Sonoma Community Center
279 E. Napa Street
Sonoma, California

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

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REPORTED BY: DEBORAH FUQUA, CSR #12948
APPEARANCES

SONOMA LAND TRUST:
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JOHN BROSnan, Bay Lands Program Manager
BOB NEALE, Stewardship Director,
WENDY ELIOT, Conservation Director
BROOK EDWARDS, Jenner Headlands Project Manager

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE:
CHRISTY SMITH, San Pablo Bay Refuge Manager

DUCKS UNLIMITED
RENEE SPENST, Ph.D.

GAIA CONSULTING
SUSANNE von ROSENBERG
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PROCEEDINGS

JIM SMITH: My name is Jim Smith, and I'm a resident of Sonoma. And I've been hunting out at the Black Point Club for quite some time. Also, I'm getting a little older, so I can't walk the hills they've got at some of the other feather clubs. And the closest feather club that I know of might be almost all the way to Knight's Landing. And they have a pheasant club there, and it's pretty hilly.

So I'd like to find out if they planned to have any other areas set aside so that they could have a pheasant club in this general area so we wouldn't have to go 50 or 100 miles to another pheasant club. The access on 37 makes -- this is all wetlands now, I guess, on each side of 37. And I believe if you drive out 37, you don't see a lot of access out into the water where you can go duck hunting off of 37.

So if you do turn this into a wetlands, then you ought to put in some pretty good access or make it so that you could hunt ducks or get to a place where you could hunt ducks out there.

And then, I hunt ducks up in the Gridley area, and we have some land that we set aside to hunt ducks
on. And we have something called the Mosquito Abatement Group up there, which we call the "Mosquito Bandits" because, when we put a little water on the land for the ducks, then the Mosquito Abatement people come in and they charge us $15 an acre to spray it and kill the mosquitos. However, they claim that a mosquito won't come out over a rice paddy and get into the wetlands. So these have got to be a different kind of mosquitos.

So the mosquitos you're going to raise out here, are you going to spray this with some sort of a chemical to kill the mosquitos? And is that going to cost you $15 an acre or something in that amount?

That's probably -- I probably have more, but I probably have forgotten most of it. But thank you.

JOHN BROSNAH: Bruce Carter is up next.

BRUCE CARTER: I'm Bruce Carter. I live in San Francisco, and I've been hunting around the bay for 30 or 40 years, I guess. I used to hunt ducks down in San Jose, and they took the duck club and made a sewer treatment plant out of it.

I'm 78 now, and I don't like falling up and down the hills. And this hunting club is very, very comfortable for old goats like me. If this one closes down, I don't know where I'll go after that. I'll
probably be looking at my last hunting days for the
most part.

So I'm hopeful that, if you're going to take
this land, that you're -- if you've got a lot of
acreage someplace else, just relocate the club. But
let's don't just close it down and take away that
opportunity for people like me to hunt because between
that and the -- Barack Obama now trying to pick up all
my ammunition, they're trying to put me out of
business. Thank you.

The O'Rourke family?

IAN O'ROURKE: I'm Ian O'Rourke. This is
Schuyler, and this is Regan. And they don't remember
the first time they went hunting at Black Point. We're
the other end of the spectrum. We're Sonoma residents.
There's lots of places for us to hike and look at
wildflowers. It's beautiful, and you've done a great
job.

I don't know of anywhere you can take a baby
in a backpack and hunt and see the kind of wildlife and
stuff that has been preserved at the club for probably
close to the past century. I don't know how old Mike's
old man was, but he was old when I got there, and he
just kept getting older.
But I remember on the wall in there, he got awards for conservation, for bird conservation and land conservation as well. So it's not like that property hasn't already been in the conservation business as long as it's been in the hands of that family.

So I don't know if you are going to do something. That's a jewel in Sonoma County where I've been able to take my kids since they were a couple days out of the womb and go and hunt. And that's something that our family enjoys doing.

And the other thing you'll see out at Black Point is multi-generational activity. How many activities in Sonoma County do you see grandfathers and sons and grandchildren, several generations, doing the same thing at the same time? That's a way of life. I know it's not a red-legged frog, but it's a way of life that needs to be preserved as well. So if you're going to do a good job, that's something you need to put on your agenda as well.

Thank you.

JOHN BROSNAN: Steven Allen?

Doug Wynn?

DOUG WYNN: My name is Doug Wynn. And like this gentleman, I hunted with Mike's father and started hunting on his place and another property as well 47
years ago. So I think Mike had hoped that some day his son would be running it as well and this would continue.

A couple of items, is the Sonoma Land Trust -- you can educate me. Do they pay taxes, real estate taxes?

JIM BROSnan: We do.

DOUG WYNN: You do? What happens when all this is given away, then? It comes off the rolls, the tax rolls?

JIM BROSnan: Something like that. Well, the Federal Government does not pay taxes.

DOUG WYNN: So Sonoma County --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's not entirely true, but it's very convoluted to explain right now.

DOUG WYNN: When will the Draft EIR be ready, the date? Do you have the date when it -- it's available to the public now?

JIM BROSnan: Yes.

DOUG WYNN: I want to get copies of those. Thank you.

Is the salt marsh harvest mouse -- I have a lot of experience with that little devil. Is he still on the endangered species list? The people of Corte Madera will be happy to give you several hundred
thousand of them if you'd like them. I spent seven years with the mouse down there building that shopping center. I'm a little surprised to find Ducks Unlimited involved with this to the extent that they are, and I want to make a couple of phone calls in the morning to find out about that.

One of the other things I'm involved with, I'm on the Hunting and Conservation Committee of the National Rifle Association in Fairfax, Virginia. And we just heard about this. We put out a letter to everyone in the Bay Area last night, to about 6,000, people, hoping we'd get some more people here.

Have there been any lawsuits filed against the project yet?

JIM BROSNAN: No.

DOUG WYNN: No? Having been through this process in other venues, we spent an awful lot of time trying to build clubs like the Black Point all over the United States. And one by one, they seem to be going away. And then, if you count the number of people who will actually ever set foot on this ground, it will probably be 10 percent of the people that hunted just the little piece that Black Point has.

$15 million? If you can do it for that --
having an engineering background -- I will be amazed. And I hope, if you do go ahead with this, you provide for great cost overruns.

Do you have a budget to get us what it's going to cost to maintain this and those levies after it done? Or is that going to flow to whoever takes over the land after you're gone?

JIM BROSNAN: It's between the owners -- future and current owners.

DOUG WYNN: I wish you luck.

JIM BROSNAN: Rick Bulloch.

RICK BULLOCH: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Rick Bulloch, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance.

Our organization has been involved in this process for the last number of years, and our concern is the same as it's always been. We feel the uplands area provides some critical habitat for species that rely on this uplands. And we hope that you -- I noted there that there are still some alternative possibilities. I hope that you consider the needs for those uplands species.

The Black Point Sports Club, you noted in your PowerPoint special species designations. Well, you've heard it already from a few of the hunters, and I think you're going to hear more. We are a special species
that needs designation. When it comes to the Black Point Sports Club, it truly is the last club of its kind on the greater Bay Area. Yes, we can travel a long way. Sportsmen can travel a long way. But that's not really right.

And when I look at the project, it harkens to me what hunters have been doing since the late 1800s. It was the hunters, the sportsmen who were the first ones to make the call to action when our species were being depleted -- and not like sport hunters like people in this room. It was market hunting, it was just an overrun of our resources. And It was the sportsmen and then ultimately went by Theodore Roosevelt and others who started the conservation movement.

What you just showed right here, this is our historical life story since the late 1800s. We have set aside permanently or protected hundreds of millions of acres. And we are proud to have done it. And what you folks are doing here is great, and we celebrate it. We just kinda want to be still part of the process and not forgotten what we've been doing and what we do today.

We still contribute billions of dollars overall to the benefit of wildlife. Nobody really
cares about wildlife more than the sportsman. And if you look at the three groups there that surround you, all of those agencies were because of sportsmen. That's why they've come to be. And that's why all of us are in this room.

The project is great. All of us in this room celebrate protecting land, providing habitat for wildlife, dealing with the organization. But dealing with that organization is also making sure that people can get in the field to understand what we need to do to help what you folks want to do, which is ultimately protect wild places for young kids like that and others.

Thank you very much.

JIM BROSnan: Bruce King.

BRUCE KING: Hi. I'm Bruce King. I'm a resident of Novato. I'm sorry. I just walked in, so I'm -- I missed the first hour.

But I wanted to share a letter that I wrote to John Brosnan -- I sent it to him a couple years ago with regard to the impact that the club has had on my life.

Having grown up in Marin, I developed a particular passion for the outdoors. I spent a lot of time over the years hiking the area trails and fishing
the reservoirs, though the only local hunting I've done and was exposed to was at Black Point at the Sports Club.

My grandfather, an insurance salesman, was one of the early members back in the '60s and had several dogs trained there. When I was 13, he invited me out for my first pheasant hunt, and I got two birds -- an experience I will never forget.

He taught me to shoot with a single-shot 20-gauge, and I became quite a good shot, eventually teaching gun safety and trap shooting at Colgate University in upstate New York when I attended there. Without that early exposure, I never would have had this opportunity, nor would any of the students that learned from me.

Now married and living in Novato with our four-year-old daughter, Caroline, and two-year-old son, Parker, and our five-year-old chocolate lab, Katie, our oldest and first, who was also trained out at Black Point, I feel grateful to have the resource only 20 minutes away, as it allows me to connect with both friends and nature, while equally allowing family time for the rest of the day.

The club is often common ground with my father-in-law, who is also a member. And my father and
I get out there a couple times each year as well. This is one of the few common interests my father and I share, and I look forward to our time together. In fact, we spent his 76th birthday in the field at Black Point this past January. His comment was, "I can't imagine a better way to celebrate."

I hope these stories provide some insight into the kind of difference the club has made in my life and the many Bay Area lives it has touched.

I, too, value conservation and restoration and have been a member of the Sierra Club for many years. But as I look around the bay and I see what a unique opportunity Black Point Sports Club offers, I feel it would be ashamed to lose this resource. And I appreciate every effort to see that it may continue.

Thank you.

JIM BROSNAN: Marilyn Mertens.

MARILYN MERTENS: Thank you. I do really good with the telephone but not standing up here in front of you.

My family and I farm 619 acres down 37.

I'm sorry? Okay.

My family and I farm 619 acres down 37. We this year grew 5,000 ton of organic oat silage and around 500 ton of organic hay. We use that for our
farm or our dairy, and we also sold it to organic
dairies in the Petaluma area. And it's going to
greatly impact my life and my ability to feed my cows
when you flood this area.

And I also wonder what's going to happen to
the deer, the crows, and the coyotes and the herons,
the red-tail hawks, the golden eagles, the pheasants,
and the ducks that we see down there when we're
cultivating, farming, and planting.

Thank you.

JIM BROSnan: Mark Fitchler.

MARK FITCHLER: Good evening everybody. My name
is Mark Fitchler. And I, like the gentleman over here
that has Schuyler and Regan, have taken my son out to
Black Point for several years now. He went to hunters'
safety school there probably seven or eight years ago.
And Black Point offers an opportunity for myself as a
middle-age man to take my son out and get some good
camaraderie and teach him how to respect the
environment.

I've had a lot of good times out there. I get
done with a nice, easy hunt, spend a lot of time with
my family. You can go sit on the bank down there and
just reflect on the hunt, look at all the other
wildlife and all the other species down there.
I don't know that we really need another five miles of nature trail in this county. I think Black Point ought to say just the way it is. It would be nice for the Fish and Game, if and when this ever turns around, that they could find a way to keep Black Point as it is.

And thank you very much.

JIM BROSnan: Lee Novich.

LEE NOVICH: Good evening. My name is Lee Novich, and I'm here to ask you to further consider the alternative for Dickson Ranch. Keep it as part of this project so the Black Point Sporting Club can remain. It is a valuable resource, and I think the analysis that was done in this Draft EIR has given it short shrift.

Let me be specific about it. There was a finding of "no significant impact" if that club is removed. Ask yourself who prepared that part of the report. Was that a hunter or someone with hunting experience? You used really great engineers to evaluate levies and water resources. But did you use experienced hunters who understand the Bay Area hunting scene? I don't think so.

I have a 13-year-old who I take out there hunting. There isn't anything like that in the Bay.
Area. It just does not exist. Yet the Draft EIR tries to compare other type of hunting experiences — waterfowl shooting, for example, with upland bird. It's not the same. The person who wrote this report got trap and skeet shooting confused with sporting clays. It's not the same.

You have to be specific and look at this resource that we've had and we've had for many years. You can still accomplish your wetlands with keeping the sporting club there.

And I have a question, and maybe you can answer this when I'm finished. And that is, is there some prohibition for the Fish and Game from them leasing the property again after the property is conveyed to them if it is not flooded?

So I think that there is — a finding that there is no significant impact by the removal of this club is wrong. It's not supported by facts. And this is supposed to be a analysis based on quality, a qualitative analysis. It's not a qualitative analysis. "Qualitative analysis" means you actually look at the factors and the features of what you're removing. The person who wrote this did not do that. They assumed that shooting is shooting, hunting is hunting.

When I walked in here, somebody asked me, "Are
you for or against?" Why should this be "for or against"? Aren't we all here for the same thing? Can't we come up with a plan that meets all stakeholders needs? I think we can. Thank you.

JOHN BROSnan: Erin Scull?

ERIN SCULL: My name is Erin Scull, and I'm a former teacher at Cotati Unified School District.

If I would have thought I would ever own a gun or would have ever hunted in my life, I would have told you that was a crazy idea. Coming from a family who would not allow pretend guns in the home or allow us to watch shows where there were guns, I had never in my wildest dreams have imagined being out in the fields with my dog and my husband and my father and my brothers experiencing nature to the degree that I have this past year.

The experience that I've had at Black Point has been amazing and incredible. Mike is also a teacher. He taught our dog, Cooper, how to realize his full potential in life. When we first got Cooper, we got him for a companion. And my husband had asked around to find a location where he could be trained. And hands down, Black Point was with place to take him. Since we've been going, our dog has blown us away. It's an incredible experience to watch an animal do
what they've been bred to do and work like they've been
made to know how to work in the field.

I highly respect Mike as another teacher.
When I heard about the potential closure of Black Point
it was disheartening and depressing. I'm pregnant with
the first grandson of our family, the first grandchild,
and I have only hoped to experience the family
experience that I've been hearing today.

My father has never been the type of man to
open up emotionally or even, you know, to talk. And so
when we go out to Black Point with my brother and my
husband, it's been a bonding experience unlike anything
I can explain.

I've never experienced nature as closely as I
have through Black Point. Before, we'd buy chicken at
Costco in a bag. And we'd have 30 breasts of chicken
in freezer bags.

And the first time I came home with my
husband's bird and cleaned it and cooked it, I realized
more than I had ever been realizing about nature and
the experience that we have as humans interacting with
nature in any field trip, in any classroom presentation
like I had at that moment at my kitchen sink.

It's changed me and my life tremendously,
going out in the field and experiencing and interacting
with nature in such a primal way.

I find myself being in tune with nature more than I ever have been as a teacher, as a person who has done things outdoors for my entire life. To know that Black Point could potentially be closed would affect my family's bonding experience greatly. My brother lives in Sacramento. My parents live in the San Francisco Bay Area. They come out, and we meet halfway in the middle at Black Point.

It's always been a dream to have my son attend the overnight camp that Mike provides for the children who, again, are being taught how to interact with nature, to protect the environment and how to respect it. And to know that that would be taken away from my family as well as the other children in Sonoma County breaks my heart.

You know, I think environmentalists are hunters. And we're people that feel everyday connections to the environment and don't want to just see another wetlands off the side of the freeway but to experience it and to be a part of it and interact with it like we're meant to.

At Black Point, I saw my first jackrabbit in my entire life. I've seen barn owls, redtail hawks, all kinds of things that I thought I would never see,
coming from the bigger city. I do believe that this is
going to be a detrimental impact to preserving the
environment and educating people in the environment
that has happened thus far at Black Point. Thank you.

JOHN BROSNAH: William Gahan.

WILLIAM GAHAN: Thank you. I stepped out for a
moment. I'm sorry.

WILLIAM GAHAN: My name is Bill Gahan. I'm a
lawyer over in Marin. I apologize for that.

Every morning I bring my two dogs out to
Mike's land and run them. In the fall, we hunt. I
bring my kids out there. There's nothing better.

There has to be a balance between preserving
the land and getting rid of our heritage. It's just so
darned important. I would have no problem cleaning up
the lead, perhaps paying for it, whatever needs to be
done. But once we give this up, it will be over.

And if we flood the land, we have a small
marsh. That's great. However, sometimes it doesn't
work for everyone.

I hope that you people consider the impact
ultimately. We can't go back once we do this. I'm
fully willing to work with the people that want to
preserve the land, the Land Trust. I respect them, but
it's such an important thing, particularly in this
state where hunting is difficult, land is so valuable in California, it's almost impossible to hunt unless you're a rich man.

At Mike's club, you don't have to be rich to hunt. There are a lot of common working people who do that. I just ask you all to work together and preserve the club. And whatever it takes -- to clean the lead, change to steel shot, whatever needs to be done, I'm willing to do that. Thank you.

JOHN BROSnan: Hugh Helm?

HUGH HELM: I'm up here because I'm generally in favor of this plan. But there's one thing I agree with you guys on from the hunt club, and that's that this shouldn't be happening. The problem, though, is that it shouldn't be happening because the Land Trust bought this land five years ago, put all together some $20 million and bought it, and bought your lease. As I understand, you guys are lessees on this land. Right? So if you've been there a hundred years and you saw the handwriting on the wall some years ago having to do with what these folks were planning to do -- and I'm sure you can figure it out -- what were you doing about it then? Why didn't you pool your money together and buy something then? Or why didn't you pool your money together and buy it from them?
Okay? Or Work some deal out at the time.

The problem is you guys don't own any property
 rights. You guys are property rights advocates, right?
 You don't own any property. That's the key. Okay?
 As much as everybody respects your sport and
 what you do and the joy that you get and how good it is
 for families and all those stories, tugging at the
 heartstrings of people at the last minute is not going
to save your land or what you do on it, unfortunately.

I would hope, you know, if you can offer some
constructive criticisms about the environmental
impact -- we're not talking about the effects on your
sport, but the impacts of this plan on the environment
and how that's critical is somehow mistakenly being
reported in this report. That's what you guys should
be focused on. Find fault with something in the
content of that report. Go online and look at it.
Take one of those CD's and pore over it and look for
technical mistakes. That's the way you're going to
have to go after it.

Absent that, these strong feelings that have
been expressed up here by other people, it's not going
to change anything, I'm sorry to say.

So when you look at it on balance, what
they're trying to do here is restore these wetlands to
bring back the waterfowl, bring back the natural 
conditions. It's not a matter of five miles of walking 
trail. It's not a matter of what you guys see out a 
car window when you drive by. But we're talking about 
restoring thousands of acres to their natural condition 
so you guys will have ultimately some day a greater 
supply of game birds to hunt. That's what it is. 

That's why Ducks Unlimited is in this game. 
They see the long big picture, and you guys will too. 
We've got to save as much of this land as we can. And 
I think you guys are going to have to pool your 
resources to either look at some technical way to 
attack this plan or figure out where you're going to 
invest your money so you can buy land so nobody can 
ever do it to you again. Thanks. 

JOHN BROSANAN: Dean Heffelfinger. 

DEAN HEFFELFINGER: Hi.' I'm Dean Heffelfinger. 
I'm a resident of Novato. I'm also a hunter. I'm a 
conservationist. And that might seem oxymoronic to 
hunters and conservationists, but actually, it's not. 
The Audubon Society itself was named after a hunter, 
James Audubon, who coveted what he did. He went out 
hunting, and that kind of hunting, duck hunting. You 
sit in one place, and you see what's around you. And 
he loved what he saw and he painted it. And he revered
it.

What Black Point provides is an intense outdoor experience where the Bay Area -- I don't know how many million people we have, but what you can do with 500 acres, nature can't do out in the public lands we have now. They cannot provide the game for the people in the Bay Area.

What Black Point provides is an opportunity with supplemental game where people can enjoy the outdoor experience, something that is almost extinct.

People say that the original job was prostitution you might hear. But actually, it was hunters, people, the first of man going out to survive the hunt. It's in our DNA. We need to save it. We don't need that to go extinct.

Like Black Point does with these younger children here, it was my first hunting experience. And it's something I don't think I would have been able to have without that place there, especially, as people say, people don't travel far away to experience things.

It would be great to own land, but the Sonoma County Land -- or the Land Trust, they -- it's claimed that they want to have public use of land in a public place where we can enjoy. Well, this provides that. This is a unique experience. It's another partnership
of man and dogs, another partnership of thousands of years, where man's first domesticated animal, the dog, the dog that protected him from other wild animals -- and that has been so refined that now we have these unique species of dogs that do a purpose. And these pointing dogs, it's amazing watching their instinct, watching what they do. This provides a place for that.

As I say, James Audubon was a conservationist.

So was John Muir, who originally was a devout capitalist who cut down forests to make money. But then he learned what he saw was being lost and he became a strict conservationist to save that.

So what I'm really asking is the Sonoma County Land Trust to recognize this very unique and very needed use of land for the public of the Bay Area, the great public, for the education of the young so that they can learn the outdoor ecology and enjoy the nature there.

As somebody said, the hawks, the snakes, the squirrels, the rabbits, this is amazing what happens there. Watching an eagle dive or a hawk dive on a mouse in a field or on a rabbit, it's incredible.

Thank you.

JOHN BROSANAN: Barbara Salzman.

BARBARA SALZMAN: My name is Barbara Salzman, and
I'm representing the Marin Audubon Society. I would first of all like to commend the Land Trust for having the courage and the will to acquire this property.

I was involved with a small group of people years ago when everybody was worried that the property was going to be sold and there was going to be a casino there. And it took really a lot of guts for the Land Trust to purchase this -- to try to -- I mean, the huge effort to try and purchase this property. And I think their success has been most impressive.

We started Marin Audubon. We're an all-volunteer organization. We're a little different than the Land Trust. But we started to buy property about 15 years ago. And we started because people began to say to us -- well, they didn't begin to. For many years we were told by developers -- usually we bought property -- we tried to protect habitat through the environmental review process. And we'd go to meetings. And time after time, people would say to us, "Well, you know, if you really want -- if you want to protect that habitat, go buy it."

And you know, I have to really support what this gentleman said. I don't know who he is, but that's exactly what we did. And that's what -- unfortunately, maybe you missed the opportunity for
this site. But there really is no other way for
whoever it is, for a government, a private person,
private organization, to protect habitats, to protect
land except to go and buy it.

And so, you know, your stories are heart
wrenching, but it's really too late. And I think that
it's -- the Land Trust needs great applause for the
effort that they have done. Many of the experiences
that people got up and spoke to here will still be
there. As a matter of fact, the plan is impressive in
its habitat diversity.

There will still be upland habitats for the
raptors, for the mice and domestic animals. They --
there will be those experiences and more there because
the habitat will be richer and more diverse. That's
what most of the land was to start out with was tidal
marsh.

And I would like to also speak to the public
use or to the private use, which is what your facility
is. I think, frankly, you're quite lucky that they've
leased you the land and allowed you to stay because our
experience -- and we bought a lot of property with some
of the same kinds of money, the state money and the
federal money, that the Land Trust used to purchase
this -- they would not allow private use on the land.
If you -- imagine what a scandal it would be if the federal government started to allow private little uses on lands that people's taxes were used to purchase. And a lot of private money, as far as I know, went into this too. I gave money to this. You can't go around and start giving private use on a property that -- you know, how many people have given hundreds -- thousands of dollars -- I don't know how much you got from private foundations or whatever. But they gave it for restoration of natural habitat.

So I think it's wonderful that you've all had such heart-warming experiences. And I would also urge that you should try and find some other property to have that kind of a use. I don't think that a pheasant hunting club needs to be exactly where it was before. There are probably many other locations.

And you know, with the resources that you have and the crowd that you have in your group, I would think that you would be able to find another place.

So anyway, thank you to Sonoma Land Trust.

We'll submit a letter. We have a couple of questions about the EIR, but I didn't think it was necessary to say them today.

JOHN BROSnan: Lynn Axelrod.

LYNN AXELROD: I am speaking for myself and
another Black Point member, Huey Johnson, who would like to be here, but he's in Montana, hunting. So I'm going to make his points and my points as well.

There is an ethical issue here, which is was alluded to by somebody previously, which is understanding our foods sources and the value of hunting as a human activity which connects us to our food sources, which is much in the news these days. This is up and close to going to the supermarket and finding your meat wrapped in plastic. This project will help to undermine that understanding of human activity connected to where our food comes from.

It also will increase urbanization, which is pushing traditional activities out of the landscape. This project will contribute to that.

I'd like to say with regard to some of the points about this being -- these comments being heart-wrenching but that's all, many of the points being made and those that I'm making go specifically to criteria in the environmental impact statement that speak to an impact creating a conflict with existing or planned recreational use so that no other activity could adequately replace that use.

That's what I'm speaking to. That's what others have spoken to. And -- such that alternative
facilities would be unreasonably distant and a diminishment in recreational activity would occur. These comments tonight and mine go specifically to those legal points. Black Point is unique. It's irreplaceable. That goes to those points, to other hunting locations, as alternatives suggested. Duck hunting, as has been said, is a centuries-old tradition. You will lose the unique location in the region by closing Black Point Sports Club. It requires space and safety to engage in pheasant hunting.

Black Point adequately patrols and is safer than public lands would allow. General shooting that would take place on other public lands would interfere with the dog training.

And I'd like to speak to that specifically. And Huey, in fact, wants to make a very strong point about this. The training that Mike successfully provides is extraordinary. And in fact, he could be called a virtuoso. He's a national authority. He's written a book on the subject. Dog owners kennel their dogs with him for training. He trains 150 to 200 dogs a year. This is such high quality that it can't be found anywhere else in the region -- again, a unique factor here.
There's no substitute for his ability to work with the varieties of dog hunting breeds that have evolved over the years, a point previously made, and a point that should be emphasized because in the report, there's a blanket statement. And this one is saying the only kind of wine in this region, of all places, are only red or white. There are a variety of hunting breeds. And this plan completely ignores the need for specific training for each dog, which is something that Mike and his staff provide.

Black Point allows for a longer hunting season than on public lands. That's 150 versus 44 days. That makes it unique. It has a unique layout and a topography -- that has been mentioned -- for older adults who need the recreation, recreation being an important provision for people in general and important with regard to what Black Point provides. At Black Point, those who are older can either drive onto the site to watch dogs being trained, or they can walk in an area that's less hilly than on public lands.

Another point is that it's a fantasy, it's a fantasy to assume that California Department of Fish and Game will be able to maintain the quality that Black Point maintains, not because of the quality of the people at Fish and Game, but because of the
underfunding. State parks are threatened with closure all the time. It's a fantasy to think that allowing this sport to take place on public lands will not diminish the quality and not eventually turn it into something that has nothing to do with the way it is run now.

Black Point has better access. It has secure parking, more so than public lands. It has better management. And again, this doesn't go to the quality of the personnel. This goes to the ability to fund management. It has a better ability to stop gaming than Fish and Game and to remain ecologically pristine.

None of these comments are contrary to public lands in and of themselves but are recognizing the reality of the funding problems that public lands have and the reduction and continuing loss of a traditional activity that I, as an environmentalist -- I'm not a hunter, but I recognize that we have to have this connection between hunting and our food sources.

So a request is made to allow for a lease extension or allow the members to purchase the land. So it doesn't matter where things were several years ago. One never knows what may happen with a project. We are where we are now. And there's no urgency, there's no urgency to prevent the members of Black
Point to try to raise the funds to save the club. So with regard to whether one can be for or against this project, my comments are that we are against this project as proposed. Thank you.

JOHN BROSNAN: Beth Humming?

BETH HUMMING: Good evening. My name is Beth Humming, and I'm coordinator of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, which is a partnership for wetlands restoration around the bay.

I'm going to speak to the EIR, but I also want to address a few of the comments that have been said here tonight.

The EIR is not a document as to whether or not we're for or against the project. The Joint Venture has endorsed this project, and we've commended the Sonoma Land Trust for their leadership in stepping up to the plate when this area was for sale. It was for sale for a number of years. It's been transferred.

And there was a proposed casino on the property. At that time, there were other options for other people to buy it. But the Land Trust, not even knowing where they would get the money to purchase it, did stand up and purchase the property. The Joint Venture partners worked diligently to help secure the funds that would allow the Land Trust to purchase the
property. We also worked directly with the Land Trust through our restoration strategy technical committee to develop the designs and participated in the design review process to ensure that it met the goals of the Joint Venture partners.

The comments that I'm going to make right now do not reflect those of the joint venture but of myself, primarily because our joint venture partners are going to be commenting independently, and our restoration committee has not prepared these comments.

But I do want to talk a little bit about the feasibility of the mitigation. There are some concerns based upon experience that I have seen with other partners and the project timing window, particularly when it relates to the timing window for endangered species and construction.

Because of the presence of endangered species or potential presence of endangered species, construction windows are often limited to about a month a year in the fall. And quite often, if permits are not secured or there's a delay in permits, that construction window can be passed. The timing for the entire thing can be lost. Funding can be lost as well. From what I understand, this seems to be an even more compressed time for construction than even on some of
the other projects. So I think that that needs to be addressed.

There also needs to be some -- there's some concern about some of the specificity of some of the mitigation. Some of that really should be addressed during the design process and not in the environmental review.

And then also I'd like to Land Trust to go back and look at some of the practicality of monitoring.

As far as the Black Point Hunt Club goes, I would like to state personally that I have been involved and followed the saga of the hunt club and do personally believe that the Land Trust has gone out of their way to really help to solve the problem and figure out alternative solutions.

This project does not preclude hunting. It will actually open it up to hunting for waterfowl. There will be a different kind of hunting. Instead of hunting pheasants and chukkers, which are not native species, the ability of these wetlands to harbor additional waterfowl in the Bay Area. And then with the Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service having hunting as part of their public access programs, this will allow for hunting.
So I don't want it to be construed that hunting will not take place on the property because it will. The Land Trust has gone out of its way to help look at other locations for the club. And I do believe that they really have made a real effort to try to accommodate the desires of those who have spoken tonight while at the same time have addressed in their restoration plans in the EIR the intent for which this property was purchased.

Thank you.

JOHN BROSNAN: Herb Williams.

HERB WILLIAMS: I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Herb Williams. I'm the chairman of the California Rifle and Pistol Association Hunting and Wildlife Committee, which is the state association equivalent of the NRA.

I've been a member of the Black Point Game Bird Club since the St. Vincent's Game Bird Club closed down in Marin County several years ago. Like many of you, my son started hunting pheasants out there. And now my grandson, who is 16, is hunting pheasants out there. And I have another grandson who is four that I'd like to see him hunting pheasants out there some day.

I'm also a member of Ducks Unlimited. And
I'm, in general, for restoration of wetlands. But I believe the Black Point Pheasant Club is a better use of the land than restoring it to wetlands because we've got pickleweed marsh from Mare Island Shipyard all the way to the Petaluma River. And there are more hunters' days spent on the Black Point Pheasant Club than there are on the all that pickleweed marsh.

We talk about, "Tough. You should have bought another place."

Well, you know, you guys tried to help us look for another place. I've lived in Petaluma since 1940, and I've got some old friends who have lived there all their life. And a lot of these farms, ranches have been in the same family for 100 years or more. And they just don't go on the market. It's that simple.

I mean, if you have the ability to condemn some property and take it over and pay for it, that's one thing. But you just don't see ranches going on the market.

So I speak in favor of leaving the Black Point Game Bird Club as is. Thank you.

JOHN BROSnan: Well, that was all I had in the way of speaker cards. Is there anybody else?

CRAIG JACOBSEN: I filled one out.

JOHN BROSnan: You did? Great, come on up.
CRAIG JACOBSEN: My name is Craig Jacobsen, and I farmed the Dickson Ranch for about ten years now. And the last time I looked, we weren't making any new farmland in this country, or it seems like it's being taken away all over the country. We're using urban biosolids as fertilizer. And I don't know if that was addressed in the EIR at all and an alternate place where that material could go.

And also, an I have to apologize. I didn't read the 400-some-odd pages. The other comment is the additional trucking costs to truck additional feed from the Central Valley for our local dairies. The one issue I brought up numerous times -- actually, there's a couple. The water flows in the Eck [phonetic] area and the flooding of the Silver Ranch, I want to make sure those are all addressed. That land is so flat down there that, when you back it up on one side, it's going to go the other way. And I really don't want my farm on Lower Ranch to receive a bunch of water from the uplands that currently go to Dickson. And if you're backing it up, it will end up going to Lower Ranch. So I want to make sure that you address those kinds of issues.

And also the biggest issue that I've had from day one is the pumping capacity. When you move those
pumps up to the railroad, I hope you have a really good
engineer that can figure out the capacity that those
pumps need to handle the water that comes off of those
hills when you have inches -- five or six inches in an
eight-hour period, otherwise Highway 37 might be a
lake.

And is the current farming addressed in the
EIR and the impacts on it? Thank you.

JOHN BROSAN: Dimitra.

DIMITRA SUTSOS: Good evening, everybody. I'm
Dimitra Sutsos, Mike's wife, the owner of the Black
Point Sports Club.

And I just want to address a couple of the
things that have been said tonight and to agree with
this gentleman here. I have spent a lot of time
telling my husband, "You've got to get down to it.
They own the property. You don't. We need to do
something else."

I cannot address the passion that he has for
the club for the last 47 years for growing up there.
So it's much easier for me to say that than it is for
him to believe it and not to keep on trying to keep
this club even for a couple more years or whatever he
could get.

But the bottom line is, this gentleman here is
right. It's not our property.

And Barbara, we are very lucky that we've been there and that we've been allowed to continue on here. But the Land Trust is also making a good chunk of revenue from us being there each of these years. So we are not there for free. And it's very funny to you or very unusual to you that we have a private club there compared to taxpayers funding the other properties.

Well, it's very funny to us that we, as taxpayers, are funding our own demise because some of the money is from the taxes that we pay ourselves, that Mike and I pay.

So we know that we're going to have to get out of there eventually. Anything that we could get, any more time that could be allowed for all the people that enjoyed this club so much, for the small business that's being just wiped out, jobs, it's a big issue these days. And that just seems to not have any priority at all.

And we are conservationists. We are environmentalists in a sense. And I think something that environmentalists have a lot to say about is compromise and tolerance. And I just wonder if that's good for both sides or just the side of the Land Trust.

Thank you.
JOHN BROSNAN: Did I get everybody?

(No response)

JOHN BROSNAN: Thank you all for coming out. I appreciate it.

We've heard quite a bit tonight, and again it has all been captured and all of this is going to be carried forward into this document and everything that is spoken tonight will be addressed. So unless there are any other questions, I think we're all set for the evening.

Thank you very much for taking time out of your weeknight.

(Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at 8:20 o'clock p.m.)
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MARIN  

I, DEBORAH FUQUA, a Certified Shorthand  
Reporter of the State of California, duly authorized to  
administer oaths pursuant to Section 8211 of the  
California Code of Civil Procedure, do hereby certify  
that the foregoing proceedings were reported by me, a  
disinterested person, and thereafter transcribed under  
my direction into typewriting and is a true and correct  
transcription of said proceedings.  

I further certify that I am not of counsel or  
attorney for either or any of the parties in the  
foregoing proceeding and caption named, nor in any way  
interested in the outcome of the cause named in said  
caption.  

Dated the 17th day of April, 2009.  

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Christy Smith  
Refuge Manager  
San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge  
7715 Lakeville Highway  
Petaluma, CA 94954

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project, Sonoma County, California (CEQ # 20090296)

Dear Ms. Smith:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Thank you for agreeing to accept EPA’s comments 3 days past the comment deadline. Our detailed comments are enclosed.

The proposed project would restore tidal wetlands and rehabilitate diked wetlands and upland habitats for a wide range of species, and include various other habitat enhancements and opportunities for recreation, education, and improved range management. While we support the goals of the project, the DEIS does not include specific information on whether these proposed actions will result in direct or indirect impacts to waters of the U.S. that would be subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The DEIS should also include contingency measures for potential damage, during a catastrophic event, to the proposed core levee partially constructed with contaminated sediments, and additional information on the adaptive management strategy for methyl mercury. Finally, EPA recommends addressing the forthcoming San Francisco Bay Area non-attainment status for the 2006 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and incorporating measures to reduce combustion pollutants from diesel engines. We have rated the DEIS as Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information (EC-2) (see enclosed “Summary of Rating Definitions”).

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. When the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is released for public review, please send a hard copy (and if available, a disc copy) to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact
me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Susan Sturges, the lead reviewer for this project. Susan can be reached at (415) 947-4188 or sturges.susan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kathleen M. Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosure: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions
EPA's Detailed Comments

cc: Rob Lawrence, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District
Section 404 Clean Water Act

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifies existing wetland communities at the project site (p. 3.5-3 – 3.5-8), but does not discuss Section 404 Clean Water Act jurisdictional features nor the regulatory process for construction. The tidal wetland restoration effort from the Proposed Project will involve the loss of 94 acres of farmed seasonal wetlands, and the Full Tidal Alternative would include the additional loss of 30 acres of vernal pools and 41 acres of seasonally saturated annual grasslands (p. 3.5-19). The DEIS also describes a number of proposed actions not specific to tidal restoration nor flood protection, such as the construction of access roads, bay trail segments, and utility relocation, but does not include specific information on whether these activities will result in direct or indirect impacts to waters of the U.S.

Recommendations:

- The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) should address what regulatory processes will occur in relation to the dredge/fill of the existing jurisdictional wetlands and other jurisdictional waters of the U.S., for the tidal restoration effort and associated levee breaching and construction.

- The FEIS should identify any construction activities associated with the proposed access road, bay trail segments, and utility relocation that will occur in waters of the U.S. Include measures that will be taken to avoid and minimize any short- and long-term adverse impacts to water quality, aquatic resources, and other resources. Propose mitigation to compensate for unavoidable impacts. Commit to these measures and mitigation in the Record of Decision (ROD).

Contaminated Sediments

The DEIS identifies localized soil contamination derived from lead shot and clay targets, primarily lead and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), on a portion of the property leased by the Black Point Sports Club on the Dickson Ranch parcel (p. 3.3-8). The DEIS indicates that a Corrective Action Plan (approved by San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board in November 2008) proposes to excavate lead-contaminated soil from the Black Point Sports Club as a site remediation measure and use it as fill material (encapsulated) for a portion of the new flood control levee (p. 3.9-5). According to the DEIS, implementation of the Corrective Action Plan would ensure that all contaminated soils from the Sports Club site are appropriately excavated and sequestered during levee construction. If contaminants from levee fill were to disperse into the water column, impacts on water quality would be potentially significant (p. 3.3-23).

The DEIS includes several administrative controls to control access to the contaminated soils used to construct the levee core. This includes the development of a long-term soil
management plan addressing access to the soil associated with levee maintenance or construction activities, which would include periodic inspections of the levee and provide guidance on handling the affected soil, should access or relocation be necessary (p.3.9-15). However, the core levee is proposed on unconsolidated Bay mud deposits, which could subject the levee to strong seismic ground shaking and ground failure related to liquefaction during a major earthquake. This could result in damage to any or all of the levee's structural components, including the core levee (p. 3.1-14). EPA recommends including administrative controls to ensure that measures are in place to address exposure of the contaminated soils during unforeseen damage to the core levee.

**Recommendation:** Ensure that the long-term soil management plan and/or other appropriate administrative control includes contingency measures for damage caused to the core levee following natural disaster or other unforeseen event that exposes contaminated soils to the water column.

**Methyl Mercury Adaptive Management Strategy**

The DEIS states that an adaptive management plan will be developed and implemented to address methyl mercury production and accumulation in the restoration site. The goal of the plan is to ensure that tidal restoration at the Sears Point site does not substantially increase the risk of bioaccumulation for fish and wildlife species and does not substantially increase the risks related to human consumption of fish from San Pablo Bay or Tolay Creek. Further, the plan would be developed in consultation with the responsible regulatory agencies implementing and permitting other wetland restoration projects in the Bay, including the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (p. 3.3-15 – 3.3-16). The DEIS identifies general goals for water- and sediment-quality, hydrodynamics, and benthic invertebrate monitoring and possible corrective actions. The FEIS should include additional information on the adaptive management strategy in order to enable the reader to fully understand how possible adverse effects of methyl mercury will be minimized.

**Recommendation:** The FEIS should provide specific information regarding the adaptive management strategy. At a minimum, the FEIS should identify the key elements of the plan including: monitoring objectives and timelines; information needs; needed financial, technical, and human resources; identities of responsible parties; the process for evaluating monitoring results, including indicators and criteria; the process for altering management decisions; the data management process; and the process for communicating results.

**Final 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS Designation for San Francisco Bay Area**

The project site is located in an area that will be designated as non-attainment for the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). On October 8, 2009, the EPA Administrator signed a notice outlining area designations, including the San Francisco Bay Area with Sonoma County partially designated, as non-attainment for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. The designation will be effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, which is expected to occur within the next several weeks. EPA recommends addressing the new 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS San Francisco Bay Area designation in the FEIS and
incorporating reasonable measures and mitigation approaches to address project PM2.5 emissions. Considering the long term nature of the project, EPA recommends reviewing the new state implementation plan (SIP) that will be prepared to determine how it applies to the project. For the latest information on the 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS area designations and timelines for implementing the standard, please visit EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/regs.htm.

Construction Mitigation Measures

In order to reduce construction and operation-related air quality impacts, EPA recommends the project proponent consider and discuss in the FEIS opportunities for reducing impacts to air quality by reducing the use of diesel-powered equipment, requiring contractors to keep the equipment fine-tuned, or using alternatively fueled vehicles. EPA is aware of the serious health effects that diesel particulate and other fine particulates can cause and urges project proponents to reduce particulate emissions to the greatest extent possible.

Recommendations:

EPA recommends that mitigation to reduce combustion pollutants from diesel engines be identified and adopted in the FEIS and ROD. EPA provides the following recommendations to incorporate into the FEIS, where feasible and applicable:

Mobile and Stationary Source Controls:

- Reduce use, trips, and unnecessary idling from heavy equipment.
- Maintain and tune engines per manufacturer's specifications to perform at California Air Resources Board (CARB) and/or EPA certification levels, where applicable, and to perform at verified standards applicable to retrofit technologies. Employ periodic, unscheduled inspections to limit unnecessary idling and to ensure that construction equipment is properly maintained, tuned, and modified consistent with established specifications. CARB has a number of mobile source anti-idling requirements. See their website at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/truck-idling.htm.
- Prohibit any tampering with engines and require continuing adherence to manufacturer's recommendations.
- If practicable, lease new equipment meeting the most stringent of applicable Federal or State Standards. In general, only Tier 2 or newer engines should be employed in the construction phase.
- Utilize CARB and/or EPA-verified particulate traps and other appropriate controls where suitable to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter and other pollutants at the construction site.

Administrative controls:

- Prepare an inventory of all equipment prior to construction and identify the suitability of add-on emission controls for each piece of equipment before groundbreaking. (Suitability of control devices is based on: whether there is reduced normal availability of the construction equipment due to increased downtime and/or power output, whether there may be significant damage caused to the construction equipment engine, or whether there may be a significant risk to nearby workers or the public.) Meet CARB diesel fuel requirement for off-road and on-highway (i.e.,
15 ppm), and, where appropriate, use alternative fuel sources such as natural electric power.

- Develop a construction traffic and parking management plan that minimizes traffic interference and maintains traffic flow.
- Identify sensitive receptors in the project area, such as children, elderly, and infirm, and specify the means by which you will minimize impacts to these populations. For example, locate construction equipment and staging zones away from sensitive receptors and fresh air intakes to buildings and air conditioners.
October 13, 2009

John Brosnan
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Subject: Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project DEIR

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. The Bay Trail Project is a nonprofit organization administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) that plans, promotes and advocates for the implementation of a continuous 500-mile bicycling and hiking path around San Francisco Bay. When complete, the trail will pass through 47 cities, all nine Bay Area counties, and cross seven toll bridges. To date, slightly more than half the length of the Bay Trail alignment has been developed.

Background

The importance of the Sears Point Restoration Project to the Bay Trail in the North Bay cannot be overstated. The intent of the Bay Trail Project is to locate the trail as close as possible to the shoreline. For the 19 years since the inception of the Bay Trail Project with the passage of Senate Bill 100 (and subsequent adoption of the Bay Trail Plan by the ABAG executive board) opportunities for a shoreline alignment of the Bay Trail in the North Bay have been severely limited due to private ownership of the bayfront lands. This and other constraints forced the proposed trail alignment onto Highway 37 and other highly undesirable roadways in the area.

With the restoration of the Sonoma Baylands immediately adjacent to the Sears Point Restoration Project, 1.5 miles of spectacular levee-top Bay Trail were opened to the public in June 2007, supported by a $155,000 grant from the Bay Trail Project and others. In 2005, the Bay Trail steering committee awarded a $100,000 grant to the Sonoma Land Trust to prepare a feasibility study recommending feasible, cost-effective, environmentally sensitive alignments for the Bay Trail within the Sears Point site. This work has been completed and a levee-top alignment south of the railroad was recommended as the spine alignment for the Bay Trail at Sears Point. This 2.5 mile trail will connect directly to the existing 1.5 miles of Bay Trail at the neighboring Sonoma Baylands, allowing a combined 4 miles of trail to be placed directly adjacent to the shoreline for a broad spectrum of users to enjoy.
Proposed Project

The Bay Trail Projects comments will focus on the "proposed project"—the partial tidal wetland alternative—as identified in the DEIR. We are pleased to see that the Bay Trail and the provision of public access is a strong theme throughout the document, and is one of three main purposes for the project as stated in the executive summary:

"The purpose of the Sears Point Wetland and Watershed Restoration Project is to:

- Reestablish aquatic habitats and hydrologic connections including restoration of tidal wetlands in san Pablo Bay for the benefit of the larger San Francisco Bay estuary system
- To provide public recreational opportunities not currently available at the site; (emphasis added) and
- To contribute to the recovery of numerous species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act."

Trail System Options

Table 2-2 in Chapter 2, "Alternatives" provides three different Trail System Options under the proposed project:

1. Construct all five segments
2. Construct all five of the proposed trail segments...but close Segment 1 during critical breeding seasons for the California clapper rail and the California black rail
3. Construct segments 2 through 5

During the preparation of the restoration plan, detailed thought was given to the design of the public access atop the restoration levee in order to provide appropriate buffers between trail users and the endangered species that will hopefully one day re-inhabit this site. It is our understanding that no endangered or rare species currently occur in any of the areas proposed for trails, and that the restoration levee has been designed to provide a significant buffer (through slope, vegetation, distance, etc.) for this very reason. We believe that this carefully considered and peer-reviewed design document (Sears Point Restoration Project Bay Trail Feasibility Study, Questa Engineering Corporation, September 2007, reviewed by the Sears Point Technical Advisory Group) meets the Bay Trail Plan's mandate that trail segments "be planned in such a way as to avoid adverse effects on environmentally sensitive areas" (Bay Trail Plan, 1989). Additionally, the feasibility study was amended after its completion specifically to incorporate added habitat buffering as suggested by members of the Sears Point Technical Advisory Group.

While the Sears Point Bay Trail Feasibility Study evaluated trails on the interior of the site as well as north of Highway 37, only one alignment—the restoration levee located south of the railroad tracks—was recognized as Bay Trail "spine" whose purpose is to provide a regionally connected system serving all nine Bay Area counties and 47 cities. It is also important to note that the Sonoma County Bay Trail Corridor Plan clearly
identifies the Bay Trail spine as being on the levee south of the railroad tracks. The trails leading to the USFWS headquarters, Paradise Vineyards, Highway 37 and the hillside north of Highway 37 are desirable connector trails, but are not part of the adopted Bay Trail alignment.

For these reasons, inclusion of Segment 1 with year-round access is the only viable option for the San Francisco Bay Trail. It is our opinion that all "Trail System Options" should include Segment 1, or a new project alternative evaluating the impacts of each of the trail system options on an individual basis should be added.

Biology—Section 3.5

As referenced above, no endangered or rare species currently occur in any of the areas proposed for trails, and that the restoration levee has been designed to provide a significant buffer should these species re-inhabit the site as intended. The Biology section of the DEIR does not identify any impacts to Clapper Rail or Black Rail resulting from trail use. For this reason, the Bay Trail Project believes that it is inappropriate to propose a "pre-emptive" seasonal closure of the trail as one of three trail system options under evaluation. Clearly if these rare and endangered species re-colonize the site post-construction and are found to be nesting near the trail, actions should be taken to address the issue—including potential seasonal closures. However, proposing seasonal closures prior to the arrival of these species seems premature.

Land Use and Public Utilities—Section 3.6

The DEIR states that "The proposed wetland restoration includes extending the Bay Trail along numerous proposed alignments both within and across the project site" (pg. 3.6-14). Please note that only Segment 1 is proposed or adopted Bay Trail. The document goes on to correctly state that the Sonoma Bay Trail Corridor Plan supersedes the 1989 Bay Trail Plan with respect to trail alignments in Sonoma County, and that the Plan proposed "an alignment crossing the Sears Point property via the SMART rail right-of-way and connect(ing) to the Bay Trail segment currently terminating at Sonoma Bay lands to the west and Tubbs Island to the east." Please note that the proposed alignment was south of the SMART rail right-of-way as this is an important distinction.

This section continues "While the proposed perimeter trail along the new levee would be consistent with this purpose, the remaining proposed alignments would not be consistent with the Plan, as they would not follow the route recommended by Sonoma County Parks. However, since the dominant interest concerning the Bay Trail is establishing a connection between the two disconnected segments on the Sonoma Bay lands and Tubbs Island, impacts related to the implementation of alternative alignments are considered less than significant, and no mitigation is required." This paragraph appears to be accurately capturing one of our main points—that all alignments aside from "the proposed perimeter trail", i.e., Segment 1, are "alternative alignments" that are neither part of ABAG's Bay Trail Plan nor of Sonoma County Parks Sonoma Bay Trail Corridor Plan.
However, for the sake of clarity, it is *not* accurate to state that the implementation of an alignment *other* than Segment 1—a perimeter trail south of the levee—would have no impact with regard to consistency with designated Bay Trail routes. Please clarify in the FEIR the project proponents understanding of designated Bay Trail and Sonoma County Parks routes at Sears Point.

**Recreation—Section 3.8**

When evaluating whether the proposed project conflicts with existing or proposed recreational uses, the DEIR correctly states that the site is currently inaccessible to the public, and that any of the new alignments proposed in the project would provide improved public access. However, the final sentence under “Public Recreational Uses” incorrectly states “Consequently, regardless of their configuration, implementation of the proposed trail alignments would benefit public recreational use of the project site”. Implementation of a trail or trail system that does not include year-round access to Segment 1 as part of this project will significantly hinder efforts to achieve the stated goals of the Bay Trail Plan and the Sonoma Bay Trail Corridor Plan—to provide a continuous, shoreline, multiple use pathway. This would clearly have a negative impact on implementation of the Bay Trail in Sonoma County. Please address this in the FEIR.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project. Attached please find a map depicting the Sears Point Bay Trail within the broader North Bay context. If you have any questions regarding the Bay Trail at Sears Point, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 464-7909 or by e-mail at maureeng@abag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Maureen Gaffney
Bay Trail Planner

Cc: Steve Ehret, Sonoma County Regional Parks
October 9, 2009

Christy Smith, Refuge Manager
Fish and Wildlife Service
7715 Lakeville Highway
Petaluma, CA 94954

RE: Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project – EIR/EIS #2007102037

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am seriously concerned about the impact the Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project will have on the wildlife habitat, recreational opportunity and youth education currently provided on the Black Point Sports Club.

The Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project, which consists of 2,327 acres of wetlands and uplands along the San Pablo Bay, fails to adequately consider the serious negative impacts associated with altering the project site’s current land uses. All of the alternatives currently being considered for the Project propose to “restore” 648 acres of the Project site known as Dickson Ranch to tidal wetlands – totally disregarding the substantial wildlife and public benefits the site currently provides.

Leased and managed by the Black Point Sports Club, these 648 acres offer uplands and grasslands which provide critical year-round habitat for many avian species. The uplands provide important nesting habitat for several resident species of waterfowl—including mallards, cinnamon teal, gadwall, and Canada geese. In fact, some of the highest duck nesting densities in North America are known to occur in grassland blocks, like Dickson Ranch, which are immediately adjacent to the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Several raptor species also depend upon these uplands for nesting and foraging habitat, including the northern harrier and short-eared owl—both of which are species of special concern in California. Finally, these upland tracts also provide important nesting grounds for several small birds, including meadowlark, savannah and song sparrows, and red-winged blackbirds.

In addition to its substantial wildlife habitat values, for over 45 years, the uplands of Black Point Sports Club have provided quality hunting, shooting and dog training opportunity for thousands of Bay Area residents. By offering several outdoor youth camps and hunter education classes each year, the Black Point Sports Club also plays an important role in educating our youth about the importance of conserving our wildlife and the habitats they depend upon for future generations to enjoy. Although the Project hypes its recreational values, the fact is that the proposal would result in a serious net negative impact to the recreational and outdoor educational opportunity available to Bay Area residents and California’s general public. Finally, the habitat stewardship, levee maintenance, and substantial wildlife, recreational and educational benefits currently offered by the Black Point Sports Club on the Dickson Ranch site come at no annual cost to the Department of Fish and Game or California’s tax payers.

It is important that the EIR/EIS document fully consider these concerns and recommend maintaining Dickson Ranch and the Black Point Sports Club in its current land use. The goals and objectives of the Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project can be achieved without needlessly abandoning the Black Point Sports Club and the significant benefits it provides for wildlife and California’s public.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bill Gaines, President
California Outdoor Heritage Alliance
Reta Lockert

From: tspedersen@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 2:53 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: John C. Fields
Subject: CRPA Position re Sears Point Wetland and Watershed Restoration Plan EIR

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

Re: Black Point Sports Club - Sears Point Wetland and Watershed Restoration Plan EIR

This email is in response to the EIR being prepared by the Sonoma Land Trust. The California Rifle and Pistol Association (CRPA) recommends that the Black Point Sports Club be retained in its present form as a game bird club. CRPA's position is that the best use of the section of land that the club occupies is as a game bird club providing recreational opportunity for waterfowl, chukar and pheasant hunting. The club is comprised of recreational hunters who are stewards of the land and conservationists at heart.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any further information.

Sincerely,

Tom Pedersen, Legislative Liaison
California Rifle and Pistol Association
271 Imperial Hwy, Ste. 620, Fullerton, CA 92835
(530) 320-8428
Marin Audubon Society

October 5, 2009  P.O. Box 599  |  MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599  |  MARINAUDUBON.ORG

John Brosnan
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95404

RE: COMMENTS ON SEARS POINT WETLANDS AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

The Marin Audubon Society appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Draft EIR for the Marsh Restoration Project. We fully support this project, and commend the Land Trust for purchasing the site and for embarking on such a major restoration project. Implementation of the restoration will greatly benefit the wildlife and ecosystem of the North Bay.

We submit the following comments on the DEIR:

1. The discussion on page 2-6, second bullet, states that the pannes would be “fitted” to ensure they experience sufficient wind-wave turbulence to inhibit mosquito production. How would this “fitting” be accomplished? Is there a plan?

2. The Biological Section discusses a number of time restrictions on construction activities to protect endangered and special status species. It does not, however, identify the time period that is available for construction. We suggest that a chart be included in the EIR showing the restricted times, and that the discussion state the period during which construction can take place. It is unclear whether there would be an uninterrupted period of time sufficient for a project of this scope to be constructed.

3. The seasonal wetlands as shown on figures 3.5.1 and 3.5.4, are located in the north-west corner of the site near Highway 37. What is the reason for that choice? Is that area lower and consequently wetter now? Otherwise, we believe the south west corner would be a more ecological choice because it would be nearer the tidal marsh and, therefore, more accessible to shorebirds and waterfowl coming in from the Bay.

4. Mitigation measure MM-9 calls for relocating any Red-legged frogs found prior to construction to a suitable location near by. Where is that suitable location?

5. The presence of so many other hunting clubs in the vicinity is important in evaluating the loss of the Sports Club on these lands. It should be noted that this club is a private use which is not a
permitted use on lands purchased with state and federal government funds. A similar situation occurred recently when the Can Club, a private duck club, was required to close after the state of California acquired the property.

Thank you for responding to our comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barbara Salzmann

[Signature]

Phil Peterson
Co-chairs, Conservation Committee
October 12, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
The Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4814

Re: Sears Point Draft EIR/ EIS

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

The National Rifle Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Sears Point Draft EIR/EIS. On behalf of hundreds of thousands of NRA members who live in California and millions more throughout the rest of the country, we respectfully request your support in keeping the doors open to the Black Point Sports Club.

We are on record as supporting a minimum of a fifteen-year use extension for the Club with an option for Mike Sutros to purchase at the end of any lease term. Mike and the Black Point Sports Club have been an invaluable institution for decades, providing the rare opportunity for Bay Area individuals and families to experience one of our country’s great traditions and helping to develop deep respect for the natural environment.

The Sears Point Draft EIR states that the loss of upland game hunting at the Black Point Sports Club would not cause a substantial impact on recreational opportunities in the region and that the Club is not a “regionally unique resource.” Although the EIR is a fairly extensive and detailed document, it has neglected to accurately account for the gross disparity between the quality and experience of the Club and that of the surrounding public land, as well as the considerable distance to other private clubs.

The EIR also fails to recognize that the surrounding financially strained public lands exhibit the following: significantly fewer birds with those that are available being in poorer condition; inferior access and long walks to hunting areas; no secure parking, evidenced by numerous break-ins and frequent vandalism; a shorter season equating to much less hunting time; no facilities for hunting dogs; and no restrooms. On the other hand, Black Point Sports Club provides a safe environment, exceptional facilities, a healthy game population, a world-class sporting dog training operation, and the convenience to experience the great outdoors only thirty minutes from San Francisco. The flat terrain and comfortable facilities enable youth, the disabled, and the elderly to

www.nraila.org
connect with nature and encourages them to remain active in the outdoor arena, which further evidences Black Point Sports Club as a regionally unique resource.

Through fees and excise taxes, hunters contribute millions of dollars each year to conservation and habitat acquisition, from which the Bay Area has certainly benefited. In addition to direct fees and taxes, hunters strengthen California’s battered economy with over $925 million annually attributed to retail sales and sustaining 14,000 jobs. With dramatically shrinking hunting opportunities in the Bay Area and a correlated decline in hunter numbers, vital institutions like Black Point Sports Club should not just be preserved, they should be enhanced and expanded.

The surrounding public land, which is touted in the EIR, is rapidly declining in terms of quality of habitat and hunting as it mirrors the huge budget shortfalls of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). CDFG simply does not have the funding to actively and effectively manage public hunting areas.

Other private hunting clubs that the EIR lists are much farther away and involve using high-traffic corridors. They do not have the quality of facilities, hunting, or expertise that Black Point Sports Club brings to the Bay Area. Many area residents have their sporting dogs trained at the Club and have the opportunity to work their dogs in a protected and safe environment, which has unmatched quality when compared to other private clubs.

Under the EIR, impacts on public health were considered significant if “no other activity could adequately replace or substitute for the displaced recreational use” or “alternative facilities would be unreasonably distant from the recreational use and a diminishment in recreational activity would occur.” The NRA firmly believes that any objective observer, including a court of law, would likely determine that there would be a significant impact associated with closing the regionally unique resource of Black Point Sports Club by evaluation under either criterion.

The NRA opposes the Proposed Project in the EIR as written. We strongly recommend that the EIR be amended to grant a fifteen-year use extension to the Black Point Sports Club, to protect the valuable upland habitat and recreation that the Club has established. We also urge you to consider a purchase option for Mike Sutsos to the land on which the Club sits at the end of any lease term. Mike is a true steward of the historic Dickson Ranch, maintaining a matrix of wildlife and habitat in addition to preserving the few historic improvements on the property that are targeted for demolition under the Proposed Project.

Sincerely,

Lacey Biles
Hunting Policy Liaison
National Rifle Association
Reta Lockert

From: John H. Williams [jhw@woodsideconsulting.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2009 1:55 PM
To: christy_smith@fws.gov; John Brosnan; gmartinelli@dfg.ca.gov
Cc: Mitch Stogner; Christopher J. Neary; Doug Bosco; Angel Lucero; David R. Anderson
Subject: Sears Point Wetland and Watershed Restoration Project, DEIR

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you have previously been informed, NCRA has a perpetual freight easement over the SMART-owned railroad line that runs through the Project Area. NCRA is now completing the performance of maintenance on the railroad in order to return the track to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class 3 standards. The Northwestern Railroad Pacific Company (NWP Co.) is the contract operator of all common carrier railroad freight service through the Project Area as a result of a NCRA-NWP Co. September 2006 Lease Agreement and a Decision by the Surface Transportation Board dated September 7, 2007. As the only Railroad Operator on this portion of the SMART-owned railroad line, in accordance with FRA regulations, NWP Co. is responsible for the safety of all railroad operations in the Project Area.

NWP Co. currently expects to restart its rail freight operations through the Project Area during the first quarter of 2010. Maximum authorized train speeds will be 35 mph, and NWP Co. projects that it will operate six trains per day, following a start-up period, through the Project Area.

NWP Co. has reviewed the DEIR for this Project and makes the following comments:

1. **Rail Crossing Safety**

Given the projected speed and number of its freight trains, it is NWP Co.’s opinion that the DEIR has significantly understate the extent to which the safety of the visitor and construction public will be jeopardized by the increased use of either the existing Reclamation Road railroad crossing or a proposed new at-grade railroad crossing at that location.

At Pages 3.10-8 and 9, the DEIR projects (during an undetermined construction period) that as many as 163 round trips (326 daily vehicle crossings) will be made across the actively operating railroad in the Project Area. Although one of the clearly stated goals of the Project is to increase the number of visitors, the DEIR includes no traffic impact study and, instead, relies on the 2007/2008 count of 6,500 visitors to make its traffic assessment, without making any projections of the substantial increase in the number of visitors that this Project will attract. (See Pages 3.10-12).

It is NWP Co.’s opinion that the DEIR neither adequately assesses nor mitigates the public safety hazard to construction workers and to visitor use of at-grade crossings of the operating freight railroad in the Project area. What NWP Co. recommends as mitigation in lieu of the use of any at-grade railroad crossing is that a permanent road overpass or underpass be constructed by the Project at the location of the railroad crossing. Because, as stated at Page 2-25 of the DEIR, the railroad track will be raised through the Project Area by an unspecified amount to prevent flooding, a road underpass may be the less costly alternative for the Project.

2. **Proposed Road/Trail Setbacks from the Operating Railroad**

9/25/2011
At Page 2-4, the DEIR states that the new levee located south of the railroad would be “... constructed entirely outside of the SMART rail line right-of-way ...,” and Figure 2-3 shows such a Project Levee configuration with a 50-foot setback from the edge of the railroad right-of-way. However, the discussion of Segment 1 of the trail at Page 2-19 is contradictory in its statement that only “... a minimum setback of 25 feet would be provided between the rail centerline and the trail . . . .” The Project Levee plan and 50-ft. setback described on Page 2-4 and shown in Figure 2-3 are acceptable to NWP Co. so long as actual construction is in accordance with the statements made in the DEIR. What would not be acceptable to NWP Co. and would be unsafe for the public, in our opinion, would be any setback of less than the 50-ft. proposed in the DEIR for the Project Levee.

In its discussion of the proposed Access Road starting on Page 2-16, the DEIR states that “... the primary purpose of the extension is to allow school and tour buses signalized access, as visitor uses are expected to increase over the coming years . . . .” Moreover, as stated on Page 2-18, in its description of Trail Segment 5, the DEIR refers to this Segment 5 as a “shared use access road/trail . . . .” There is no discussion of the actual proposed road/trail setback from the railroad for Segment 5 on Page 2-21. Instead, the DEIR relies on its general statement that “... trails running parallel to the SMART rail line would be set back a minimum of 25 feet from the rail centerline . . . .” (Page 2-18).

So-called trail Segment 1 is not trail, as is clearly established by the DEIR; clearly, it is a shared use road/trail. Accordingly, it is NWP Co.’s opinion that application of a trail setback criterion to a “... shared use access road/trail . . . .” whose primary purpose is to allow access to school and tour buses access does not adequately address the safety hazard to the visitor public. It is NWP Co.’s opinion that a setback equal to the same 50 feet proposed for the new levee to be constructed south of the railroad would be equally applicable to the shared use road/trail referred to as Segment 1 of the Trail in the DEIR.

The DEIR consistently states that trails running parallel to the rail line would be set back “a minimum of 25 feet from the rail center line . . . .” In order to protect the public, NWP Co. recommends that any trail (or shared use access road/trail) constructed in the Project Area be located not less than 50 feet from the centerline of the existing railroad track and the closest edge of the trail, and that adequate barriers and fencing to prevent trespassers and injuries should be located between the railroad track and the trail. Moreover, NWP Co. recommends that any trail setback as well as any new at-grade crossing or conversion of the existing private crossing to a public railroad crossing at Reclamation Road, to be proposed by the agencies for the Project in final engineering, should obtain prior approval from NWP Co., as the railroad operator, SMART, as the railroad owner, and the California Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments on the DEIR. Please contact me if there are questions.

Sincerely,

John H. Williams
President
Northwestern Pacific Railroad Co.
250 Cambridge Avenue
Suite 104
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1554
Tel: 650-289-9850

9/25/2011
October 12, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: Sears Pt. Wetland and Watershed Restoration Project DEIR/EIS Comments

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced Draft EIR/EIS. SMART staff and consultants reviewed portions of the draft document and prepared the following comments. This letter contains several general comments, as well as detailed comments on individual sections of the DEIR/EIS. SMART’s review of the document focused primarily on issues relevant to SMART’s existing right of way which bisects the project area. While SMART supports bayland restoration efforts, proposed plans must provide measures to ensure that SMART’s existing right of way and planned rail operations are not adversely impacted.

In addition to responding to these comments in the Final EIR/EIS, SMART requests that the project proponents meet with SMART staff as soon as possible to review the current plans and ensure that SMART’s concerns are adequately addressed. Please contact SMART’s Senior Rail Engineer, Bill Gamlen (415 226-0896), to arrange for this meeting.
General Comments

There are several key concerns regarding the DEIR/EIS. These issues are summarized below, followed by specific comments relevant to these issues.

Public Safety Concerns – One of SMART’s primary concerns is that the proposed project be constructed in such a way to avoid public safety risks associated with opening the area to public access, constructing a public trail adjacent to the rail line without a safety structure and possibly introducing a new crossing of the rail line. SMART supports trail improvements, as long as appropriate safety measures are taken. The project description does not identify any safety structure between the trail and the rail right of way. If the trail is sufficiently set back from the rail line, said safety structure may not be required, but the document is inconsistent in its references to the location of the trail. In some places, the text notes that the trail would be off the SMART right of way, but in other places the trail is noted as being “25 feet from the rail centerline” which could imply that the trail is on the SMART right of way since the right of way is 50 feet on each side of the track. See specific comments below.

Stability of Rail Line – Additional documentation is needed to demonstrate that the rail line will not be affected by the introduction of tidal waters in close proximity to the rail corridor. The potential for differential settlement (see specific comments below) needs to be addressed in more detail. Furthermore, SMART engineers need to be included in the final engineering design phase to ensure that calculations regarding flood water height, etc. is accurate. In another past restoration project in the Schellville area, a miscalculation resulted in the accidental flooding of several properties.

Potential Conflicts with SMART Right of Way Use – It does not appear that the DEIR/EIS addressed land use compatibility between the proposed project and the existing rail corridor. The DEIR/EIS needs to include analysis of this issue and document whether or not a potential land use conflict exists. This analysis should be included in both the project-specific and cumulative impact analysis.

Need for SMART Coordination and Approval - SMART acknowledges that the project proponent has notified SMART staff of planning efforts leading up to preparation of the DEIR/EIS. However, to ensure that all of the above concerns are adequately addressed,
a mitigation measure needs to be added to require ongoing consultation with and approval of project plans by SMART.

Specific Comments

Page ES-3 and 1-9: One of the project's goals is "To ensure public health and safety, including flood protection for Highway 37, Lakeville Highway, Reclamation Road, and the SMART railroad right of way (ROW), and mosquito abatement." This goal should be expanded to ensure public safety along the SMART right of way, in relation to the future trail and public access in close proximity to freight rail operations.

Page ES-4: The document states that "SLT also assumes that rail line activity on the existing SMART line will not preclude future restoration efforts in the project area, including any activities that may be undertaken at a later date to restore full tidal action north of the rail line." Please provide documentation for this assumption. Is this based on consultation with SMART and NCRA? This broad assumption regarding any restoration activities may not be feasible, depending on the type of restoration planned in the future.

Page ES-8: The document states that there was public concern expressed about SMART during the scoping period, but there is no description of the issue of concern. Please clarify.

Table ES-1 and Page 3.1-19: Impact GEO-7: The analysis for this impact does not include differential settlement to existing railroad structure as a result of improvements or changes including the effect of elastic bulge. These effects can be potentially significant. The one paragraph analysis on page 3.1-19 is insufficient to document the potential settlement impact as being less than significant.

Table 1-1 and page 1-14, List of Local, State and Federal Permits and Other Approvals: The text on page 1-14 states that agencies listed in Table 1-1 are responsible agencies. Please add SMART to this table, as SMART will require approval of certain project components planned across or under the SMART right of way.
Page 1-12 (also appears in Impact LU-5 on page 3.6-14), Bay Trail Plan and Sonoma Bay Trail Corridor Plan: "The resulting Regional Park study, called the Sonoma County Bay Trail Corridor Plan, consists of seven separate sections of multi-use trail from Port Sonoma in the west to the Napa County line in the east (Sonoma County Regional Parks 2003). Among the alignments considered in the study is "Section II—Reclamation Road to Tolay Creek," which crosses the Sears Point property via the SMART alignment right-of-way, and connects to the Bay Trail segments currently terminating at Sonoma Baylands to the west and Tubbs Island to the east. The proposed project would comply with the Bay Trail Plan and Sonoma Bay Trail Corridor Plan through the extension of the San Francisco Bay Trail." Please note that SMART has not authorized this referenced alignment on its right of way.

Section 2, General Comment: Shipment of project construction materials by rail should be considered as an environmentally better option than by truck/highway.

Page 2-1: The rail line has been inactive since 2001, however, the line has not been abandoned, and NCRA has proposed resumption of freight service on this line. Therefore, the analysis should include the impacts on active freight rail service.

Page 2-3: "CDFG is planning to allow hunting on the property, but that hunting would likely be limited to waterfowl hunting from the levees." SMART would like assurance that hunting would not occur in the vicinity of the SMART right of way, to avoid potential conflicts with rail operations.

Page 2-4: "The levee structure would be constructed entirely outside of the SMART rail line right of way." How close to the right of way would the levee be constructed? What happens to the area between the levee and the rail line?

Page 2-4, 2-13, Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3, Drainage: Under the proposed project, it appears that there will be a gap between the new southern parallel levee and the rail line. Please analyze the potential for runoff from the levee slope to collect at the base of the SMART right of way and create drainage or potential flood problems. Existing culverts under the railway convey water from the north parcel to the south parcel. It appears that these culverts will be impacted by the new levee, as the water will be trapped between
the levee and rail line. There is mention of pumps on page 2-13, "These pump station[sic] would pump stormwater from lands in between Highway 37 and the SMART rail line across the new flood control levee south of the rail line and into the tidal restoration area." However, this section of the DEIR/EIS does not clarify how water between the southern levee and rail line will be removed, nor does it address whether the existing culverts under the rail line will be modified or removed. Furthermore, a new drainage ditch is shown on Figure 2-2. Please confirm that this ditch is outside of the SMART right of way and will not create drainage areas within the right of way. Would there be a potential for drainage ditches to form that would later qualify as new wetlands (this has occurred on other portions of the right of way)? If so, these new wetlands may impede use of the SMART right of way. This issue needs to be addressed in the EIR/EIS.

Page 2-5: The project description states that 12,000 CY of contaminated soils from the Black Point Shooting Club would be used in the levee along the rail line. Other than noting that three feet of soil would be placed over the contaminated soil, there is no discussion of how this lead-contaminated soil will be prevented from leaching onto the SMART right of way.

Pg 2-8: Of the alternatives identified for dredging on the project site, SMART prefers deepening of Tolay Creek east of the railroad as it helps relieve flooding of the railroad near Infineon Raceway north of SR-37.

Pg 2-12 and 2-17: Relocation of the above ground utility could have an impact on SMART. Please clarify whether any of the proposed utility removal is on the SMART right of way and whether the new proposed utility corridor would cross or be located on the SMART right of way. SMART will need to approve a new lease agreement if utilities are to be located on SMART property.

Page 2-14, Vegetation: Please note that SMART maintains their right of way by mowing and/or removing vegetation within the entire right of way. Please clarify that the proposed project will not interfere with this maintenance activity.
**SMART 20**

Pg 2-16, **Proposed Access Road:** Crossing of the SMART track should be identified as one of the components of the new access road.

**SMART 21**

Pg 2-18 and 2-28: The DEIR/EIS states “Trails running parallel to the SMART rail line would be set back a minimum of 25 feet from the rail centerline...” Any pathway improvements should be placed off the SMART right-of-way. The width of the SMART right of way throughout the project area is 100 feet, 50 feet each side of the centerline of track. SMART owns additional right of way near the crossing at Reclamation on the west side of the track. This is not shown in the plans. Also, depending on the distance of the pathway from the rail line, a safety structure will be required between the rail line and trail. This needs to be identified in the project description.

**SMART 22**

Page 2-19: The document states: “The schedule for modifications to the existing SMART railroad grade and Highway 37 at-grade crossings or undercrossings is dependent on review and approval from the responsible agencies.” See comment (above) regarding Table 1-1, which lists responsible agencies. Please acknowledge that SMART is a responsible agency, since it will require approval of certain project components.

**SMART 23**

Pg 2-19: The DEIR/EIS states "This segment would also include either an at-grade or underpass crossing of the SMART rail line at Reclamation Road." Please note that the existing railway crossing at Reclamation Road (MP 5H-30.8) is a private crossing, not a public crossing.

**SMART 24**

Pg 2-25, **Full Tidal Alternative:** Details of the proposed plans under this alternative to raise the rail track and construct a rail bridge need review and approval by SMART. How would this alternative be constructed without impeding rail operations? Construction must be considered under “rail operating conditions” (i.e., with active freight rail service occurring on the line). Flooding on both sides of the SMART right of way would raise additional concerns about adequate flood protection, access to the rail line, settlement issues, etc. If this alternative is selected, very close coordination with SMART will be required.
Page 2-29, Full Tidal Alternative trail segments: The DEIR/EIS states "... in order to meet minimum setback requirement, this alignment would need to be spaced a minimum of 25 feet from the rail line." Please clarify -- is this 25 feet from the edge of the SMART right of way, or 25 feet from SMART rail centerline. The SMART right of way is 50 feet on each side. Please confirm that the proposed levees and trail segments will be outside of the SMART right of way.

Page 2-30: Maintenance of the wetlands in the Full Tidal Alternative would need to include debris removal and periodic inspection of the undercrossing beneath the SMART right of way, to ensure that erosion and/or flooding does not occur along the right of way.

Pg 3.1-14, Impact Geo-1, Seismic Risks: The analysis focuses on potential seismic impacts on proposed facilities, as a result of proposed onsite construction (new levee, potential new undercrossing of rail line). The analysis fails to address potential seismic effects on the existing SMART track bed that might be caused by these new facilities. For example, is there an increased risk of track bed damage from a seismic event due to the installation of an undercrossing or the adjacent levee?

Pg 3.2-8, Storm Water Drainage: How will this project impact the storm water drainage through the SMART right of way north of SR-37 where it drains into Tolay Creek near Infineon Raceway? Lack of cleaning and dredging of Tolay Creek has caused flooding where its tributaries cross the SMART rail line.

Page 3.4-4, Public Safety: There is no mention of the planned use of the existing SMART rail corridor by NCRA, which bisects the project area. The Public Safety impact analysis does not address public safety issues associated with providing access in and near the rail line.

Page 3.6-1, Land Use: The Land Use Setting does not mention the SMART corridor as an existing land use.

Page 3.6-10 – 3.6-11, Impact LU-1, Conflict with Existing Land Uses, and LU-2, Compatibility with Surrounding Land Uses: The analysis does not address project compatibility with the existing SMART rail line and right of way. Please document
whether or not the proposed project is compatible or conflicts with the rail line and planned freight rail operations. Also, would the use of the rail line be disrupted during project construction?

Pg 3.9-5 & 3.9-14, Black Point Sports Club and Suitability of Remediated material for Beneficial Reuse: The project shows that lead-contaminated soil from the Black Point Sports Club will be deposited in the new levee to be constructed adjacent to the SMART right of way. This action will move the contaminated soil into close proximity to the SMART right of way. Although the analysis states that the contaminated soil will be covered to prevent erosion or exposure to the wetland habitat, there is no discussion of measures that will be taken to prevent the contamination from leaching or migrating to SMART’s property. How will this soil be kept from migrating onto the SMART right of way?

Pg 3.10-6, Transportation, Construction Phasing: Construction must accommodate active rail service (operating conditions).

Pg 3.13-9, Cultural Resources, Transportation, Railroads: NWP (and later NCRA) operated freight service in the project area until 2001.

Page 4-7 through 4-14, Cumulative Impacts, and Table 4-1: If planned rail operations on the existing SMART right of way are not considered as an existing land use, then rail operations must be added to the list of cumulative projects and thoroughly evaluated in the cumulative impact analysis in Chapter 4.

Pg 4-12 &13, Cumulative Impacts, Hazardous Substances and Waste: There is the same concern as noted for pages 3.9-5 & 3.9-14. The analysis needs to evaluate the potential for migration of contaminated soil onto the SMART right of way, or document why this potential impact will not occur.
Please contact me if you would like to discuss these comments or need further clarification of SMART's concerns.

Sincerely,

Lillian Hames

SMART General Manager
From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:02 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: black point sports club

From: rpairish@aol.com [mailto:rpairish@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:00 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: black point sports club

Mr. John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust

Mr. Brosnan.

I am writing in regards to the Black Point Sports Club. It is my understanding that your agency is considering closing this facility after 47 years of operation. As a sportsman, hunter and target shooter, I am asking you allow them to remain open...

I have hunted and enjoyed may hours of target shooting at this club, and found the operation to be both safe and well managed.

Great care is expressed to all who use that facility to always keep it clean, and responsible to all it's neighbors and to the county of Sonoma. I believe our area would lose an historical resource by it's closing.

In this time of political correctness, I would like to remind you that hunters and fisherman played an pivotal role in open space, habitat, and wildlife preservation, at the turn of the 20th century. Long before it became fashionable to be an environmentalist, sportsmen were setting aside open space and demanding wildlife management by public agencies. We have always co-operated and worked hard with city, state, federal, and private landowners to keep our resources available and accessible. I am now asking you to lend your support in keeping BPSC open.

Thank You

Page 1
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:11 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Please Support Black Point Sports Club
Importance: High
See cc's on this one ...

From: ga [mailto:gabinoalonso@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 9:22 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: Leland Yee; Arnold Schwarzenegger; Gerald Hill
Subject: Please Support Black Point Sports Club
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I am writing you to support renewing the lease for the Black Point Sports Club.

There are several reasons to support the Black Point Sports Club. This club:

- Has been in operation for over 47 years
- Provides a great service to the local community and the bay area as a whole
- Provides a great venue to have sporting events to include hunting and sporting clays
- Provides one of the only locations for bird dog field training/trials in the bay area
- Takes great measure to improve and protect exceptional habitat for wildlife
- Provides beautifully tended native grasses and habitat at not cost to the public - that are not seen anywhere else along the bay

The argument that the surrounding public lands provides more than adequate hunting opportunities is "wrong". These public lands:

- Are poorly managed and since they are maintained in a fallow condition do not maintain a viable population of wildlife for hunting
- Have poor access and most areas require a boat to access which limits public participation
- Are maintained in a fallow condition and are "not" safe for women, young or disabled hunters who cannot easily manage the uneven and often thick terrain
- Are not appropriate for training young dogs and do not have facilities to support bird dog field training/trials

Black Point Sports Club has been supporting our community for the past 47 years and has done a great job doing so. Please keep this landmark club and property in operation.

Regards,

Gabino Alonso

To all I have BCC!
John Brosnan,
Please renew the lease for Black Point Game Bird Club. It is the closest Pheasant hunting available. I've hunted there with my father and would like to see it continue on long enough for my sons to come of hunting age. With our busy lives and the high cost of fuel (not to mention the pollution of auto exhaust), BPGBC is a resource of recreation and tradition to our community.

Best regards,
David Ament
Direct: 415-209-0966
Sirs;

I am writing to express concern for the intended misuse of the property that you have acquired in Petaluma. This property is, and has been, a viable recreation site for sportsman for many decades. The land itself was recovered from a nonproductive source and migrated into a multipurpose benefit for the extended community at large. The land’s ecosystem over this extended period of time has altered to provide habitat for many new species that thrive. It also provides a haven for sportsmen who find ever increasing difficulties with locations to pursue our interests.

The purchase of this land is largely due to state supported programs, of which I am, by taxes, a large contributor. Simple because your organization was able to overspend for the purchase of the property does not give you a moral certainty or right to decide the final use of that property. There are long standing procedures and precedent for improvement of social environments by common assent. I believe these principles should also apply here. I do not believe that your intent use, to return the land to a nonproductive state, is the best conformation to social progress.

Respectfully yours,
Bruce R. Anderson

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Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 11:26 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan-

My wife and I have been residents in Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino counties for over 30 years. Among many other varied outdoor and environmental interests we also enjoy bird hunting with our Brittany dogs.

We write to urge you to consider allowing the Black Point Sports Club to continue operating at its current level and status. There are precious few opportunities left like Mike Sutso's professionally run club for bird dog enthusiasts and upland bird shooting. I would doubt you could find a cleaner or more environmentally focused operation of its kind anywhere.

Please do not terminate the opportunities this club provides for so many local citizens, many of who are retired.

I will not be able to attend your Sept 22 hearing but would wish this email to be included in the records of that meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark and Kathleen Archer
51550 Stivers Rd
Laytonville, CA 95454
707.984.8862
mark@archerandcompany.com

M & K Archer 1
---Original Message-----
From: Mark Archer [mailto:mark@archerandcompany.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2009 1:17 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan-

My wife and I have been residents in Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino counties for over 30 years. Among many other varied outdoor and environmental interests we also enjoy bird hunting with our Brittany dogs.

We write to urge you to consider allowing the Black Point Sports Club to continue operating at its current level and status. There are precious few opportunities left like Mike Sutsos's professionally run club for bird dog enthusiasts and upland bird shooting. I would doubt you could find a cleaner or more environmentally focused operation of its kind anywhere.

Please do not terminate the opportunities this club provides for so many local citizens, many of who are retired.

I will not be able to attend your Sept 22 hearing but would wish this email to be included in the records of that meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark and Kathleen Archer
51550 Stivers Rd
Laytonville, CA 95454
707.984.8862
mark@archerandcompany.com
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:08 AM  
To: John Brosnan  
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

 From: Angie & Anthony Arrington [mailto:tony-ang@pacbell.net]  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 5:40 PM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Dear sir,

I am extremely disappointed to hear about the possible closure of Black Point Sports Club. I cannot think of a better use of this land, my family, friends and our dog have enjoyed using this facility. There are many sportsmen in Northern California and not enough places to hunt and shoot in this area, I would like to see it stay open.

Thank you, Mr. Anthony Arrington

9/23/2011
Hello John,

Please consider the Black point hunting club offers sporting opportunity to many hunters. This American pastime sport is in jeopardy here at the club and we ask you consider an extension to allow us to continue to have this local venue within our backyard. Restoring the area back to its original wetlands may also not only impact the established wildlife that has taken residence here for the past century but concerns of flooding of 37 and other farm land areas should more thoroughly be thought through. Restoration of wetlands to this area will also affect migratory waterfowl who depend on these vital areas. The amount of lead shot now in this area could be potentially ingested. Flooding of the wetlands will also add to green house gases as materials are broken down. Please consider other areas and consider our recreational resource. Thank you for your consideration into this matter.

Sincerely,
Chris Barger
415-250-3202
725 Bradley Ave
Novato, CA
94947
Dear Mr Brösnan,
Please do not close the Black Point Bird Club. As hunters we have no where else nearby to hunt. The adjacent lands are poorly managed with little game to be found.
Sincerely,
Brent Barnes
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:07 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Closing Black Point Sports Club

From: Larry P Barsetti [mailto:larry175@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 5:23 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Closing Black Point Sports Club

Sir, I find that there are very few places that provide good quality recreation in our densely packed urban area. The Black Point Sports Club affords my sons, my friends and me quality recreation close to my residence. It would create a hardship for me to have to travel into the Central Valley to get close to the quality recreation that I can get at the Black Point Sports Club. Please don't take this wonderful recreation opportunity from my friends, family and me.

Larry P. Barsetti
larry175@ix.netcom.com
415.566.5985
Reta Lockert

From: Nonobecc@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 1:39 PM
To: info@sonomalandtrust.org
Subject: BLACK POINT SPORTS CLUB

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Black Point Sports Club

I have lived in Sonoma county all of my life, I have hunted all of my life in the county. My family and I have been members since 1972. We do not have the open land to hunt in this county. The closest hunting club is 60 to 100 miles a way. Hunting is a way of life for a lot of people we may be a minority, but we should have a place under the Land Trust to enjoy; we Pay Taxes for this. If this land is not all going under water why not keep Black Point Sports Club.

Robert Becchetti
3077 Porter Creek Rd
Santa Rosa Ca
-----Original Message-----
From: backfire@sonic.net [mailto:backfire@sonic.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 3:37 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Please note my support in the maintaining of Black Point. Viable hunting opportunities are diminishing and Black Point plays an important role in maintaining this right.

Doug Behrens

Doug Behrens -1
Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I am writing in support of keeping the Black Point Hunt Club open. I have been a member of this club for many years. It is a good source of family recreation. It gives the opportunity to many fathers to introduce their sons and daughters to hunting in a safe and beautiful environment. If it is closed down it will not only put a family out of a business which has been serving Sonoma County for 47 years but will also have a negative impact on their employees and other businesses that rely on them.

There is a tremendous amount of salt water marsh already in the area, adding a few more acres in my opinion will not offset the loss of the farm land and hunting area. We need to preserve farm land and hunting areas as well.

Please vote to keep it open.

Thank you,

David Bengtson
Reta Lockert

From: George Brabo [gbrabo@pon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 9:10 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Black Point Hunting Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

We are writing in support of the Black Point Hunting Club because we have developed a wonderful family tradition there with our family enjoying all of the recreational facilities that it offers. We have been members for 30 years. We have relied on Mike Sutso to help train our many dogs through the years with great success. The dog training is a great service to our community. This training of sporting dogs is the only one of its kind in this area.

Our grandchildren have reaped the benefits at young ages of learning the value of, and respect for, how hunting enriches a persons life. The quality of the time spent together at B. P. is irreplaceable. Flooding this area would eliminate this family recreation that enriches so many lives.

We believe the number of hunters that use the Club far outweighs the amount of hunters that would use this area for waterfowl hunting if it was flooded. Plenty of other duck hunting is available throughout the Bay Area. The upland game bird hunting here is a unique feature in this North Bay area.

We hope you will consider our request and allow our much loved Black Point Hunting Club to remain operational for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

George and Cheryl Brabo and Family
September 20, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: Blackpoint Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am writing this letter because my work schedule in San Francisco will prevent me from attending the meeting in Sonoma 22 September. As a Black Point Sports Club member for many years I have followed the recent discussions about Sonoma Land Trust terminating the lease with some interest. It seems to me the issues boil down to two main ones: reducing hunting activity, and returning the area to its natural state. Unfortunately this is a case where one side holds a Royal Flush and the other side holds a full house. Since I assume you're a busy man, I will try to be as succinct as possible about why I think Sonoma Land Trust should extend the lease for at least 10 more years:

- Diversity being a catchword in this society, Blackpoint provides a unique outdoors experience available to many enthusiasts due to its proximity to population centers. Bird hunting engenders camaraderie, an appreciation for outdoor experiences and wildlife management, and reinforces sportsmanlike behavior, responsibility and safety awareness. Termination of the lease will force hundreds of hunters to seek opportunities farther away, thus increasing fuel consumption and traffic congestion.

- I would imagine the lease generates much-needed funds for the Sonoma Land Trust, which can put those funds to use for its stewardship of wild lands. Why convert a money-generating operation into a money intensive operation? Restoring the property to wetlands will restrict human recreational activities to the levees and take out of production any commercial crops the land now supports. Acres and acres of carbon-absorbing plants (crops and cover) will disappear. Flooded fields no longer would provide habitat for a matrix of wildlife that includes rabbits, mice, turkeys, song birds, deer, raccoons, Canada geese, red-tailed hawks, coyotes, reptiles, and insects (especially mosquitoes).
Those who oppose hunting as a cruel sport have never watched factory poultry operations where birds are genetically manipulated, their beaks and toes cut off, raised in cramped, uncomfortable conditions, hung by the neck on an assembly line, then sliced and dropped into boiling water. Culled chicks fall into a grinder. At Blackpoint, birds are raised in open hutches with plenty of room to run around. During the season, they die quickly with a minimum of suffering and then are consumed by the hunters. The occasional wounded bird is taken by raptors such as red-tailed hawks. Many pheasants survive the hunting season and then populate both public and private lands, thus bolstering the wild community. The club also serves as a refuge of sorts for senior hunters such as me who realize the sport is one we can enjoy for many years to come, especially at Blackpoint where the flat terrain is imminently negotiable for our aging joints. Pursuing an exacting and exciting outing in beautiful open country with our dogs strengthens the bond between dog and hunter and allows them to fulfill the potential of their breed and the training they have been given. The core of my hunting experience at Blackpoint has been to watch Joey and Brady, two rescued Brits who had a rough start in life (Joey was two days away from death at the Martinez Animal Shelter and Brady was abandoned with his brother on a rainy night in Oroville) savor their new life in Mill Valley and achieve their field potential at Blackpoint through patience and love.

I implore you to consider extending the lease at Blackpoint for a reasonable period in the future. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

William L. Buchanan

WLB/cab

Cc: Blackpoint Sports Club
From: Sheri Cardo  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:10 AM  
To: John Brosnan  
Subject: FW: Future of Black point Sports Club

From: Edward Buchanan [mailto:2hunters2@comcast.net]  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 10:59 PM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Cc: Edward Buchanan  
Subject: Future of Black point Sports Club

Mr. John Brosnan

It has come to my attention that a hearing to be held September 22nd could affect California hunting heritage and traditions. This hearing is to discuss the permanent closure of the Black point Sports Club, which has been operation for more than 47 years. This private club relies on its membership to remain open, yet provides a greater service to the area by protecting and providing exceptional habitat for wildlife. The surrounding public lands do not provide adequate hunting opportunities. These under funded and poorly managed public lands have poor access, maintain less wildlife, and have no facilities for hunting dogs. Please consider maintaining a California hunting heritage by extending the Black Points Sports Club land lease. This would be in the best interests of California's wildlife, conservation and maintain our hunting traditions.

Sincerely,

Buck Buchanan  
Cell: 925-998-5086  
Email: 2hunters2@comcast.net

Master Hunter Education Instructor  
SCI Cubs Youth Shooting Sports Coordinator  
NRA - Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun Instructor  
NRA - Range Safety Officer  
Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor  
Certified Muzzle Loading Instructor  
DOJ Handgun Safety Instructor

9/23/2011
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 11:51 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club Lease Renewal

From: Canon3rd@aol.com [mailto:Canon3rd@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 10:59 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club Lease Renewal

The Sonoma Land Trust has been established to represent all of the community. Yet, the Trust now desires to end the Black Point Sport Club lease that has existed for almost 50 years. The Black Point Sports Club has successfully provided valuable services to the community at large by maintaining excellent wildlife conditions within the leased area. Claims that public lands surrounding the Black Point managed land will provide more than adequate hunting opportunities are not true. The public lands are under funded, poorly managed, have poor access, have less wildlife, and have no facilities for hunting dogs.

Please renew the Black Point Sports Club. It is the right thing to do.

George Canon
Captain USN (Ret)
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:12 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Please keep the Sportsmans Club open

From: Edward Collins [mailto:collinsedward@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:08 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Please keep the Sportsmans Club open

Thank you
Edward J. Collins
Member
American Legion
Sons of the American Revolution

Edward Collins -

Bing™ brings you maps, menus, and reviews organized in one place. Try it now.
-----Original Message-----
From: cteandriano@netscape.net [mailto:cteandriano@netscape.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 6:36 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black point

This is a good reason never to support you people.

cteandriano - l
From: Emery Watts [enert.watts@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2009 1:50 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Sir:

Re: Black Point Sports Club.

I seem the effort of elimination of the club, has at this time gone national. Being a proponent of the second amendment, and a hunter, sportsman I would suggest, the closure of this organization is NOT a good idea. I would ask you to consider your position in this regard. There are many other matters that should be addressed other that depriving folks of the use they make of this organization and land.

Hunters actually are a positive influence on the environment, and wild animal welfare. The removal of this means of animal management can and will prove detrimental to the environment through over population and over grazing causing the possibility of excess runoff during the rainy season. There are for mare issues I could mention, but I would be redundant in doing so, so I respectfully ask you to consider you decision carefully.

If you are not a hunter, shooter or otherwise involved in the shooting sports, perhaps you might like to get involved in same, why not contact some club members. I am certain they would welcome you to experience the joys of sport shooting.

With all due respect,

Gerry Damiano
415-624-5727
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 2:47 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point

From: David Distad [mailto:ddistad@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 2:26 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point

Mr. Brosnan:

I received a notice of your intent to close off Black Point to hunting. Although my legs no longer allow me to do much hunting, I would hope you would keep the site open to the hunting community. We haven’t lived in the North Bay very long so we didn’t know about this until today. My sons would like to take advantage of the opportunity now that we know about it. I hope you will look favorably upon this request of mine.

David Distad
24 Reichert Ct.
Novato, CA 94945
I support The Black Point Sports Club. I urge you to do the same.

Thank you,

Mike Doherty
San Mateo, Ca.
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:08 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Support for Black Point Hunt Club

From: Mark Doolittle [mailto:markdoolittle@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 5:38 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Support for Black Point Hunt Club

John,

Please accept this email in support of the Black Point Hunt club. I am my son used the club last season 08/09 on at least ten occasions. It would be a loss to the hunting community if this open space was not available for residence in Sonoma County.

Mark Doolittle
Unity Building & Electric Company
707-778-8585
markdoolittle@comcast.net

Mark Doolittle - 1
-----Original Message-----
From: tehrich@astound.net [mailto:tehrich@astound.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 9:51 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Closure of Black Point Sports Club

September 21, 2009

5231 Myrtle Drive
Concord, CA 94521

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707) 526-6930x109
info@sonomalandtrust.org

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I am writing to voice my ardent opposition to the possible closure of the Black Point Sports Club that is located on land that your organization manages. Black Point's operation is member-funded, yet provides a great service to the area by protecting and providing exceptional habitat for wildlife. The position of your organization that surrounding public lands provide more than adequate hunting opportunities is, in my opinion, a fallacy. These under funded and poorly managed public lands have poor access, maintain less wildlife, and have no facilities for hunting dogs & dog training.

It is very important that public hunting opportunity around the Bay Area be preserved and enhanced, as we are seeing happening with the Federal properties in the south bay salt marshes.

Black Point has been in operation for 47 years and is an important recreation facility for outdoors people in the north and east bay.

I am not a member at Black Point, but I have been invited to use the facilities and it is excellent, and an appropriate use of this resource.

Respectfully,
Thomas Ehrich
Concord, CA 94521
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 2:48 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club
Importance: High

I am against closing down the Black Point Sports Club. It has provided tremendous recreational value to myself and family for many years. I believe the reasons given to shut the Black Point Sports Club are groundless and self serving to a few eco-nuts.
I am a registered voter in Marin County and will exercise my rights when the time comes to vote against any elected official who backs closing this wonderful place.

Todd Ellinwood
Senior Vice President
Wells Fargo of California Insurance Services, Inc.
45 Fremont Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105
Direct Line: 415.512.3603
todd_ellinwood@wellsfargois.com

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October 4, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Black Point Sports Club EIR

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

Unfortunately, I was out of state and unable to attend the public hearing on 9/22/09. The Black Point Sports Club lease should not be terminated in 2011. No other activity could adequately replace or substitute for the displaced recreation use. Alternative facilities would be unreasonably distant from the recreational use and a diminishment recreational activity would occur.

As an upland game hunter for over 40 years, I am quite familiar with the inferior hunting alternatives that are suggested in the EIR. There is truly nothing comparable to the Black Point Sports Club within a 3-hour drive of the San Francisco Peninsula where I live. Please let me explain:

a. My family has owned a ranch in Northern Napa County adjacent to the Knoxville Wildlife area for almost 70 years. I am well aware of the hunting opportunities and problems related to the operation of the two former ranches that the Department of Fish & Game recently acquired and now operates as a public hunting area. This area has never had a significant native population of wild pheasants. The area has been traditionally known for its deer and turkey hunting and not pheasant hunting. The Department of Fish & Game has allowed the area to become significantly over hunted to a point where it has a reputation for being somewhat unsafe to hunt. It is a very poor place to hunt pheasants with a very low quality hunting experience.

I know the Cedar Roughs and it is also an inferior alternative because the habitat has never been conducive to a meaningful pheasant population. I have personally hunted in this area and found it to be a very poor choice for pheasant hunting. Why drive 3 hours to either of these locations with very little likelihood of having a successful pheasant hunting experience? Offering either of these areas as a pheasant hunting alternative to the Black Point Sports Club is unacceptable. Neither location is where you want to go to hunt pheasants.
b. Being familiar with Hastings Island Hunting Preserve, Birds Landing and Suisun Marsh Hunting Club, it is my opinion that these facilities are a poor alternative to the Black Point Sports Club. It has been my experience that at least one of these clubs suffers from an inadequate bird release. To me, the ground cover and condition of the fields are inferior to Black Point. All three are subject to hazardous ground fog conditions in the winter. It is my opinion that they are not reasonable substitutes for Black Point Sports Club.

c. The San Pablo National Wildlife Refuge, Napa/Sonoma Marshes and Petaluma Marshes are a good choice for duck hunting but a poor choice for pheasant hunting. At times, they are overcrowded and frequented by hunters that don’t always practice safe hunting. The hunting season is much shorter than Black Point Sports Club with a poor success rate and increased safety concerns. Like most public hunting facilities, they are not well maintained.

d. None of the above alternative hunting facilities will meet the recreational needs that hunters have come to enjoy at Black Point Sports Club. The pristine quality of the fields, high success rate, ease of accessibility and high safety standards are unmatched. Given the above factors, the pheasant hunting activities undertaken at Black Point Sports Club do constitute a regionally unique resource that would be eliminated from the region. It has a 47 year history of excellence in both hunting and dog training. In the world of outdoor recreation, Black Point Sports Club is a real asset to Sonoma County and the entire Bay Area.

In conclusion, with all the suggested hunting alternatives listed in the EIR, why would I choose to belong to the Black Point Sports Club to hunt pheasants, if the experience wasn’t far superior to all of the other choices. I strongly disagree with the EIR conclusions and request that the Black Point Sports Club lease be extended through 2025. This extension will allow adequate time for public agencies to improve management and quality of the hunting experience on competing facilities that they operate.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Erasmy
3 Terra Linda Court
Millbrae, CA 94030
(jjerasmy@yahoo.com)
From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:39 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW:

From: kenneth erkson [mailto:erkson@jps.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:37 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject:

i hope you win and can stay open, i don't live close to you but my heart is with you.

ken erkson@jps.net

Kenneth Erkson-1
John Brosnon
Baylands Program Mgr
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Sonoma CA. 95404

Dear Sir

I am a hunter, a fisher & a conservationist.
I appreciate the efforts to conserve the Baylands, however I believe places like the Black Point Sports Club should also be saved. It is a well run facility close to San Francisco with easy hunter access & hunting success providing dogs & dog training. I live in San Jose and it’s still an easy commute.

Matt Faletti 9-19-09
6029 Foothill Glen Dr,
San Jose, CA. 95123

Matt Faletti - 1
Reta Lockert

From: Archoplites@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2009 9:57 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Black Point Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am writing this letter in support of Black Point Game Bird Club. I joined this club in 1977 after the Saint Vincent Pheasant Club was forced to close due to political pressure. When I joined Black Point I was a mere boy with a young dog; now after 32 consecutive seasons, I am an old man recovering from the effects of cancer with a new young dog.

While there is public access hunting acreage in the vicinity, it offers slim chance for success especially for a senior citizen who no longer has the stamina for a long fruitless day on public land. At least at Black Point there is a decent chance of encountering a bird. We know that in time the Dickson acreage will revert to wetlands but it is my hope that an old man and his dog will be able to enjoy a few more years walking the stubble fields at Black Point.

Thank You

Eugene Fassi
Hi John,
I plan on attending the Black Point meeting this evening.
I support keeping Black Point Sports Club open, with very few changes, if any.
The impact to the local hunters that utilize this facility for dog training and other recreational uses is huge. Closing the facility will have an adverse affect on the community.

See you tonight.

Mark Fichtler

9/23/2011
SharedHR

Mr. John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Black Point Property

September 22, 2009

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

The purpose of this letter is to express serious concerns about the EIR related to the Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project. Should this project move forward as proposed, it will have a negative impact recreational opportunities, field dog training, and youth education currently provided on the property by Black Point Sports Club.

For over 45 years, Black Point Sports Club has provided quality hunting, shooting and dog training opportunity for thousands of Bay Area residents, many of whom could not find other such opportunities within a reasonable distance.

By offering several outdoor youth camps and hunter education classes, the Black Point Sports Club also plays an important role in educating our youth about the importance of conserving our wildlife and the habitats they depend upon for future generations to enjoy. For example, my 13 year old son attended a hunter safety course offered by California Waterfowl Association and hosted by the Black Point Sports Club earlier this month. He came away with a solid understanding of game conservation as well as an important safety training knowledge base. Without a place to hike, target shoot and observe/experience wildlife, the course would not have been nearly as impactful. Further, so long as Black Point Sports Club remains open, my son will have a local place to learn to hunt safety, train our dog and continue a heritage of appreciation and care for wildlife.

Far too few young people get the chance to experience outdoor opportunities. Public hunting options are diminishing and virtually unavailable within reasonable distance of our southern Marin home. Public hunting can be dangerous and unpredictable, particularly with the diminished budget of the Department of Fish and Game to properly manage public land. Without the chance to conveniently and frequently visit this important resource at Black Point, other non-outdoor activities would take over and the chance to pass on an appreciation for such recreation would be lost.

I endorse the idea of postponing any action on this property until 2025 to give time for the state and public land managers to develop other options prior to closing the Black Point Sports Club. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Finkle, President  
SharedHR / WEA Consulting

1000 Fourth St. Ste. 150  San Rafael, CA 94901: 415.459.4400  Fax 415.459.4932  www.sharedhr.com
From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:59 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Hunting

From: Bob Fischer [mailto:bob4065@sonic.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:38 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Hunting

John, what the hell are you trying to do? I support hunting and especially responsible people that do it. Why don't you champion getting government out of our way instead????????????

Bob Fischer

Page 1

A-105
Reta Lockert

From: bjkfoster@comcast.net  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 8:07 PM  
To: John Brosnan  
Subject: Fwd: Black Point

----- Forwarded Message -----  
From: bjkfoster@comcast.net  
To: blckpt@ix.netcom.com  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 7:37:44 PM GMT -08:00 US.Canada Pacific  
Subject: Black Point

To Whom It may Concern:

I am asking that one of the bay area's greatest hunting area's be saved!! As a previous employee of Black Point I can tell you first hand that Black Point serves a purpose, a very big purpose. I was 19 years old when I worked at Black Point and to this day I remember all of the great memories that I witnessed taking place there. There were friends enjoying each others company, people training their dogs, great pheasant hunting and most importantly there were kids enjoying a safe hunting environment with their families. All I thought of back then was how great it would be to take my family to this great place. I am now 33 years old and last year my dream came true. Every weekend last season my little girl, my dad and I enjoyed at least one day in the fields at Black Point. My daughter loved it!! She can't wait for this season, to see our dog Rosco fetch 'em up! To think that we will lose Black Point is very upsetting. What's even worse is that some people think that the same memories and experiences can be had on public land. I can tell you from personal experience they are very different. I would never take my little girl hunting at one of the refuges for opening day or any other day. It is no place for kids! One more thought to process is this, how do we know that these public lands will be available to us in the future? With the current administration's track record and wanting to close down parks all over the state, will these public lands be available? I ask you to please reconsider taking one of the bay area's greatest places away from us.

Sincerely,

Brian Foster
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:09 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Closure of Black Point Sports club

From: Chuck [mailto:forrest@sonic.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 7:33 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Closure of Black Point Sports club

Mr. John Brosnan,

I would like to throw my two cents in to the eminent closure of our sports club fracas. I cannot believe you would advocate the closing of this fine club. Outside of the untruths, rumors, and misdirection being bandied about, please let me give you my view of why I think the club should be allowed to stay open. My self, I have been hunting most of my life. I have only been pheasant hunting for the last 15 years. To tell the truth, I mostly go just to watch my dogs do what they were born to do. Going with just my self and one or two friends, the distance and field conditions of various hunting clubs has not been a major problem. However, in the last ten years I have lost all of the private land that I used to hunt on. Mostly due to inconsiderate hunters and liability issues. I have flat out not been able to find any public land to hunt on in a 100 mile radius of Sonoma County. And somewhere along the line, most of the "public" land had become "government" land and been closed to the public. Case in point, Shasta and Trinity counties have had over 2000 gates installed at access roads shutting out virtually all hunters. Now I may be wrong, but I thought in America the government works for us, not against us. In the last 8 years I have been taking senior citizens out pheasant hunting once a month during the club hunting season. I am a Shriners and the gentlemen that I take out are also Shriners. There is a pool of about 8 to 10 of these fine men that I like to keep active. Their ages range from 69 to 89. And all these men are veterans. I have one from the 33rd airborne that jumped into Okinawa, one Pearl Harbor survivor, one who liberated Buchenwald, and the rest are all combat vets from WW2 and Korea. One of these men has a wife with a number tattooed on her forearm. Why am I telling you this? Well, we are all from Sonoma County and Black Point is almost half the distance of Suisun. And it is the only club I have been to that keeps its fields smooth. These two points are major considerations for my hunting Shriners. I feel that there is not enough I can do for them. And as I am also a veteran, I must question why the country that so many of our brothers have died for is constantly chipping away at our lives. I don't want to be the one who tells them that the land trust that they pay for is now telling them that their hunting club has to go. Do you?
Thank you for your consideration,
Charles L Forrest.
President, Sonoma County Shrine Rod & Gun Club.
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 11:28 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

John, I'm just realizing that since I'm forwarding these from home, you are not getting the usual time/date/email address header in Outlook. I will reforward tomorrow, but at least you're getting an idea of what is coming in, somewhat belatedly it seems.
Sheri

To: John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager

From: Edward Fotsch, MD

Re: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan, I am writing to you today to advocate for the continued operations of the Black Point Sports Club. This hunting area is one of the few places where my 3 sons and I can spend the day together with our dog Ace and hunt. This wholesome and organized activity is a family bonding tradition for us and for many other families. I strongly support this continued use of the property.

Thank you,

Edward Fotsch, MD
2 Alexander Ave
Sausalito, CA 94965

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Reta Lockert

From: dennisfno@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 8:25 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: blckpt@ix.netcom.com; hdj@rrri.org

Subject: EIR for Blackpoint Club

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am submitting comments concerning your proposal, and accompanying EIR, to close Black Point Sports Club (Black Point).

I have been a member of Black Point for approximately ten years.

Please excuse the use of an e-mail, and the rather brief response. I have extended client tax returns due by October 15th and very little time.

I admit to not have read the entire EIR. The various summaries that I have seen do not appear to address two related fiscal issues. As a background, prior to joining Black Point there were many years when I did not purchase a California hunting license. This was primarily due to never knowing if I would have time to drive several hours to the central valley and several back for a few hours of hunting. As you may be aware, the California Department of Fish and Game is primarily funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and accompanying tags, stamps, etc. This is in spite of its mandate to support legislated programs with no relationship to hunting (or fishing). You may also be aware of the federal Pittman-Robertson excise tax on firearms and ammunition. This is the primary means of funding habitat acquisition. Many people are not aware that one of the factors in allocation of funds to various states is hunting license sales (not general population or where the sales being taxed were made). As an example, if a hunter purchases a firearm and supply of ammunition in California and then goes to Nevada (as an example) to hunt and buys a Nevada out of state license, the allocation factor would move these funds to Nevada. I am curious as to how your EIR addressed the fiscal issues of license fees and Pittman-Robertson allocations.

Your EIR made the point that San Pablo National Wildlife Refuge offers comparable upland hunting to Black Point. Prior to my youngest graduating university (i.e. tuition freedom day when I could afford such things as private hunting clubs) I did hunt at San Pablo on occasion. Neither the habitat nor the hunting quality are comparable - the only pheasants were flyovers from Black Point. Attempting to enter Highway 37 westbound is also an experience. The excerpts from your EIR did mention distant hunting opportunities, Fairfield being the closest. Given the desire to restrict auto emissions and greenhouse gases did the EIR concern itself with the effects of increased auto traffic to Los Banos, Colusa or wherever? To the extent that this discourages hunting and impacts license sales, please see above.

I do appreciate the fact that the Sonoma Land Trust prevented a large, neon marked casino from

9/23/2011
intruding upon the land. My family has been in northern California since 1851 (the gold rush), we believe in traditions including stewardship of the land and other resources. I realize that in today's north bay the politically correct course for your organization is to be one with the anti-firearm, pro-PETA groups and exile those barbarians who hunt. I urge you to consider the full impact of your action, including the loss of future habitat acquisition in California.

Very truly yours,

Dennis D. Freeman  
517 Midway Boulevard  
Novato CA 94947  

home phone: (415)883-3166; office phone: (415)382-7925
-----Original Message-----
From: Art French [mailto:artfrench@race.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 1:09 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: Mike Sutsos
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Mr. John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust

Dear Mr. Brosnan,
I am, and have been a member of the Black Point Sports Club for the past several years. The Black Point Sports Club offers a unique opportunity for residents of the San Francisco Bay Area to participate in one of the finest and most traditional hunting experiences, upland bird hunting. It provides an opportunity for a large number of urban and suburban dwellers to participate in nature, train their dogs, and learn and experience traditions that have evolved from the time of our ancestors. Mike Sutsos and his family and staff have been great stewards of this resource for a very long time. During that tenure, the fields have been well maintained, contributing to a unique experience for hunters and their dogs. Just as important, the habitat which is best suited to this type of hunting also supports a very healthy wildlife population, which flourishes alongside our hunting activity.
For those, like me, who are already forced to travel a long distance to get to Black Point, the additional travel time to reach existing private clubs would be prohibitive. There really is not a public lands alternative to what Black Point offers with regard to accessible opportunities to hunt or to train dogs. Also, the public options, which are not truly viable alternatives, are likely to disappear with the current and future California fiscal crises.
The loss of the Black Point Sports Club would be a tremendous loss for the community, both human and wildlife. I ask that you seriously consider the proposal to extend the lease for the Black Point Sports Club until 2025.

Sincerely,
Art French
P O Box 371454
Montara, CA 94037
(650) 758-0132 Day
(650) 728-1786 Evening
-----Original Message-----
From: William Gaffney [mailto:bill-ginny@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 2:39 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Blackpoint Hunting Club

Gentlemen,
I urge you to consider not to close the property to hunting. It has been in use for more than 47 years and has been an asset to the area and its hunters and young sons and daughters William Gaffney
42 Edwards Avenue
Sausalito, CA 94965

William Gaffney -1
September 21, 2009

Jeff M. Gerard
517 The Alameda
Berkeley, CA 94707

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am writing to urge you to reconsider your apparent decision to end the lease of Black Point Sports Club in 2011. As a resident of the Bay Area for the last 30 years, and an avid hunter, I can attest to the fact that hunting areas such as Black Point are a treasured, but rapidly declining, resource.

I was raised in the Central Valley where we had many opportunities to explore our outdoor heritage. However, in the immediate Bay Area, such locations are very rare. During the season, my wife, our golden retriever and I spend at least one day most weekends enjoying the fields at Black Point. It is a wonderful way to start the day and we consider this use of the land to be its' highest and best use. Given the lack of alternatives, my hope is that your commissioned EIR will have a similar finding.

Thank you for reconsidering your decision and allowing us to preserve this vital resource.

Sincerely,

Jeff M. Gerard
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 10:45 AM  
To: John Brosnan  
Subject: FW: Black Point

From: Charlie Gibson [mailto:CGibson@mansionconstruction.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 9:29 AM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Subject: Black Point

I am writing to urge you to consider maintain the Black Point hunting club as an operational bird hunting club. There is no option for hunters in Sonoma county other than Black Point, please keep our heritage alive and allow us to continue our sport at the only public area left in the county, otherwise we will have to travel to Solano county and beyond to pursue our sport.

Charlie Gibson, Vice President  
Manson Construction Co.  
200 Cutting Blvd  
Richmond Ca. 94804  
510-232-6319

Charlie Gibson - 1
Reta Lockert

From: Bob & Alice [batt9301@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2009 1:07 PM
To: John Brosnan

Subject: Black Point Hunting Club

My name is Bob Gloeckner. I live near Sebastopol on Hessel Rd. I support retaining the hunting club on the Dixon ranch along hwy 37. I have been a member since it inception. The Dixon's and Sutsos families have been good stewards of the earth and improved the land and native cover. I support the Sonoma Land Trust, but I also support keeping the hunting club. Its a good use of the property. Your EIR is in error. There are not many other hunting clubs or preserves in the bay area available to Sonoma County residents. Please keep the hunting club. They have done a great job for a long time. Without them the property may not have been available for the Land Trust to Purchase.

Thank You

Bob Gloeckner
795-6729
-----Original Message-----
From: Michael Golick [mailto:mendocinomichael@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 3:48 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Blackpoint Sports Club

John Brosnan
Baylands Project Manager
Sonoma Land Trust

Greetings John:

I had the pleasure of meeting you, in early 2008, at the forum held in Sonoma regarding
long range plans for the property purchased from the Dixon family, that is currently used
by Black Point Sports Club. Due to a scheduling conflict, I will not be able to express my
thoughts on this matter in person, at tonight's meeting.

My concerns are still the same as those I expressed previously. In fact, I have had the
opportunity to do some research and based on my findings my concerns have multiplied!
There are no other licensed upland bird sporting clubs in the Bay Area.
Those previously in existence have closed. The closest club is on Susuin Marsh in
Fairfield. Other clubs are in Woodland, Dixon and Williams, much further east.

Outdoor recreational sporting activities should not only be for the privileged fee who can
afford transportation and lodging at these increasingly remote locations.

There has to be a compromise in the development of the land in question that would meet
the needs of your organization as well as the needs of the many members of Black Point
Sports Club.

Along with this letter, I have included a copy of the letter, regarding Black Point
development, I sent, (February of 2008), to Christy Smith, Fish and Wildlife manager.

Sincerely;

Michael Golick
From: Sheri Cardo  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 5:03 PM  
To: John Brosnan 
Subject: FW: Copy of letter to Christy Smith Re: Black Point Sports Club 

From: Michael Golick [mailto:mendocinomichael@sbcglobal.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 3:48 PM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Subject: Copy of letter to Christy Smith Re: Black Point Sports Club 

Michael Golick 

<>1950 Deerwood Dr.  
Ukiah, Ca. 95482  
707-463-0810  
February 28, 2008  
% Sears Point Restoration NEPA Scoping Comments  
<>Christy Smith Refuge Manager  
Fish & Wildlife Manager  
7715 Lakeville Hwy.  
Petaluma, Ca. 94954  
<>Being a Northern California native, (I was born in Sunnyvale when cherry, apricot & prune orchards covered the valley floor), I fully support the concept of open space and animal habitat preservation. <> 

I also support the principals of good sportsmanship & healthy out of door activities. Besides fishing, upland game hunting is an important out door activity for me. My grandfather taught me to pheasant hunt, as well as the many principals of safe hunting, in the delta, on Jersey Island. I have had the great privilege of passing these principals to my son, Marc, while hunting at Black Point, & I am in the process of teaching my grandson, Morgan, the same character building ideals. In July 2005, Morgan attended a Hunter Safety class at Black Point, taught by George Oberstadt of the Ca. Water Foul Assoc. <> 

Black Point Hunt Club provides open space for a variety of land based wild life, such as Red Tailed Hawks & burrowing owls, which should be preserved for future generations. <> The land included in Black Point Hunt Club has been maintained, for the past half century, as open space as well as a place for upland game recreation. The many millions of dollars needed to convert the land into marshland, would be better spent on the purchase of additional land that could be dedicated to open space. I strongly feel that upland game hunting should be included in the final plan. Black Point would continue to provide hunting opportunities to thousands of current users, and do so without taxpayer expense. <> 

Please regard my sentiments with the same good intent in which they have been presented, & maintain Black Point Hunt Club as open space for land based wild life as well as a safe location, convenient to the Greater Bay Area, for upland game hunting recreation. 
Sincerely;  
<>Michael Golick 

9/23/2011
Hi Mike and John -- I'm sorry I can't make it over to Sonoma.

But I am working on getting as many folks as possible to send letters/emails to Mr. Brosnan at the SLT.

Is there anything else I can do to help?

Johnny Good, CEO
Good Company Communications
www.2goodcompany.com
707.579.9536

-----Original Message-----
From: Black Point Sports Club [mailto:blckpt@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 1:45 PM
To: johnny@2goodcompany.com
Subject: notice

John

If you are planning to attend this meeting, please RSVP to

 Thanks for all your support
Mike Sutsos

------------

E-Mail sent using the Free Trial Version of WorldMerge, the fastest and easiest way to send personalized e-mail messages. For more information visit http://www.world-merge.com

737910
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 11:26 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

Mr. Brosnan,

As a long time hunter and bird dog owner/trainer/field trialer I strongly object to the implications of closing Black Point to hunting for the following reasons:

1) This is the only club where our Seniors can easily still enjoy being outdoors with their four legged friends in pursuit of a wily ringneck. The land is well manicured, flat and easy for those of our friends who are getting on in years.

2) This is the only club with a close proximity to San Francisco, Sonoma and Marin Counties. The other clubs are much further away and require additional hours of driving to get to them.

3) I like to hunt with my dogs and my buddies. It reminds me of times when my Dad took me hunting at Black Point when I was a pre teen kid back in the 70's. I can't imagine why you would want to interfere with these memories of mine.

4) The club is convenient and the quality of the individuals who are members is very high. I have never heard or seen any rudeness or bad behavior at Black Point, I can not say that for the other clubs I have visited. Do you golf? I will assume you do, or pick whatever leisure activity you enjoy. Pretend someone was going to close down the country club where you were a member and you suddenly had to drive 2.5 hours to get to the next closest club. To top it all off, the far away club had terrible greens, poorly manicured non friendly to older people terrain, completely crowded, always getting rained on by errant tee shots and a membership that you would not call friendly.

4) Black Point is an institution, the Sutson's have been training hunting and field trial dogs for generations and this is not something that anyone/organization should want to stop.

At the end of the day I care nothing for your reasons of doing something different with Black Point. I understand you want to flood it, seems counter intelligent. What I care about is that you are interfering with my memories, tradition and my extremely important and only leisure activity. You are plotting the end of an institution with rich heritage and I can think of no good reason for you to do so. I urge you to leave Black Point alone.

Tom Gross

9/23/2011
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:09 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: land trust arguement

From: Sam Grow [mailto:sgrow1919@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 9:39 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: land trust arguement

Sir I would request that you take a hard look at what the Black Point Club has done over the years... It has contributed greatly to the area. Please.. DO NOT LET THIS CLUB GO UNDER. Respectfully.

sam grow

Hunter Ed Inst.
NRA Instructor

Thank you, for your time.
From: dunchanley@comcast.net [mailto:dunchanley@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 5:16 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: Jeff Scull
Subject: blackpoint

John Brosnon

My name is duncan hanley. I'm writing you to briefly share my experience. Last year my son in law aquired a german short haired pointer. He had the dog trained by Mike at blackpoint. He, myself, my daughter and sometimes my son would go out with the dog. None of us had ever hunted much nor owned firearms. We took the hunter safety (offered at blackpoint) we participated in the dog training. We hunted pheasant, we walked outdoors, we watched the dog improve, we watched as we improved. We did things as a family at a family run business, we saw men, women and children of all ages enjoying this experience. We cooked the pheasant and ate it. We bonded. There aren't many places like this in California. My daughter is pregnant. I'd love to take my grandchild to blackpoint some day. Sincerely, Duncan Hanley

Duncan Hanley -1
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:12 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Proposed Closing of Black Point Sports Club

From: Rory Hanley [mailto:rory.hanley@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:03 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Proposed Closing of Black Point Sports Club

Attn: John Brosnan

It has come to my attention that there is a possibility that the lease for Black Point will be terminated in 2011. It is a truly disheartening and depressing thought to bear. I may not have the history of most of the folks at Black Point however my feelings for the land and activities on it are just as strong. I have only recently begun to hunt and I have found it to be an amazing bonding experience with my father and brother-in-law. It has been a place where we have shared many memories even in a single season of hunting.

I understand that there are other places which support hunting however none are nearly as close and professionally managed as Black Point. None can compare. Having to travel elsewhere would be so unreasonable that I may never have the same bonding experience with my father and brother-in-law again. Black Point is like our family’s central hub for gatherings, hunting trips and sport shooting. It is a place where we can all meet coming from the North Bay, East Bay and Sacramento areas without having to get lost for hours searching for nearly hidden public hunting land and sub-par establishments. Black Point is so well put together and managed that it allows many hunters to all come together and enjoy the activity while still maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for all. Public land does not offer this. Crowded and over hunted areas nearby offer the seldom chance of viewing wildlife as well as a near certainty to run into a fellow sportsman. Due to the concentration of people in the surrounding Bay and Sacramento areas as well as the many closures of establishments such as Black Point, the minuscule amount of public hunting land in the area is packed. There just isn’t the opportunity available within the vicinity to be able to have the incredible experience that one does at Black Point.

Black Point is such a unique and invaluable resource to hunters from all over the Bay and Sacramento area that it would be an absolute tragedy as well as a crippling blow to the already diminishing group of hunters including my family and myself. After reading this, it should be easy to see why no other club or public land can possibly come close to replacing or substituting for Black Point. Thank you for your time.

Rory Hanley

9/23/2011
To: Sonoma Land Trust
From: Thomas Harrington
Fax: 707.528.3001
Date: October 8, 2009
Phone:
Pages: 1
Re: Black Point Sports Club
Attn: John Brosnan

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*Comments:

Mr. Brosnan,

I'd like to weigh-in with support for keeping the Black Point club open. As a man who has hunted in this Bay Area almost all his life, this club provides the opportunity for reasonable access to hunting within the Bay Area. This opportunity, while once common, is now almost extinct.

My degree from Berkeley was in the College of Natural Resources. I remember when the environmental mindset was to provide as much multi use as possible with our open space, which has always made sense to me. Now I find that the environmental groups cherry-pick only those specific facets of land use that they wish to have it used for. This is not sound environmental philosophy. It uses arbitrary criteria to direct conservation, and disillusion anyone who truly understands the complexity of ecology and conservation.

Certainly that's what has happened to me. While I used to broadly embrace the ecological movements, I am now very suspect and cynical, having come to the conclusion that more often than not the terms environmental and conservation are merely the disguise used to cover the fact that the end results are designed to benefit a very small number of people with very narrowly defined goals.

Thomas Harrington

If for any reason you do not receive the total number of pages listed above, please contact us at (415) 383-2512.

THANK YOU!

NOTE: The documents contained in this transmission are confidential and/or legally privileged. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named in the transmission. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby instructed to notify us immediately so that we can arrange for the return of the original documents to us at no charge to you.
September 24, 2009

John.

I am writing to you in favor of saving Black Point Sports Club. It has been a great place for our children and many more to come. It has and will be a safe place for Fathers to bring their children and give them a space for healthy bonding. It has brought great joy to men, women, boys, girls, and dogs alike. Taking this land away only leaves us with even less open space for people to roam and enjoy what is left of our beautiful nature. I urge you to keep this place alive for years to come and families to enjoy.

Thank you

Thomas Harris - l

Received
Sep 29 2009
Reta Lockert

From: RHatin@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2009 3:25 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Fwd: Sonoma land trust

Elisa & Roger

From: RHatin
To: info@sonamalandtrust.org
Subj: Sonoma land trust

John Brosnan

I am taking the time to write you regarding my concerns about the potential demise of the Black point sports club.
I would like to encourage you to strongly consider the option that allows the continuation of the club. It is the only club of its kind located that close to the greater bay area. It provides not only hunting opportunity, but safety training for young sportsmen and women. It would be a terrible loss for the sports community to lose this great club.
I also would like to take this opportunity to ask that you consider allowing waterfowl hunting on the areas that will be restored to wetlands. Access for waterfowl hunting has diminished greatly over the last several years and now you have the chance to restore some of the lost ground, it would be a shame for you to miss the opportunity.

Sincerely

Elisa & Roger Hatin
38 Robinhood Dr
Novato, Ca 94945
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:05 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Sears Point E.I.R.

From: Robert Helstrom [mailto:RHelstrom@kuletos.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:03 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Sears Point E.I.R.

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I am writing to you in response to the SEARS POINT DRAFT ENVIRONMENT IMPACT REPORT in hopes that you will EXTEND THE LEASE TO BLACK POINT SPORTS CLUB.

I am a member at Black Point Sports Club and would like to share my experiences there with you.

I am 52 years old and began hunting at an early age in my hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana. I have been a Marin County resident for over twenty years and I can tell you that Black Point offers an unsurpassed hunting experience unlike anywhere else in the Bay Area.

My son who is now 14 received his California Hunter Safety Training certificate at Black Point through the California Waterfowl Association. At Black Point we are able to spend many of our weekends together for hours at a time, away from the distractions of television and video games that seem to permeate his life. This time allows us to share our thoughts and reflect on our individual values that we might not have the opportunity to otherwise. These character building moments are priceless to me.

Since the age of 15 years old, I have owned, bred and trained Black Labrador Retrievers. I currently have 2 black labs that my son and I hunt with at Black Point. I have been to several public upland hunting areas (which are much further away) of which offer no facilities for hunting dogs. Mike Sutros is a nationally recognized dog trainer and has personally helped with the training of my labs in the off seasons. THERE ARE NO OTHER SUCH FACILITIES IN THE ENTIRE BAY AREA.

We are living in a time and an area where State Parks are being closed and The California Dept. of Fish and Game does not receive the necessary funding to properly manage public hunting areas. Maybe this will improve in the future, however in the meantime PLEASE EXTEND THE LEASE SO THAT NO LOSS OF OPPURTUNITY WILL PREVAIL AND THE TRADITIONS OF OUR HERITAGE MAY CONTINUE.

Sincerely,

Robert Helstrom
178 Laurel Dr.
Fairfax, CA. 94930

9/23/2011
Dear Mr. Brosnan:

Tuesday evening there will be a hearing to discuss the permanent closure of the Black Point Sports Club - a club that has a fine tradition of 47 years of outstanding hunting tradition.

I know it is "politically correct" to do away with all things guns. Believe it or not there are sound environmental reasons to keep the club open. The club protects and provides exceptional habitat for wildlife.

Please look for the balance of keeping this club open and still maintaining a good wildlife environment.

Regards,
James Henderson
85 Creekside Drive
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
Reta Lockert

From: Kathy Herrero [KHerrero@bhhc.com]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 1:50 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: bckpt@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Black Point Sports Club
RE: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan,
Baylands Program Manager, Sonoma Land Trust

This letter is to express my sincere disappointment and resentment regarding the dedication of resources for converting the land utilized by Black Point Sports Club to open space/marsh land.

As an environmentalist, I cannot comprehend the benefit outweighing costs of destroying a viable habitat for flora and fauna and replacing it with another. Marsh and open space lands border the club currently. As a supporter of the Calif. economy, I cannot comprehend the benefit outweighing costs of destroying 2 viable businesses being farming and the hunt club that is successfully operated by a family that has been at this location for two generations. This is a business that supports the income of several workers, other related businesses and the Fish and Game dept through hunting license fees -- all for a change in habitat.

As a sports person, I cannot comprehend the benefit outweighing costs of loosing this bird hunting club and the personal relationships it creates. Bird hunting is a family activity for my father, my brother, my nephew, my 2 dogs and myself. I started hunting with my father 43 years ago and continue today. We have 3 generations going to the Black Point Sports Club this season plus we invite many friends to join us. Our dogs were bred and trained for this activity. I do not comprehend the benefit of destroying this activity and it’s personal fulfillments for a change in habitat.

Having the Fish and Game Dept as your ‘partner’ in this plan contradicts their purpose. My hunting and fishing license fees pay for their programs to support and promote hunting and fishing in Calif. Having Ducks Unlimited as your ‘partner’ also contradicts their purpose of supporting and promoting hunting in Calif. I do not comprehend the cost-benefit of converting this property from a pheasant sport hunting club to a duck sport hunting club. There is open duck hunting property in the Suisun and Bay areas.

Hunters are great supporters of the environment and conservation. Appreciation of both are taught in all hunter safety courses and enforced through Fish and Game regulations.

I do support the cost-benefit to convert unproductive property into viable marsh land as was accomplished at the Hamilton Air force Base property.

I do NOT support such conversion of the productive property at Black Point Sports Club.

I can only guesstimate at what the dollar cost for this project will be. My estimate would exceed the quoted $15mil.

How do you account for the dollar value to the points identified above? My reasoning says the costs of this proposed plan far outweighs the benefits.

I sincerely hope the conversion plan does not occur and Black Point Sports Club continues to operate on this property.

Regards,

Kathy Herrero
Mobile: (415)637-9807
John Brosnan
Sonoma Land Trust

Mr. Bonsnan:

I have not seen such ignorance, arrogance and outright anti-American attitudes with regard to your recommendation to shutter Black Point Sports Club as outlined in your EIR.

My daughter and I, along with many others in Sonoma Valley have used the Black Point facilities for many years. That is where she learned to shoot Sporting Clays. I have hunted with friends there and Club Management has always been very good stewards of the land and wildlife.

The idea that San Pablo National Wildlife Refuge offers comparable upland hunting to Black Point is absurd. First, access is virtually non-existent. The distance required to hike to the pheasant and waterfowl hunting areas is prohibitive for most. It is considered by all serious hunters a very marginal hunting area in terms of area and wildlife management and hunting opportunity. I have personally had discussions with the San Pablo Refuge Manager and overall I must say they are anti-hunter, anti-waterfowl retriever training and support only bird watchers in earnest. The only reason there is pheasant hunting possible at San Pablo Refuge is due to fly overs from Black Point Sports Club. Waterfowl Hunting is very marginal at best and even ranks barely a 'B' area by DFG standards.

To close Black Point is to turn our backs on our heritage. It is un-American, thoughtless and does nothing to enhance the wetlands environment. Being a waterfowler for many years I have always been a strongponent of wetlands conservation. Your path is 'throwing out the baby with the bath water'.

Bob Hughes
P.O. Box 98
El Verano, CA 95433-0098
510.885.3073 (work)
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2009 11:45 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club letter of support

From: miamivardardad@aol.com [mailto:miamivardardad@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2009 9:17 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: miamivardardad@aol.com
Subject: Black Point Sports Club letter of support

Dear Mr John Brosnan:

First, please let me introduce myself, my name is John lavarone and I am writing today to support Black Point Sports Club request to continue operations past 2011. I understand that Sonoma Land Trust is seriously considering not renewing the lease. I grew up at Black Point (I am 55) learning how to hunt with my father and uncle and most importantly learning how to safely handle guns through the Hunter safety course offered at the Club. To say my love of hunting and most importantly the outdoors and conservation took root at Black Point in my youth would be an understatement.

I moved away from the area in 1972 and most recently returned to San Rafael from Michigan 3 years ago. To my surprise Black Point was still going strong and offering the same quality experience that I had remembered as a child. I rejoined the Club last year and enjoy walking the fields with my dog, hunting for upland game and watching "younger" dads introduce their children to an outdoor experience that can't be found in the same controlled environment offered by the Club. It would be a real shame to see the Club close when there are no alternatives in the close proximity of the Bay Area that offer such a quality and unique experience. I realize that there is hunting on public lands but it doesn't offer the experience that Black Point offers its members. And yes, there are other Clubs but they are a considerable distance from most people and I hate to say it not as well run as Mike Sutsos runs Black Point . . . he learned a lot from his father who ran the Club for so many years!

I could go on and on but I am sure you understand my position:) The closing of Black Point would definitely adversely impact the recreational opportunities in the area. I hope the Sonoma Land Trust will reconsider its pending decision to not extend Mike's lease beyond 2011.

Sincerely

John lavarone
415-264-6757
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo  
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 11:30 AM  
To: John Brosnan  
Subject: FW: Sears Point Draft Environmental Report / Black Point Sports Club Attn John Brosnan  
Attn: John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 526-6930x109; (707) 526-3001 – fax  
Mr Brosnan,  
I'm certain you have been contacted by a large number of the members and supporters of Black Point Sports Club. My concerns are personal as well as environmental. On the personal side, both my sons have taken their first birds at Black Point. As a result, they are avid and responsible sportsmen to this day. When was the last time your 26 & 21 year old kids took you out for the day? I get this opportunity almost everyday of the season. I trained all my dogs at their facility. My health is deteriorating, and I may not be able to participate in upland hunting at a facility with more challenging terrain than Black Point. The nearest public club in the region, to my knowledge is on Hwy 505, nearly to Dunnigan. My initial reaction to the environmental concerns is how to effectively remediate the volume of lead shot that has been introduced into the land in and adjacent to Black Point. California doesn't have the funds available to properly remediate this region and I would hate to see the results created by flooding this property on the SF Bay and the Delta region that the tidal flow would produce.  

Thanks for your time and efforts,  
Eric L Johnson  

RESPONSE TO Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report  

TALKING POINTS:  

• Public upland hunting opportunities near the Project area are not nearly as high quality as those offered at Black Point Sports Club. Public areas:  
  - have fewer birds in poor condition  
  - have poor access, long walk, no secure parking, etc.  
  - shorter season - much less hunting time  
  - no facilities for hunting dogs  
  - no restrooms  

• Other private hunting clubs are much further away and involve using high-traffic travel corridors.  

• Public agencies, such as CA Fish & Game, don't have the funding to properly manage public hunting areas.
Mitigation proposed:

The lease for the Club should be extended to 2025 to give the public land managers time to improve management and operation of nearby public hunting areas so that no loss of recreational opportunities will occur when the Club is closed.

Background to the talking points:

In Section 3.8, Recreation of the Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report it states that the loss of upland game hunting at the Black Point Sports Club would not cause a substantial impact on recreational opportunities in the region.

THIS IS NOT A TRUE AND ACCURATE STATEMENT OF FACTS AS SHOWN BELOW

CRITERIA OF THE EIR

The criteria used in the EIR state:

If an impact creates conflict with existing or planned recreational use such that:

- no other activity could adequately replace or substitute for the displaced recreational use; or

- alternative facilities would be unreasonably distant from the recreational use and a diminishment in recreational activity would occur.

Then it shall be considered that a significant adverse shall have occurred.

ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

In both cases criteria above demonstrate that the loss of upland game hunting at Black Point Sports Club would cause clear adverse environmental impacts by reducing the recreational activity.

The EIR claims that the activities undertaken at the Sports Club do not constitute a regionally unique resource that would be eliminated from the region under the Project.

The rationale for this statement is that the availability of other upland game hunting nearby, such as hunting facilities on public lands such as San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Napa Sonoma-Marshes, Petaluma Marshes, Cedar Roughs, and Knoxville Wildlife Areas; and private hunting facilities such as those located at Suisun Marsh Hunting and Bird Landing will meet recreational needs.

The quality and accessibility for hunting at these public area is not equivalent to that offered at the Black Point Sports Club. In fact it is not even close, which is the reason that so many hunters pay the fees to hunt on privately managed lands, as they are adequately patrolled and safer, are ecologically more pristine, offer better vehicle access, provide secure parking, and much higher hunting success due to better management and game stocking.
Nearby public hunting areas suffer from the following:

**Poor accessibility:** Virtually all of the public hunting nearby to the Project require long (in some cases several miles) walks from the un-secure parking areas.

**Short season for public hunting:** Only available for limited time, the season for hunting pheasant on public lands is only 44 days, starting the second Saturday in November. The season at Black Point Sports Club runs approx. 150 days, starting in late October.

**Poor success rates:** Lack of adequate management due to govt. budget cuts and the lack of any stocking results in very low success rates on public lands.

**Other private clubs very distant:** The EIR claims that there are other private hunting opportunities with 50 miles. Given that virtually all of the hunters that use the BPSC live in the Bay area and or Sonoma county, the sites identified in the EIR will cause driving times and distances to more than double and will cause them to have to use high-traffic routes, such as Highway 80, greatly increasing travel times.

**PROPOSED MITIGATION:**

As mitigation for the loss of recreational activities at Black Point Sports Club, we propose that the lease of the facility be extended to 2025. This will allow the unique recreational activities at the site to continue to be accessible to any citizen who wishes to avail themselves of the BPSC services.

Additionally, given the dire straits of the public treasury and the budgets of the state and federal agencies that manage hunting on public lands, this lease extension period will provide adequate time for the public agencies to enhance the management and productivity of the public hunting experience on nearby areas.

9/23/2011
October 9, 2009

The Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4814

Re: Sears Point Draft EIR

Dear Sir:

In my review of the Impact Statement being discussed at the September 22, 2009 meeting regarding Black Point, I find a point I’ve made on previous drafts but that still hasn’t been answered; which is to recognize the distinctive need of a field dog area. Because of it I view the Black Point EIR as not a true and accurate statement as presented.

I’ll try and explain. Bird dog hunting for me is a matter of continuing a tradition of thousands of years of humans training and using companion dogs. That evolution continues as an important recreation form for me, as it was for my father and grandfather before me.

The reports author makes naive sweeping statements in not recognizing the importance of the Field dog and the distinctive needs of them. The impact statements lack of recognizing the distinction of field dogs, noting they can just hunt on public lands misses the needed distinctive quality of this activity.

For one thing it is a main recreation form for hundreds of San Francisco Bay residents.

The Field Dog, as described by the Westminster Kennel Club can be noted in its annual nationally televised Madison Square Garden championships, is unique. A Brittany spaniel I had, instinctively pointed and retrieved as a puppy with no training. Another that was much more than a “dog”, was the Gordon setter my father favored for hunting. My earliest responsibility as a child was taking care of the dog and the high point of the year was when the pheasant season opened and the dog made his first point. These are highly refined breeds of dogs. Training and running requires a special kind of habitat. Black Point is the only example close urban center of Bay area.

Arguing, as the Impact Statement does, that my recreation is irrelevant suggests that the author has limited personal experience and sophistication about bird hunting dogs. Training a dog is a life long tradition. You need space and safety from people who are out hunting just to shoot something. It also requires special attention to each dog. The variety of each hunting breed is akin to wines. Calling wines only red or white is simplistic.

The same goes for dogs; just look at the various breeds at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Mike Sutsos is nationally famous for, and synonomous with, dog training.
He's written a book on it. He trains between 150-200 dogs a year. Owners place their dogs in residence to be trained by Mike and his staff. That is not usually found elsewhere. There are no other private clubs in the region managed by such a "virtuoso". His father started the work 44 years ago and Mike hopes his sons will be able to continue it.

Topography is important to running field dogs and Black Point is unique. Often older hunters have trouble with too much walking if an area is hilly. But at Black Point they can still participate. I'm in my late 70s and I love to walk my dogs around the edge, except I can't walk around all the way anymore. I can go for short hunts on the level fields.

I love to watch these dogs when they're hunting. At Black point I can visit roads right down the middle and pull over and watch the fields where the dogs are working. So older folk can both hunt and watch as recreation at Black Point, unlike at other clubs in the region.

The EIR's statement that public lands will provide all that is needed is another incorrect assumption. Bird dog hunting is specialized enough that it isn't something easily done on public lands.

I'm a champion of public lands and defend them. Over the years I have been credited with saving millions of acres of public lands. In that time there have been very few instances where I defended private land use as I am now for these field dogs and their owners.

In fact as I write this I'm about to leave for Montana to hunt elk with a bow and arrow on public lands, and I am very thankful for them.

I've done a lot of career work preserving Bay Area open space and think of Black Point as having a thousand year future. While the Sonoma Land Trust owns and protects it, I ask that you don't transfer it to the state Fish and Game Department, which won't be able to manage it adequately because of limited funds now and into the future. Since there is no urgency to flood it, I am asking that you allow at least a fifteen-year use extension. It would be a terrible mistake to wipe out this principal hunting site in the region. If you must let it go, then allow those of us who use it, to raise the funds to save it.

Sincerely,

Huey D. Johnson
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:11 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW:

From: David Jue [mailto:djue@brmgnapa.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 9:12 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject:

Mr. Brosnan,

I write to you in support of the renewal of Black Point Sports Club's lease. Please realize that, as hunters, the members of Black Point Sports Club are the most effective conservationists in the area. Hunters are true stewards of the land, and the environs will surely be disadvantaged without the Club.

Hunting is an important part of our American heritage. To allow Black Point Sports Club to close would be a mistake. Please support the Club's lease renewal. Thank you for your consideration.

David M. Jue, M.D.  

David Jue – 1
Mr. Brosnan,

It has come to my attention that Sonoma Land Trust is considering ending the lease to Black Point Sports Club. This, I believe would be a mistake. The club has been operating for a very long time and many of its members do not have any other opportunities that they have with Black Point. Additionally these members and the fees they pay for hunting licences go directly in support of true conservation programs managed by the state. If we continue to shut down the areas that these sportsmen and women have available all these wildlife programs will be in jeopardy. Black Point Sports Club creates opportunities for these hunters that in a lot of cases have no other reason to support these programs.

Please Reconsider and Keep Black Point Sports Club open.

Wes Keel
John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  

September 21, 2009  

Dear Mr. Brosnan:  

I'm a 4th generation San Franciscan, a canoeist, a hiker, a sailor, a fly fisherman, a dog owner and a bird hunter. I volunteer with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in monitoring local silver salmon populations and consider myself an environmentalist. I note these things in order to make it clear that - to my mind at least - I'm far from the caricature of the beer-swilling, right wing, "hunter" that many people seem to hold.  

I'm writing to argue against closing down the Black Point Sportsman's Club, located on property now owned by the Sonoma Land Trust.  

There are precious few places in the Bay Area where a person and his family can go to hunt upland birds, or run and train their dogs. Conversely, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and a number of other public venues offer recreational access to area bikers, paddlers, wind surfers, runners and bird watchers. Close Black Point and Bay Area hunters and bird dog enthusiasts lose their last local option, while outdoor enthusiasts interested in other sports gain only marginally, if at all.  

Black Point is less than 35 miles from my San Francisco home, and closer still to people who live in Marin and Sonoma Counties. That's considerably closer than any of the state of federal refuges located in San Pablo Bay, Suisun Marsh or Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. None of those areas has the kind of access that Black Point does, and success in those areas is poor due to low populations of birds. Indeed, a DFG worker told me that one of the local areas is there simply because it's close to Black Point and that hunters there pursue pheasants that have strayed off Black Point land.  

cont'd
September 28, 2009

Mr. John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am a hunter at Black Point Game Bird Club. I have enjoyed hunting there, first with my father approximately 20 years ago, and then with my son after my father’s passing. It is a unique, well managed facility that provides a great outdoor experience for families in close proximity to the bay area. It would greatly impact my family and others if it is lost.

As an urban area grows, hunters get squeezed out further and further from their homes to enjoy their outdoor experiences. Without a stocking program, the wild game bird population cannot support the hunting pressure from the thousands of folks who do hunt requiring greater and greater driving time to hunting areas. Were it not for game bird stocking programs, the impact on those few public wildlife areas like Grizzly Island would be extreme. As it is, during the pheasant season, hundreds of hunters pursue the few wild birds that exist in such areas. The competition for hunting areas in such places is extreme requiring hunters to hunt too close together endangering them.

The parking areas in public access places are often far from the hunting areas making it impossible for limited access individuals to hunt in such places. In the last year, I have hunted at Black Point with several older hunters who could not have handled the terrain or the travel to more distant game bird clubs or wild lands.

Further, the unsecured parking areas are ripe with break-ins and vandalism. The launch ramp at Hudeman Slough a few miles away from Black Point (where there is no upland game bird hunting, only boat in access for duck hunting) has had such a problem with vandalism that the county now issues keys to locked gates to hunters in hopes that the vandals will cease their destruction. Even with this modification of access, the vandalism and break-ins continue. There is no such problem at Black Point.

I have enjoyed my hunting at Black Point so much, that I recently purchased another puppy to replace my last hunting dog that spent many happy days hunting at Black Point. That puppy is being trained at Black Point by the owner, Mike Sutso. Given the proximity of the club to my home, I have been able to visit the pup’s training and get

A-141
trained myself. Such training facilities are not generally so close to metropolitan areas that one could visit and be trained so easily.

I plan to board and get my dog brush up training at least once per year. This is a dog that lives to hunt, and would be unhappy in a typical boarding facility without the exercise that comes from the training. This opportunity again is unique in our area.

I have had heart health problems in the past, but have overcome them with a strong exercise regime. The ability to leave my stress filled office in Novato and be at Black Point in 15 minutes to put in a good two hour hike with my dog is irreplaceable. I have tried hiking the trails in our area, and while they are beautiful, I enjoy the hunt with my dog off leash far more, and do it far more than the mere hikes in the area. Having the opportunity to hunt while hiking makes me get out more and exercise as I need to. If I was required to get on the busy highways to make that hunt in a more remote location, it simply would be too time consuming and would not happen. Black Point provides hiking and hunting opportunities from October through May, while the wild bird season is a mere 44 days long. Frankly after the first week of the wild bird season, there are not adequate numbers of birds to justify the drive or time involved in wild bird hunting.

I know that there are many like me that will be greatly negatively impacted by the closure of Black Point Game Bird Club. I hope that our needs will be adequately considered in the Environmental Impact Report. I respectfully request that the lease for Black Point Game Bird Club be extended to the year 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

David G. Kenyon

[Signature]
September 21, 2009

John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear John:

This past weekend I was reflecting on the future of Black Point Sports Club and the impact it has had on my life and find myself compelled write to you.

Having grown up in Marin, I developed a particular passion for the outdoors. I spent a lot of time over the years hiking the area trails and fishing the reservoirs, though the only local hunting I've done and was exposed to was at Black Point Sports Club. My grandfather, an insurance salesman, was one of the early members back in the 60s and had several dogs trained there.

When I was 13 he invited me out for my first pheasant hunt and I got two birds -- an experience I will never forget. He taught me to shoot with a single shot 20 gauge and I became quite a good shot, eventually teaching gun safety and trap shooting at Colgate University in upstate New York when I attended. Without that early exposure locally, I never would have had this opportunity.

Now, married and living here in Novato with our four-year-old daughter Caroline, two-year-old son Parker and chocolate lab Cady, I get out whenever I can. I feel grateful to have this resource only 20 minutes away as it allows me to connect with both friends and nature while equally allowing family time for the rest of the day. The club has offered common ground with my father-in-law who is also a member and my father and I get out a couple times a year as well. This is one of the few common interests my father and I share and I
look forward to our time together. In fact we spent his 76th birthday in the field together Black Point this past January – his comment was “I can’t imagine a better way to celebrate.”

I hope these stories provide some insight into the kind of difference the club has made in my life and the many Bay Area lives it has touched. I too value conservation and restoration, having been a member of the Sierra Club for many years, but as I look around the Bay and see what a unique opportunity Black Point Sports Club offers, I feel it would be a shame to lose this resource and I appreciate your every effort to see that it may continue.

Thanks for taking the time to consider my thoughts. I’d welcome the opportunity to discuss this further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. King
59 Santa Maria Drive
Novato, CA 94947
415-519-7440
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 11:11 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point
#17

From: Bob Kinmont [mailto:kinmont@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 11:10 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
I hope you will be able to let Black Point remain. It provides a critical function for myself and my lab Mary.

Robert Kinmont
PO 758, Sonoma Calif 95476

Robert Kinmont - I
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 11:29 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point GAMEBIRD CLUB
Attn. Mr, John Brosnan.

I have been a member of Black Point Game Bird Club for over 20 years. My friends and I hunt and enjoy our last days together. Every year we miss one of our friends that have passed or have to quit hunting for health reasons. We go back to the time that Mike's father was the owner/operator of the club.

This is the only place that is close for old timers in our area. This and the duck clubs that are near by are places we grew up enjoying.
It is my opinion that "you now own the land and can do what you will with same" it would be better for many of us if you would continue to let Black Point GameBird Club operate as they have for years.
The next game bird club is over 50 miles further, the next one is 60 miles and the next is just about 65 miles from Black Point. For me it would mean driving 100 miles to and from another club. At 70 years young I do not like to drive any further than needed. The added expense for gas may stop me from hunting GameBirds.
Please continue to let Black Point operate in the same location. They serve many of us old time hunters and are great people.
Thank You
Richard B Krona
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:11 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Closure

From: Gil Kuhn [mailto:gilkuhn@hughes.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 8:11 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Closure

Mr. John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust

RE: Black Point Closure

Dear Mr. Brosnan:
What better use of public lands than to retain a nearly half century institution like Black Point. It was my understanding that the Sonoma Land Trust was securing lands from development that would be used by the public for many differing purposes but in any event, be protected from urban sprawl type development.
Black Point is a perfect use. It is a facility that affords the public outdoor recreation opportunities that are not available in any other area location. I ask again, to what better use could this land be put? Disband the facility and then what? Another public wildland area that the public cannot afford to care for or will not use to any great extent? This is a paying proposition. It does not require an expenditure of Land Trust or other public funds for care and maintenance. It pays its own way.
I know that the shooting sports are not necessarily politically correct especially in Sonoma and Marin Counties but to close Black Point after 47 years of continuous operation would be a disgrace. Those of use who absolutely enjoy the shooting sports have no other outlet in these two counties to pursue our activities. Rather than why let Black Point continue, the question is why NOT let Black Point continue? No one protests a golf course or soccer fields. So what is the issue about letting Black Point remain intact and allow it to continue to pay for itself? I cannot believe that the two county areas need more unused openspace. What good is openspace if no one can or will use it? This makes no good sense and especially no good economic sense. At a time when budgets are overwhelmed in red ink, one would think that terminating a going concern that is contributing to the bottom line would be irresponsible on the part of management.
I request in the most determined and respectful terms that Black Point be allowed to remain in place and intact for the present and future generations of shooting sports enthusiasts and all of the public to use and enjoy.
Thank you for your time.
Gil Kuhn
707-621-0321
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 1:19 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Hearing 22Sept on Black Point Bird Club.

From: LaMar [mailto:jlama@hughes.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 1:17 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Hearing 22Sept on Black Point Bird Club.

Sir,

I would like to know why it is relevant that Black Point Bird Club be closed if it is doubtful there will be any action in the way of "returning" the land to original for who knows how long.

I have enjoyed the nearness of BPBC to Santa Rosa for many years. If you cease it's operation, I will be forced to add 1 hr to travel time to other facilities over already crowded roads, at peak use time. Not fun!

I feel that BPGC should be allowed to operate as is till there is money and plans to finish what it's new owners have in mind.

After all, income from the crops and BPBC lease is a sight better than NO money and letting the land go back without a plan and no money.

Sincerely,
James LaMar
Santa Rosa.
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:17 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

From: Kit Larsen [mailto:kcorner@jps.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:16 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

PLEASE SUPPORT, DO NOT ELIMINATE THE Black Point Sports Club, IT IS A ASSET TO THE COUNTY AND COMMUNITY

Kit Larsen
kcorner@jps.net
EarthLink Revolves Around You.
September 30, 2009

Mr. John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am a hunter at Black Point Game Bird Club. I have enjoyed hunting there, first with a good friend for approximately 8 years and then with my son and grandson for the past five years. It is a unique, well managed facility that provides a great outdoor experience for families in close proximity to the bay area. It would greatly impact my family and others if it is lost.

As an urban area grows, hunters get squeezed out further and further from their homes to enjoy their outdoor experiences. Without a stocking program, the wild game bird population cannot support the hunting pressure from the thousands of folks who do hunt requiring greater and greater driving time to hunting areas. Were it not for game bird stocking programs, the impact on those few public wildlife areas like Grizzly Island would be extreme. As it is, during the pheasant season, hundreds of hunters pursue the few wild birds that exist in such areas. The competition for hunting areas in such places is extreme requiring hunters to hunt too close together endangering them.

The parking areas in public access places are often far from the hunting areas making it impossible for limited access individuals to hunt in such places. At 78 and some walking limitations I have been able to continue hunting at Black Point with family and several older hunters who could not have handled the terrain or the travel to more distant game bird clubs or wild lands.

Further, the unsecured parking areas are ripe with break-ins and vandalism. The launch ramp at Hudeman Slough a few miles away from Black Point (where there is no upland game bird hunting, only boat in access for duck hunting) has had such a problem with vandalism that the county now issues keys to locked gates to hunters in hopes that the vandals will cease their destruction. Even with this modification of access, the vandalism and break-ins continue. There is no such problem at Black Point.

I have enjoyed and look forward to my hunting at Black Point. Frankly after the first week of the wild bird season, there are not adequate numbers of birds to justify the drive or time involved in wild bird hunting.
I know that there are many like me that will be greatly negatively impacted by the closure of Black Point Game Bird Club. I hope that our needs will be adequately considered in the Environmental Impact Report. I respectfully request that the lease for Black Point Game Bird Club be extended to the year 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Dean Latter

Dean Latter
Cc: Mike Sutsos
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 10:45 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Game Bird Club
Several new ones coming your way, too ...

From: jleipsic@comcast.net [mailto:jleipsic@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 10:33 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Game Bird Club

Attn: John Brosman

Dear Mr. Brosman,
It is with a heavy heart that I have been advised Black Point Club may be closed. It has served and hopefully will continue to serve generations of Outdoors lovers, as it has for me, over many years at its present location so near and yet so far away. Living as I do in Marin County the Club is only 35 minutes from my home where I am transformed into the total environment that Field sport offers. It would be a tragic mistake to take that away.
Certainly no one would disagree that Outdoor Sportsmen have the greatest respect for wildlife. I know every member of the club feels that way when out in the fields with our beloved dogs.
I look forward to sharing this legacy with my Grandsons (daughters) as my Dad/Grandfather did for me. Black Point Club serves that need well.
Please don’t take that away.

John Leipsic

John Leipsic - 1
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:10 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report

From: John Leone Work [mailto:JohnL@ArtisticLightingcorp.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 11:52 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

Mr. Brosnan my name is John Leone and I have lived in Sonoma county (Petaluma) for the last 35 of my 40 years. I was not raised in a family that hunted but aquire the the sport in my late teens with other family and friends. It started in waterfowl and grew to larger game. I soon tired of waterfowl and the conditions it required too partake in the sport. Large game hunting in Sonoma co is difficult unless you know someone or pay a land owner for access because open lands are heavily hunted and not very prosperous in my opinion. I gave up big game hunting a few years ago as i now have a family and do not have the time to travel outside of our area for hunting reasons and choose to be there more for my family. I started bird hunting a few years ago and my love for it has only grown.

My dog was trained at Black point and i am a current member. Black Point has allowed me to continue doing something I love (hunting) and still be home fairly early for my kids and wife. Upland game hunting in our county would be very poor without Black Point or have to travel longer distance or spending a whole lot more time in the field. Black Point now gives my 65 year old father (new to hunting) a place to hunt along with his son and grandson. Black Point is a place my family uses for bonding being in the outdoors with your family creating memories that we will look back on as the years pass. I can only hope that Black Point will be around long enough for me to create memories with my daughters when the time comes for them to be able to be in the field.

Mr. Brosnan I urge you to please find a way for Black Point to remain where they are until a much later date in time as it is a vital part in peoples lives in the bay area that choose to pay to have a place to hunt.

Sincerely,
John Leone
September 22, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, California #95404

Dear sir:

My dog and I have hunted at the Black Point Sports Club for the last ten years or more.
I am older, have arthritis in my hip and find it extremely uncomfortable to drive long distances in a car.
Hunting at Black Point is less than 30 minutes from my house. It is beneficial for me because it provides me the opportunity to get enjoyment outside with my dog without spending hours of driving.

Sincerely,

John Likas

35 Bellevue Avenue
San Rafael California #94901
September 21, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
(707) 526-6930x109; (707) 526-3001 – fax

RE: Threatened Closure of Blackpoint Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

Blackpoint Sports Club is a unique recreational asset to Marin and Sonoma Counties.

I strongly urge you to extend the lease of Blackpoint Sports Club (BPSC) to allow time for adequate recreational hunting facilities to be developed within a reasonable radius, or better still, the development of a plan that would integrate a broad enough range of BPSC’s recreational offerings within Sonoma Land Trust’s mandate.

I am a long term Marin County resident, dedicated hunter and conservationist, philanthropist, and frequent user of Blackpoint Sports Club.

There are no other facilities that could adequate replace BPSC’s breadth of recreational hunting offering within any reasonable proximity. Closer public hunting areas have vastly inferior characteristics; from quantity and quality of birds, to extremely challenging access. Public hunting areas also do not offer hunting dog training facilities, nor as long a season. Given the state of funding for Public agencies it is unreasonable to expect the Public alternatives to even be maintained at their current level.

As far as alternate private hunting facilities such as those located at Suisun Marsh Hunting and Bird Landing Other, they are much further away, involve using high-traffic travel corridors and are 2 to 4 times the driving time from Central Marin.

Sincerely,

Colin Lind
(415)867-4367
John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA, 95404

9-18-2009

John

I have been hunting at Black Point Sporting Club for many years and it offers an experience that cannot be found on any of the public lands nearby. The public lands have few birds and the success ratio is very poor. The DFG just does not have the resources to do the job that they would like to do with the land they manage.

There are few other sporting clubs around and at a much farther drive which would just add to more time on the road and congestion on the already crowded roads. BPSC is unique in that it is next to such a large urban area which makes it easily accessible to anyone who wishes to participate in dog training and or hunting.

I have heard that the land that BPSC operates on is to eventually be flooded. I do not see the point in this since the San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge is right next door and the pond on the other side of BPSC is just an open body of water with no vegetation in or around it. I have on occasion seen a few waterfowl on it but not many. By flooding the land there will be a lose of upland habitat that many other types of wildlife call home.

By closing BPSC many members may stop hunting and then stop buying the hunting licenses and bird stamps which go to the DFG to support their department. They would also stop buying outdoor equipment related to their sport in their local communities.

When my friends and I hunt at BPSC we go into Novato for breakfast after the hunt and do some shopping which helps out the local businesses.

I believe that it would be better to let BPSC continue to operate as it has for decades than to close it down.

Thank you
Bob Low
P.O. Box 488
San Lorenzo, CA, 94580

Cc: BPSC
From: Jim Lynch [jim@sonomanews.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 3:05 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: In support of Black Point Sports Club
Attachments: Black Point support 9_22_09

John:

Due to a schedule conflict, I will be unable to attend tonight’s public hearing at the Sonoma Community Center on the Sears Point Draft EIR, which calls for the closure of the Black Point Sports Club. I wanted to once again go on record in support of the Sutsos family and Black Point, and hope that some lease extension can be negotiated so that they can continue to operate.

I’ve attached a letter that I will also sign and mail to your attention. Again, I regret that I cannot be there tonight to voice my support in person and to meet you. Thanks for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Lynch
C.F.O. & Publisher
The Sonoma Index-Tribune
(707) 933-2722
September 22, 2009

John Brosnan, Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

While I will be unable to attend tonight’s public hearing at the Sonoma Community Center, I wish to once again go on record in support of Black Point Sports Club and its continued operation.

Black Point is a facility unlike any other in the North Bay area, with professional dog training, hunting opportunities offered nearly six months a year, and a challenging sporting clays course. If it were to be shut down as proposed, shooting enthusiasts would be forced to travel well outside the area, adding to traffic congestion and fuel consumption, as public (or private) alternatives for upland game hunters (particularly the older hunters who find Black Point’s level terrain still easy to navigate) are virtually non-existent in the North Bay.

Owned and operated by the Sutsos family for nearly 50 years here in Sonoma County, Black Point is a first-class facility, far better than could be found in any State or Federally-operated public hunting areas. With the current economic conditions, it is also unlikely that governmental agencies would be adding to or enhancing any of the public areas in the foreseeable future.

Speaking of funding, given these challenging economic times it would appear that the ambitious plans for reverting this property back to its natural, tidal marsh condition will take many years to implement. It would therefore seem reasonable to offer Black Point a lease extension of perhaps 15 years, which would generate revenue for the Land Trust as plans for the property are made and implemented.

While I have not had the opportunity to read the entire “Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report”, I feel that the closure of Black Point Sports Club would definitely have an impact on local recreational opportunities. As a life-long resident of Sonoma Valley, fourth-generation owner/operator of a Sonoma business (owned by my family since 1884), and as a hunter/dog owner, I urge you to consider a lease extension for the Sutsos family and their wonderful facility.

Sincerely,

James R. Lynch
13905 Carmel Ave.
Glen Ellen, CA 95442
From: sausalitofishing@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 10:05 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: black point

Dear Sirs,
This is a short letter expressing my interest in extending Black Points Lease. This club provides a valuable service and is an asset to the communities that it serves.

Sincerely,
Todd Magaline
201 Mt View Ave
San Rafael Calif 94901

Todd Magaline - 1
John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  

Mr. Brosnan,  

I am a new member this year to the Black Point Hunting Club.  

However, my family is not new to this club.  

My father and Uncle were members for years.  

There is virtually no hunting at the sites you claim...San Pablo Bay, Sonoma Marshes, Petaluma Marshes...Let alone “Cedar Roughs”. Have you ever been to Cedar Roughs..that is deer hunting country..not upland game...and I hunted that area for many years.  

You need to get your country straight. Upland game is different than deer hunting.  

The Sutsos Family has been here for years.  

The Sutsos Family have a love and respect for people above all else.  

This is just another family business you are trying to put out of business.  

They have the only viable hunting area for anyone in the bay area.  

The refuges at Sacramento, Delevan, Little Dry Creek and Sacramento Wildlife Refuges have limited upland bird hunting...if you can get on the refuge. I know...I have waited in the “Sweat-Lines” to hunt..however..you don’t hunt so I know you don’t understand and I don’t expect you to understand.  

Have you ever hunted upland birds on public land? I don’t think so!  

If you can tell me of another quality hunting club that is within 50 miles of the Blackpoint Club..I would like to know about it...there aren’t any. You know it as well as I do.  

Mr. Brosnan..this is not about anything but the moral minority of those who do not understand the wishes of the hunting majority. There are 12 million hunters, fisherman/fisherwomen in the United States...you people best take notice. We will not let you take our hunting grounds as were those taken from the American Indian. We will fight for our rights.
And by the way Mr. Brosnan, my family has been in Tiburon, CA for over 100 years... hunting, fishing and raising families. We are not newcomers to the area.

This is not about hunting and “killing” birds... this is about family, tradition and keeping something in Marin/Sonoma counties that should never be gone.

Mr. Brosnan, I do not wish to remain silent on this issue.

If you wish to discuss this with me by phone or in person... I would be happy to meet or speak with you one-on-one.

Respectfully,

James W. Mantegani
1 Mantegani Way
Tiburon, CA 94920
Home Phone: 415-435-4845
Cell Phone: 415-845-4834
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:11 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: BLACK POINT HUNTING CLUB

From: GMarcillac@aol.com [mailto:GMarcillac@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 8:46 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: BLACK POINT HUNTING CLUB

Mr. Brosnan:

This private club relies on its membership to remain open, and provides a greater service to the area by protecting and providing exceptional habitat for wildlife. The Sonoma Land Trust claims that the surrounding public lands provide more than adequate hunting opportunities, yet these under funded and poorly managed public lands have poor access, maintain less wildlife, and have no facilities for hunting dogs.

Sincerely,
Gaston Marcillac
-----Original Message-----
From: Huli Cat - Tom Mattusch [mailto:tommattusch@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 9:06 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Save Black Point for Hunting

I have hunted Black Point for pheasants and chukars. I have met a number of very fine individuals. I urge you to keep the 47 year tradition of shooting sports at this location.

Tom Mattusch
P O Box 957
El Granada, CA  94018
(650) 726-2926

Sent from my iPhone
Tom Mattusch
(650) 726-2926

Tom Mattusch - 1
October 22, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust

Dear Sir,

I along with several other hunters from Mendocino County belong to and participate in hunting at the Black Point Sports Club and have for several years.

This is the last place in the north bay for me and others to enjoy this outdoor activity. In addition it has offered the opportunity for my sons and grandsons to participate and enjoy hunting in a safe manner.

There are no other areas in the North Bay for us to switch to.

I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight.

Thank You

[Signature]

John Mayfield
Reta Lockert

From: Michael McDaniel [michaelmcd12000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 9:26 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

Please keep the Black Point Sports Club open for hunters. It has served the community for decades and should stay open. Thank you!

Michael McDaniel
Vallejo, CA
707-567-3913
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 4:34 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

From: Brant Miller [mailto:bikeflyer@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 4:33 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

I've just received an e-mail indicating that you intend to force the closure of the Black Point Sports Club.

I live in Marin and have had a favorable impression of MALT; however, your decision causes me to wonder if the Sonoma Land Trust has an anti-hunting or anti-shooting agenda - and, if you do, does MALT.

I would appreciate any information you can provide on this issue.

I would encourage you not to take on political objectives not directly related to preservation of open land. Doing so will make enemies of people who might otherwise support you.

Brant Miller
Dear Mr. Brosnan. I am writing to add my voice to those who wish to see the continuation of this fine sports club. Black Point has been a bay area fixture for forty-seven years, and I believe that tradition should be continued, for the benefit of persons who enjoy the hunting/shooting sports, as well as the positive impact the club has on the environment. I respectfully urge you not to close Black Point in 2011, as has been proposed, and allow this valuable resource to continue operation for generations to come. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Bradly K. Miner
Alameda, California
Cell: (510) 919-2901

Bradly Miner - 1
From: pzapp@aol.com [mailto:pzapp@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2009 9:18 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: blckpt@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Blackpoint Hunting Club

Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

It is important to me that Black Point Sports Club remain open. I am an older hunter without a dog. Blackpoint is the only hunting club within driving distance and the only hunting club that rents excellent dogs. My main source of recreation and pleasure would be affected if Black Point Sports Club was required to close. As a Marin County resident of more than 40 years I believe the Black Points Sports Club offers a unique service to the North Bay Community; losing this club would be a hardship for many people and this hardship would be difficult to mitigate.

Kind regards,
Peter Molligan
1904 Mar West
Tiburon, CA
415-435-9517
Reta Lockert

From: Tom Monroe [Tom@J-M-A.COM]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 2:49 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: blckpt@ix.netcom.com
Subject: objection to closing Black Point bird club

John Brosnam;

I am a member of the Black Point bird club and I object to the closing of this small business. I am a very new member to the club, but it means more to me than the shooting of pheasants. I have four grand children and all but one is old enough to join me to hunt. This is more about spending time with them in nature and watching the dog hunt and doing what she was bred to do. I would like to see this club stay in business because it is getting harder and harder to find the open space that this kind of activity allows our community. This small business is fully sustainable it is not taking from the land, it is giving the land something back and also to it's members. I think any business that has been around for 47 years says something about the way they do business, they respect the land and the value of the open spaces that are being taken away and closed. Please Mr. Brosnam consider my thoughts and concerns to closing this thriving business.

Thank You, Tom Monroe
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 5:03 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: BLACKPOINT Sports Club

From: Pat Montague [mailto:pat@teevax.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 3:34 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: BLACKPOINT Sports Club

Hello

Attn: John Brosnan, Baylands Program Manager of Sonoma Land Trust

I just wanted to give some input to the meeting concerning BlackPoint sports Club

I have been going there to hunt pheasant for years now,

The main reason I go there is the other pheasant clubs are much further away and the season is extended compared to state run land

Hunting land is shrinking in our area

Please consider leaving the club open

Thank You

Pat Montague
2541 Bloomfield rd
Sebastopol Ca 95472
707-396-2815
To: John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  

(707) 526-3001 - fax

I just wanted to give some input to the meeting concerning BlackPoint sports Club

I have been going there to hunt pheasant for years now,

The main reason I go there is the other pheasant clubs are much further away and the season is extended compared to hunting on public land

Hunting land is shrinking in our area

Please consider leaving the club open

In the big picture I thing leaving the club open is environmentally friendly

As I would have to travel much further using more fuel and wear on the roads.

Also the state and county would be losing tax money as I am sure in these times they needs all they can get

Thank You

Pat Montague

2541 Bloomfield rd

Sebastopol Ca 95472

707-396-2815
Reta Lockert

From: Terry Moore [pnc@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2009 8:46 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: support for hunt club

I may never get the opportunity to hunt at your property but I thank you for your work to keep the area open to hunters in your area. Sincerely Ray Moore

Ray Moore - 1
Mr. John Brosnan:

In response to closing Black Point Sports Club, I suggest that this facility remain or extend to 2025 or more for the following reasons:

1) Local fish and game don't have the money or personnel to manage public hunting areas.

2) It would only have 300 days live for hunting compared to the Black Point Sports Club. This is a major concern because our young children, who are in school during the week days, would only have at least 300 days to hunt.

3) Farmers who farm some of this land for feed for their cattle would lose this grazing and for the farmers who farm this land for hay would lose their living herd.

4) My understanding is that flooding this land would also greatly add to green gases.
5) To loose a great dog training and to close hunting area is a heart breaking experience. I have hunted Black Point for years and it has been a wonderful experience and now with my 2 grands kids ages 11 & 12 it would be hard to let them it no longer exists.

As a resident of Sonoma County all my life, I can’t see any reason for flooding anymore land in this area. I feel this is a step hunting measure than anything else.

I feel strongly to let this facility remain as is until 2025 by max longer.

Thank you.

Frances A. Moreda
Reta Lockert

From: JOHN MUNSON [john@eawilcox.com]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2009 1:43 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: 'Black Point Sports Club'
Subject: THREATENED CLOSURE OF BLACK POINT SPORTS CLUB

Importance: High

Sonoma Land Trust,

Many Marin and Sonoma families as well as others from around the Bay Area have enjoyed the sport of Pheasant hunting and sporting clay shooting at Black Point since the 50's. I have hunted there with my Father, his friends and my friends since I was 7 years old. I can assure you that the majority of the experience is being out in the field with family friends and the dogs that we spend so much time training and working for the hunt. For most of us it is way more about the dogs than it is the shooting of the bird. This is an honorable sport that has its roots in the very fiber of American history. Hunters are good stewards of the land. The club is well managed and I believe I speak for many others when I say that the Sonoma Land Trust and Black Point Sports Club can work together to protect the land and provide for a local facility for hunting families and their dogs to continue to practice the sport.

Sincerely-

John F. Munson
President
E. A. Wilcox Co.
Engineering Sales Agency
650-871-5350
415-286-0118 Cell
September 22, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE 707-769-8106 And Mail

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: BLACKPOINT

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am a recreational hunter and enjoy the shooting sports. As such, I have enjoyed the Blackpoint Game bird operation for many years. The Sustos Family are incredible stewards of proper game management and proper outdoor etiquette and behavior. I have hunted there with my father, and most recently he and I have enjoyed Blackpoint with my children. We have seen the improvement the Sustos family has made to the lands, and value their operation adds to the surrounding community.

Recently I sent a young dog to them for training. I had always trained my prior dogs myself, but this time in my life is far too busy for me to spend the time necessary to develop a well trained dog. I shopped around before choosing Blackpoint for dog training and am glad I did. I wanted a knowledgeable and reputable trainer, with the skill and space to let the dog develop. I was confident in the facilities and hopeful for a successful outcome. The results couldn’t have been better. I now have a wonderful field dog, but more importantly a much more controlled and pleasant family pet. No other trainer offered the personal experience and convenience of Blackpoint’s location and on site fields. The trust I had with the Sustos family to turn over my dog is shared by many. The community is lucky to have such an skilled trainer and facility on hand.

Please, don’t let this change. See the wisdom and value in preserving Blackpoint as it now exists.

Mark Murray
Over the years, our sport has changed and opportunities to get in the field with pets and families diminish from loss of habitat. Tideland restoration is a great concept, but should be managed in conjunction with a global view of impact on surrounding lands. It is one thing to prevent urban sprawl and restore lost habitat, it is completely different to convert beneficial wildlife land to flooded tideland. Loss of the critical nesting habitat Blackpoint provides to migratory waterfowl, resident as well as migratory upland birds, and numerous resident mammals and furbearers should not be discounted. As vineyards, agriculture and developed construction projects remove thousands of acres from the necessary breeding and living grounds each year, species diminish and eco-systems are not only forever changed, but lost. Blackpoint is a proven well managed property that greatly enhances the habitat for such species, and provides a very meaningful piece to this most complicated puzzle.

I have personally seen golden eagles, turkey vultures, many hawks and other preditor birds, along with egrets, snipe, sandpipers, terns, red winged blackbirds, ibis, sandhill cranes, and other various birds enjoy the land at blackpoint. Those would all be lost to flooding. Naturally, so would all the ground animals (snakes, rabbits, etc.).

I write to you because I treasure this land as an occasional visitor. Fond memories I have with friends and families will be jaded as future memorable experiences will evaporate if the land use is changed.

I hope you find it in your review to see the highest and best use of that land is as it now sits – an excellently managed game bird ranch.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Murray
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 11:46 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

From: Marinelite@aol.com [mailto:Marinelite@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:33 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

I am writing to express my support for the Black Point Sports Club. Please let the club keep operating and doing good for the area.

Mike Nichols
72 Woodland Ave
San Rafael, CA 94901

Mike Nichols - 1
September 23, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

Outdoor recreation is vital to our economy and more important, it is vital to our life style and the well-being of our children. Taking away a wonderful recreational activity such as the Blackpoint Hunting Club from the heavily populated San Francisco Bay area would be a travesty when one thinks about the thousands of youngsters that would no longer have exposure to the wonderful outdoor sport of watching dogs work and learning how to bird hunt. The location is ideal being within 45 minutes of their densely populated cities. One less recreational activity for the youngsters makes it easier for them to stay indoors and play video games.

We older folks like to train and watch our dogs and take early morning walks in the fields. It helps keep us healthy and gives us something to look forward to every year. The Club helps preserve the land, keeps it in an open space situation, complying with the green movement we are experiencing. It's a win-win situation if it is allowed to continue in operation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Niles

Cc: Jim Smith
    Mike Sutsos
VIA FAX (707) 526-3001
John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration - Black Point Club Preservation

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am seriously concerned about the impact the Sears Point Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Project will have on the wildlife habitat, recreational opportunity and youth education currently provided on the Black Point Sports Club.

Leased and managed by the Black Point Sports Club, these 648 acres offer uplands and grasslands which provide critical year-round habitat for many avian species. The uplands provide important nesting habitat for several resident species of waterfowl – including mallards, cinnamon teal, gadwall, and Canada geese. In fact, some of the highest duck nesting densities in North America are known to occur in grassland blocks, like Dickson Ranch, which are immediately adjacent to the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Several raptor species also depend upon these uplands for nesting and foraging habitat, including the northern harrier and short-eared owl – both of which are species of special concern in California. Finally, these upland tracts also provide important nesting grounds for several small birds, including meadowlark, savannah and song sparrows, and red-winged blackbirds.

In addition to its substantial wildlife habitat values, for over 45 years, the uplands of Black Point Sports Club have provided quality hunting, shooting and dog training opportunity for thousands of Bay Area residents. By offering several outdoor youth camps and hunter education classes each year, the Black Point Sports Club also plays an important role in educating our youth about the importance of conserving our wildlife and the habitats they depend upon for future generations to enjoy. Although the Project hypes its recreational values, the fact is that the proposal would result in a serious net negative impact to the recreational and outdoor educational opportunity available to Bay Area residents and California's general public. Finally, the habitat stewardship, levee maintenance, and substantial wildlife, recreational and educational benefits currently offered by the Black Point Sports Club on the Dickson Ranch site come at no annual cost to the Department of Fish and Game or California’s tax payers. In fact – they generate revenue for the DFG and the local economy as well.

My dad involved us in the facility in the 1970’s. I have developed a life-long appreciation for wildlife, hunting and the environment through the experiences I enjoyed there. I have three young children who I would like to take there in the coming years. Feel free to call me about any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Tom Orgain
3014 Ulloa Street
San Francisco, CA 94116 tel.: 415-753-2208
October 2, 2009

Mr. John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95494

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

After attending the EIR meeting in Sonoma a few weeks ago I am finding it hard to believe that anyone can honestly say there is anything like the Black Point Sports Club within 50 miles of this location. In fact, in a lifetime of hunting I have never seen anything like it anywhere else. Where can you take your family with very small children and seniors and enjoy the fields in complete safety? Where within 50 miles or otherwise can you have access to an expert dog trainer who offers advice on best practices when hunting with a dog and enforces these rules to the enjoyment of everyone using the land?

I am confident that I speak for other families who have benefited from the safe and flat environment that the Black Point Sports Club offers families and ask again where else does this exists? The simple truth is it does not with in 50 miles or perhaps anywhere else Black point is unique and should be preserved.

Please understand I am all for conservation and agree with the ideals of others wishing to protect our open spaces and wetlands. In this instance however I think we already have what most us in the community are looking for a wonderful area we can enjoy with our families for generations. Please make every effort to preserve this jewel in our county.

Sincerely,

Ian O’Rourke  
1420 Spring Hill Road  
Petaluma, CA 94952
--------Original Message--------
From: Bob Owen [mailto:bobowen1@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 4:46 PM
To: Sheri Cardo; Black Sports Club Point
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan, Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

It has come to my attention that there is a public hearing tonight, September 22, 2009, at the Sonoma Community Center concerning the closing of the Black Point Sports Club based on and EIR that your organization has prepared. I will be unable to attend but I would like to forward to you some of my thoughts and feelings regarding this matter.

I started hunting at the Black Point Sports Club forty years ago. When my son was old enough to hunt, a few years later, he went through the hunter's safety program and started hunting with me. This was also true for my daughter some nine years later. Both children are now grown with children of their own and these children, my grandchildren, are also hunting with me now. We are not unique. Black Point Sports Club is a family oriented organization where fathers, mothers, children and yes, grandchildren can all hunt together. The reason for this is simple. It is safe. Mike Sutso, his mother and his father before him have always had safety, along with good quality birds in decent numbers as their primary goals. This is not true with many clubs. To close Black Point Sports Club would have a devastating affect on families such as mine. There is simply no where else that we can go within a reasonable distance.

Extending the lease for Black Point until 2025 seems like a reasonable compromise. This should have no affect on Sonoma Land Trust's long term plans and it will give more time for some other plan to develop, either through private sources or through the state, to address this much needed family activity. When you are making your final decision please consider this point.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Owen
866 Fourth Street East
Sonoma, CA 95476
e-mail: bobowen1@comcast.net
Hi John,

I wanted to write in support of Blackpoint. I live in Saratoga and since I was young boy, I have enjoyed hunting at Blackpoint. I have been taking my 4 year old son out for the last 2 years to walk the field with me. It is an asset to all who enjoy bird hunting and do not have anywhere else to go. It is the closest club for people in the bay area to hunt. Mike Sutsos runs a great operation and again it is an asset. Please keep Blackpoint open.

Thanks,

Rich Papapietro
Reta Lockert

From: Dr. Charles Peri, OMD [kang4u@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 5:05 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Black Point Game Bird Club

My name is Charles Peri 111. I was born and raised in Marin County I am 48 years old and have been hunting for forty of those years. My father and grandfather before me were hunters. I have been hunting and shooting at Black Point Game Bird Club for many years with Mike Sutsos and my father and grandfather with mikes father. Black point game bird club is a safe well run and maintained club dedicated to sportsman in Marin and Sonoma counties it offers high quality hunting, dog training and hunters education to the new upcoming outdoor sportsman. In my life I have watched our hunting and shooting areas being closed or shut down in the name of environmental impact hazard, harmful to animals, Wetlands area and so forth. We as hunters are more in tune with the land, game, and wild life preservation than the so called experts who are trying to prevent it. The loss of Black Point Game bird Club would be devastating to outdoorsmen in the Marin and Sonoma counties especially those elderly sportsman like my father and many other members at Black point game bird club that cannot travel far anymore for high quality hunting and shooting due to their age.

Sincerely,

Charles Peri, OMD

Novato Acupuncture, Inc.
1531 S Novato Blvd. Suite E
Novato, CA 94947
Office: (415) 897-4678
Fax: (415) 897-8558
http://www.novatoacupuncture.com
http://www.acuglow.com

9/25/2011
Sonoma Land Trust

October 13 2009

Dear John,

I have read the Final Preliminary Plan (Plan) regarding the Project and was saddened to see that
the Black Point Hunt Club (Club) warranted a small and arguably dismissive portion of the
report ("Hunting Activities" Section 5.2.5, page 42). This neglects the fact that the Club takes up
a significant portion of the area proposed to be flooded and that thousands of members and
guests use the Club annually. It seems disingenuous that the report fails to thoroughly address
the impact to such a significant stakeholder as the Club and its members to decision makers and
sponsors of the Project and calls into question its veracity.

The Club, run by the Sutsos family for at least two generations, has leased and occupied the
present location for almost a half century. The Sutsos’s board and train bird hunting dogs and
have a small two acre sporting clay range that operates year round. During the season, for five
months of the year, the Club functions as a bird hunting preserve. Regardless of your views of
hunting, if you have not spent time at the Club and enjoyed its old world ambience within the
confines of a fast paced Bay Area I encourage you to do so. The Club is open to the public and
rednecks and yuppies rub shoulders there all weekend long. The Sutsos family are welcoming
to strangers and the entire place represents a refreshing step back to an unpretentious way of life
that has much to be said for. They accept cheques without question, cash but no credit cards and
home baked pastries can sometimes be found laid out for free. Even the kids still work, and you
can get your dog washed, but not dried, for $5.

As an organization that seeks to support conservation of land and wildlife, the Trust knows that
development has devoured much of the Bay Area, let alone other parts of the world. I still know
people who grew up on ranches in Tiburon and Oakland and hunted in Richardson Bay but they
are in their twilight years. Whether members have been going to the Club for weeks, years or
generations all appreciate that the Club is a last bastion for hunting in the vicinity and, short of a
long distance trip or two each year, represents the only convenient place to pursue their hobby
and exercise their dogs locally. A cursory look suggests that from the middle of San Francisco,
the Club is approximately 25 miles, or 30 minutes drive. The next nearest hunting preserve,
which I believe is inferior to the Club, is 73 miles or 1 ½ hr drive. A full three times the distance
with all the deleterious implications therein. The recreational opportunity provided by the Club is
irreplaceable and much more significant than the SLT Plan would have you believe.

I fully support SLT’s conservation goals and am actually a member of several conservation
oriented organisations myself. This is the first time I have seen my own interests conflicted.
However, I do know that every project has multiple stakeholders and when well done embraces
them all. I concede the land occupied by the Club may not be as it was before it was reclaimed
but it is now habitat for a wide range of wildlife both native and non-native. To my knowledge,
the Sutsos’s have been good stewards of the land. Isn’t responsible and traditional stewardship of
the land an important element of conservation that should be embraced? Can’t social and physical conservancy co-exist? Isn’t it better when they do? Can the SLT unequivocally say that a greater number of people and wildlife will enjoy the current site as a marsh than as it is today?

I am not a scientist capable of determining what wildlife deserves to have the space as their habitat and which deserves to lose it. I am not privy to the specifics of the Sutsos and the SLT’s relationship over the years. My suspicion, reinforced by the Club’s paltry mention in the SLT Plan, is that the SLT would rather not have to address the Club as a stakeholder at all and that the Club was swept under the rug. However, from what I do know I believe there are several solutions:

Maintain the Status Quo - As I earlier mentioned, there is a symbiotic relationship between those who seek to preserve the physical land and those who seek to enjoy its traditional uses – why change this priceless and threatened relationship that uniquely exists at Black Point? If the prognosis for Global Warming plays out within several decades the SLT’s objectives to restore the marshland will likely be achieved free of charge by nature and soon thereafter be beneath the waves. In any event, the monetary outlay for the proposed Project (around $20mm) may be better spent on acquiring further land that is more clearly threatened by development than Black Point. After all at Black Point the land is currently cherished by similarly minded people to those at SLT and is home to native and non-native wildlife alike. From my perspective, this is clearly the most ideal option.

Hybrid Compromise – I note that the Plan contemplates several options from limited to fully comprehensive. If I am not mistaken all the options include flooding the Club. Perhaps the best option is for the area to be seasonal wetland during the non-hunting season, or if the Project went ahead the Club could be carved out from the overall Plan. Additionally, perhaps adjacent land could be acquired and converted to marshland and achieve the same acreage goals of SLT. I am sure there are plenty of options many are likely to suggest that would be suitable compromises for all stakeholders.

Flood the Club – This would clearly be a sad day. I would hope that in the unfortunate event this occurred that the SLT, as a gesture of goodwill and compromise, would include an offer to provide a similar nearby location. Despite the fact that they hold many nearby properties, I do not believe they have proffered this compromise solution, which reasonable observers might consider an equitable solution to the worst case scenario.

I embrace the SLT’s objectives to protect, conserve and promote a sense of land ethic. I believe that the Club’s membership has similar interests and that the Club actually represents an ideal dual combination of social and physical preservation of the existing land. However, by flooding the Club I believe the net result will be, at best, a zero sum gain.

Yours Sincerely,

Daniel Perrin
Reta Lockert

From: Fluperryusn@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 7:55 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: jacklong1945@verizon.net
Subject: Black Point Sports Club!

Mr. Brosnan,

Please include me on the list of local interested parties that would like to see this club retain use of these important lands, and the variety of wildlife that thrives there. I am not a member, but do support their mission.

I am a lifetime California resident (native born in Contra Costa County in January 1943, four-tour Vietnam Veteran, and have supported hunting and fishing my entire life).

Alan R. Perry, ENC, USN (Ret)
3981 Via Estrella
Martinez, CA 94553-2111
fluperryusn@aol.com
(925) 229-4932
Monday, September 21, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I am a life long sportsman who enjoys upland bird hunting, and have been fortunate enough to hunt at the Black Point Sports Club. Not only is it conveniently located for most people in the Bay Area, it is one of the finest hunt facilities that I have been to in Northern California. While I also hunt at Camanche Hills in lone, and Red Bank in Red Bluff, the short distance to Black Point makes it my preferred hunt facility of choice.

With other clubs very distant and most public hunting land lacking restrooms or any amenities—let alone very poor success of wild pheasant and chukar, it is difficult to understand why the possible closure of Black Point is even being considered; particularly in light of the revenue it generates in these very difficult times.

The loss of upland game hunting at Black Point would clearly cause adverse environmental impacts by reducing recreational activity that is not readily available elsewhere in the immediate Bay Area.

I strongly encourage you to please consider extending the lease for this great facility and allowing this fine club to continue for what has been a long standing tradition in the Bay Area for many generations.

Sincerely,

Bob Pester
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 11:45 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: closing Black Point Game Club

From: Allen M. Phipps [mailto:amphipps@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:27 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: closing Black Point Game Club

I would like to add my voice to many who object strongly to closing the Black Point Hunting Club. This is one of the few remaining clubs in reasonably close proximity to the Bay Area that is accessible. It has been well run for many years, is habitat to many animals and birds, and is a beautiful piece of property which should be left as open range land near the bay. Keeping the club open is the best option for preserving this property as well as generating tax revenues for the county and providing great recreational fun for families in the Bay Area. Keep Black Point open!
Allen Phipps, 725 Hobart Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Allen Phipps - 1
Reta Lockert

From: Fermin Piol [xhwydog@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2009 1:01 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

On behalf of all sportsmen and future sportsmen who use this outstanding facility, please keep our sports club alive for generations to come. Thank you for hearing me out.

Fermin Piol
California Highway Patrol (Ret.)
Reta Lockert
dwightplunk@aol.com

From: Sheli Caro
Number: 415-209-7818
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 10:45 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report - Black Point Sports Club

From: Daniel Piombo [mailto:dpiombo@bbensoncpa.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Sheli Caro
Subject: Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report - Black Point Sports Club

John Brosnan,

I am writing this e-mail in support of extending the lease for Black Point Sports Club.

There isn’t another pheasant hunting experience like Black Point Sports Club in the area. The land and facilities are managed professionally. The rules and regulations are upheld to the letter of the law. And safety is of the upmost concern. This you cannot find in public hunting areas.

Black Point Sports Club is more than a recreational facility for hunting, it is also a great meeting facility and social club for many Marin and Sonoma residents that share their interest in dog training and sport clay shooting.

Without Black Point Sports Club many sportsmen like myself will be forced to drive long distances using high-traffic corridors to reach poorly managed public facilities. With the recent state of our countries finances and lack of budgets, public facilities will only get less money and will even more poorly managed.

This is the only facility for sportsmen in the Marin and Sonoma area, of which generations have been using.

I request that the lease for the Club be extended to 2025 to give public land managers time to improve management and operation of public hunting areas.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Daniel F. Piombo, CPA
Benson, Piombo & Company
Certified Public Accountants
415-924-2292 Ext. 113
415-924-8202 Facsimile
dpiombo@bbensoncpa.com
www.bbensoncpa.com
From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 12:14 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Save Black Point Sports Club - Please!

From: dwightplunk@aol.com [mailto:dwightplunk@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 12:07 PM
To: Sheri Cardo; blickpt@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Save Black Point Sports Club - Please!

Hello Somona Land Trust,

I am the father of three boys, life long hunter, member of Black Point Sports Club, and supporter of open space/public land use for all.

I grew up in a lower middle class family in Arkansas. My father was a hard working railroad worker supporting a family of four. To help financially support our family he trained and sold upland game bird hunting dogs. Most of our family vacations and weekends were spent in the field with family and friends and of course the dogs. One night my father came into the living with an old cigar box where he kept his dog records and announced to my brother and me that we could now go to college because he had been able to train and sell over $100,000 worth of bird dogs.

I have now lived in the SF Bay Area for over twenty years and have tried to keep my family's hunting heritage alive. In California and particularly in this area access to land and the premeditation that goes with hunting public lands has made this a challenge. Without accessible hunting clubs such as Black Point Sports Club my goal of passing the values and outdoor ethics I learned in the field onto my children is possibly just a pipe dream.

I was invited on a hunt to Black Point Sports Club by a friend many years ago and became a member shortly after that first visit. The comradery of the hunters, the family groups enjoying a day together, and the custodial nature of the environment is something I have not seen replicated in this area. Many things enhance our lives in our communities; community centers, schools, playgrounds, hospitals, and for many hunting clubs like Black Point Sports Club. To loose Black Point Sports Club would be an injustice to us all and for me like closing a valuable outdoor classroom for my family.

This point can be/is debated but hunters may be/are the greatest protectors of our outdoor assets. I urge you and others to keep Black Point Sports Club open for future generations and the life lessons that can only be learned through quality time spent in the field with family and friends. Please support keeping Black Point Sports Club open for us all.

Regards,

Dwight Plunkett
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:12 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Support for Continuation of Lease to Black Point Sports Club
Attachments: Sonoma Land Trust.doc

From: Don Priest [mailto:donpriest@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 9:27 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: blckpt@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Support for Continuation of Lease to Black Point Sports Club

Attached is my letter requesting your support for continuing the lease to Black Point Sports Club. Black Point Sports Club will continue to retain the Sonoma Land Trust Dixon Ranch property in an open space environment while promoting compatible recreation and environmental goals. Black Point Sports Club is the last club of which I'm aware in the Bay Area. Please support a continuation of their lease and preserve this highly valued Bay Area resource.

Don Priest
650-302-3188 (cell)
donpriest@earthlink.net
September 22, 2009

Don Priest
227 Echo Lane
Portola Valley, CA 94025

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan

Subject: Support for Continuation Lease to Black Point Sports Club


Black Point Sports Club will continue to retain the Sonoma Land Trust Dixon Ranch property in an open space environment while promoting these recreation and environmental goals. Black Point Sports Club has partnered with a wide range of organizations which promote environmental, habitat creation and habitat protection including adult and youth education. Black Point Sports Club has been recognized for their involvement and promotion of these goals.

I have participated in several of these Black Point Sports Club programs over 30 years with my wife, children and now my grand-children. Black Point Sports Club is the last club in the Bay Area offering these education and recreation opportunities. Bay Area clubs have closed in Gilroy, Palo Alto, San Jose, Half Moon Bay, Pleasanton, Fairfield and Petaluma just to name a few.

Black Point Sports Club is the last club of which I'm aware in the Bay Area. Please support a continuation of their lease and preserve this highly valued resource.

Sincerely,

Don Priest
donpriest@earthlink.net
650 851 3240 (h)
September 24, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear John Brosnan,

I understand that your organization is planning to end Black Point Sports Club continuing operation. I want to express my regret and hope that this decision will be reconsidered.

I have been hunting at Black Point for the last ten years and have enjoyed the safe and productive hunting recreation they provide. Hunting has been a tradition in our family for many years. As the years go by, finding affordable hunting experiences has been more difficult. Black Point Sports Club provides me with a convenient location and represents a good recreational value. Its better run than other licensed pheasant clubs I have experienced.

I don’t know what your plans are for the land but it seems to me that hunting should be compatible with other recreational activities that this land might provide. I hope that you will take into consideration my family and friends when you make your determination for land use on the property.

Thank you for a thoughtful and full examination of all the interests involved.

Sincerely,

Jim Prigmore

1357 Oliver Road • Fairfield, CA 94534A-(707) 422-3500 (707) 422-2301 FAX
Sir,

I support the continued operation of the Black Point Shooting Club. It has been in existence for as long as I can remember. It is one of the few places in the area providing hunting and bird dog training opportunities. It would be a shame if the Sonoma Land Trust closes down operations like this on land they acquire. It seems to be a use that provides a service to many in the community and is a good use for the land.

Sincerely,

John Quigley

258 Riviera Circle

Larkspur, CA 94939

415-272-4541
Reta Lockert

From: Bob Rentsch [brentsch@nglcorporation.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 8:02 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: Bob Rentsch

Subject: I SUPPORT THE BLACK POINT GUN CLUB

HI

I SUPPORT THE GUN CLUB. I HAVE HAD HUNTS THERE AND THEY CONTROL THE AREA WELL.

BOB RENTSCHE

CELL: 707-245-7750

9/25/2011
Dear Mr. Brosnan,

Please add my name to the list of citizens who wish to express to you and the Sonoma Land Trust my support of keeping the Black Point Sports Club opened for business. I hope the land lease will be renewed.

My husband and I have just today decided to take up shooting clay pigeons. It is a sport I look forward to learning. I hope to have a variety of ranges at which to practice, including Black Point Sports Club.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Rolla
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:09 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Proposed Closing of Blackpoint Sports Club

From: Jeff Scull [mailto:jscull@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 8:56 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Proposed Closing of Blackpoint Sports Club

Attn: John Brosnan

According to the Sonoma Land Trust website, one of your goals is "Saving Sonoma County’s Signature Landscapes is an ambitious fundraising campaign to keep Sonoma County’s landscapes intact, develop a network of protected lands, preserve the county’s rural character, enhance recreational and environmental education opportunities, and create a legacy of open lands for future generations to enjoy and cherish". To me Blackpoint Sports Club is a perfect example of a low impact piece of land that does just that for thousands in the Bay Area each and every year.

Right now, Sonoma County residents and Californians are up in arms about park closures due to the dire economic state California is in. The stories in the Press Democrat and other local papers have heartwarming articles about what the loss of these lands mean to the residents of Sonoma County. I think anyone reading these articles should be outraged about what is happening to our local parks. I think the actions of the State of California tantamount to what you are proposing to do to Black Point Sports Club. Our lawmakers don’t visit Annadel State Park on the weekends with their families. Most have probably never been to Adobe State Park or, for that matter know the history of General Vallejo. The reason I feel the closure of Blackpoint is on the same grounds as losing our local state parks is that lawmakers have the same reasoning you are conveying in your EIR. The State feels that its residents can just go to another park that will provide the same opportunity that the closing park offers. Your EIR makes that same point by directing members of Blackpoint to other areas that are not as easily accessible.

Hunting is part of our American Heritage. General Vallejo, Granville Perry Swift, and Franklin Sears and countless others who shaped Sonoma County into what it is today were all hunters. Most Americans hunted in their era, and for most it was essential for survival. Hunting for these men was not only a means of survival, but a way to bond with each other and experience the abundance of gifts their land could offer. It was a way for fathers to pass to their sons a deep appreciation for the animals they hunted. The idea of a hunter as a conservationist is a foreign idea to most but it is an absolute truth. Hunters today are a dying breed. With each passing generation fewer and fewer Americans hunt. This is happening for a variety of reasons one of which is land doesn’t exist for most to hunt on. Most hunters don’t want to hunt on

9/25/2011
public land, it can be dangerous due to the large number of people crammed into such small areas. It's like trying to play five games of baseball on one diamond, someone is bound to get hurt. Conservationists today want to protect endangered animals like the California Red-Legged Frog or the Tiger Salamander. In your case you can preserve a dying breed of Americans whom it may be hard for you to believe value the land and wildlife just as much as you do.

I myself have only been hunting for the past year. This upcoming season at Blackpoint will be my second season. I grew up in Southern California and was raised by a family that wanted nothing to do with hunting. Last year my wife a teacher in Rohnert Park was laid off for the third year in a row, I decided a new puppy would be a great way to cheer her up. Never in my wildest dreams did I think our new German Shorthair pup would change my life in the ways that he has. I came to the realization that he was bread to hunt upland game and it was my responsibility as his owner to provide that opportunity for him. This is where Blackpoint came into my life, Mike Sutsos was recommended by nearly everyone I spoke with on whom was the best man in the area to train my dog. After my first meeting with Mr Sutsos I was sold! It was magic to watch my dog do what he was born to do. He loved and continues to love every minute of it. When I take out my shotgun and put it by the door he lays on the case because he knows where we are going. When I turn off Lakeville Highway and hit the dirt road he begins to whine out of excitement. Its an unbelievable experience. One I invite you to witness. One I hope you wont take away from my dog and my family.

Thank You for your time

Jeff Scull
From: Michael Sewell [mailto:michael@visualpursuit.com]  
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 4:32 PM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Cc: blkpt@ix.netcom.com; Huey Johnson  
Subject: Black Point... 

September 20, 2009 

John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  

RE: Black Point Pheasant Club  

Dear Mr. Brosnan  

My name is Michael Sewell, I am a professional nature photographer based in the North Bay. I would generally describe myself as an environmentalist and lefty. As a photographer, I have contributed to every major nature magazine in the country and most in Europe (National Geographic, Smithsonian, Audubon, National Wildlife, etc.) I have also worked extensively with endangered species (including salt marsh harvest mice and clapper rails) and contributed to many books including the most complete book on Bay Area nature, *Bay Area Wild* (a Sierra Club book in collaboration with Galen Rowell). The current issue of the North Bay paper *The Pacific Sun* has mostly my images for their endangered species issue "going green". I have also worked with and contributed to many land trusts around the bay including the Sonoma Land Trust. 

With this background described, I would like to tell you why I support extending the Black Point lease. First, I feel it is a mistake for people to believe food only comes from the grocery store. As the great conservationist Aldo Leopold says in his environmental classic, A Sand County Almanac, "One of the spiritual risks of not owning a farm is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery." It is for this reason I have taken my young sons to hunt at Black Point so they understand how food was always provided in previous generations and connect with nature in that traditional way. While factory farming has replaced the hunting of our grandparents, it should not be lost completely to the convenience of the grocery store. 

I would also point out that the salt marsh harvest mouse and the clapper rail are much further out in the pickleweed than these fields and the current use of this historic ranch is of the most minimal impact to native species. In fact, the current use only serves an occasional augment to a red-tailed hawk or golden eagle's diet. The only other comparable hunting opportunities are an additional hour and a half (each way) near Fairfield which will reduce many...
people's opportunities to get out and "reconnect" with nature as hunters do in their own way.

It has long been my opinion that the enemy of open space, environmentalists and hunters alike is sprawl and careless development. It would be nice to see the membership at Black Point Sports Club join the Sonoma Land Trust in numbers and work together to keep land open, raise money and keep development in check. There is a considerable membership at the club. How about an annual fundraiser for Sonoma Land Trust? I have no official capacity at all and only get out and hunt the fields as I can, but it's a thought.

Kind Regards,

Michael Sewell
visualpursuit.com
September 28, 2009

Mr. John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
SONOMA LAND TRUST
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: SEARS POINT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Dear Sirs;

This is in response to the section of the Sears Point Draft EIR (Section 3.8) that states that loss of upland game hunting at the Black Point Sports Club would not cause impact on regional recreation opportunities.

I strongly feel that this statement is in error.

It is truly a blessing to have Black Point Sports Club available for recreation. There are many, many others beside myself who share in what the club offers, specifically:

1. It is only 45 minutes from where I live on low traffic local roads.
2. It is a secure place to arrive at, park easily and bring a firearm.
3. It doesn't require a long hike from parking and restrooms are available.
4. The birds stocked are of good quality and not dependent on State funds for stocking. They are safe to eat.
5. For seven months of the year, when not used for hunting, it is a lovely and secure place to visit, train dogs, walk and grow crops.
6. The sport of hunting is age-old and in the case of Black Point Sports Club is conducted in a restrained, polite and comradely fashion. This place is not some shoot-um-up cartoon.
7. An alternative use for Black Point is either the existing and ongoing agricultural use or an addition to an already abundant wetland. Continuing use by the hunting club does not alter the visual
September 28, 2009

Nubar Shahbazian

I am a practicing professional, 72 years old, and I cherish the recreational opportunities that Black Point offers me. I am not retired. As an Architect and Land Development Planner over 4-plus decades I have also had extensive experience in raw land conversion and more importantly in raw land conservation. In addition, I consider myself politically liberal and very supportive of maintaining the characteristic open and beautiful quality of Sonoma County and Sears Point.

Please allow Black Point Sports Club to continue to be the quiet, safe and visually beautiful place that it has been for all these years.

Very hopefully,

Nubar Shahbazian, A.I.A.

Cc: Mike Sutsos, Black Point Sports Club
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:10 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point
Importance: High

From: Barry Sheppard [mailto:barry.sheppard1@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 2:07 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point
Importance: High

Attention Mr. J Brosnan

Good morning Mr. Brosnan

I have lived in Marin county since 1969 initially in Marinwood and since 1980 in Novato. I have enjoyed hunting with my English Setter at Black Point for many of those years. As I am sure that you and your EIR team are aware there are no additional facilities that provide the hunting facilities that Black Point has and that are nearby.

I urge you and your team to continue to allow hunting at Black Point by incorporating into SALT plans for the land use an extension of the lease that Black Point Game Bird Club has.

I am not able to attend today’s public meeting since I am presently in England, however I would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss the situation when I return later this week.

Best regards

Barry Sheppard
Phone: 415 898 4245
Cell: 415 320 2246
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 10:46 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Blackpoint Hunting Preserve

From: masikes@juno.com [mailto:masikes@juno.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 12:08 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Blackpoint Hunting Preserve

Tho, I am out of state during this important time for personal input into the continuation of Blackpoint, I do wish my voice to be heard and considered.

There is nothing like this hunting preserve anywhere close to the SFO Bay area. It is very convenient to all in a large area, it saves on petrol, wear and tear and one does not spend most of the day in travel for a few hours of working dogs, being in the outdoors and having a really enjoyable morning. To close down this area is truly unthinkable. Not all want to spend their off time at football, etc games. We citizens want a place to carry out our pastime of outdoors while working our hunting dogs and sporting clay shooting. We may not be in the majority of folk who sit and watch others, but we still deserve our time in the sun.

Marjorie Sikes, shooter and owner of 2 hunting dogs.
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 3:06 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point and Wise Land Stewardship

From: Mick Smith [mailto:micks62@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 3:02 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: blkpt@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Black Point and Wise Land Stewardship

Dear John,

It was a pleasure to speak with you this morning about the land where the Black Point Hunting Club is located. I regret that I will be unable to attend the Public Hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at the Sonoma Community Center.

I understand that one of the stipulations in the purchase was that the area be turns to wetlands. My question is how much has to be?

Living in a family where respect, personal and religious traditions being a respectful and respected man and woman was an honor unto itself. The tradition of honor and being a sportsman first and a hunter second is honed sharp in my family. Hunting is a privilege that I have passed on to my daughters, introduced to my friends and their children. I am the grandson of a farmer that excelled in Boy Scouts and is proud to be a Dad. I learned to respectfully enjoy the outdoors is a privilege and responsibility provided by our constitution and our relationship with God.

Hunting as any tool can be like any tool a solver of problems or a problem. The use of hunting is a resource management tool comparable to crop rotation is a time honored practice to maximize crop growth developing the highest quality crop per acre. Wise stewardship of personal and public land is imperative for future generations to experience the bountiful beauty of our land. Land that can be hiked, picnicked upon a place to run your dog and children is hard to find access to. I omitted hunt in the last sentence because it is the scariest commodity of all. How do I explain to my daughters the preclusion of hunting as an activity in our society. Hunting is not a dirty word in the dictionary. Prejudice is however a dirty word. How do I explain and address “NIMBY” (Not In My Back Yard) to a young adult learning about US Constitution it’s Amendments and the Bill of Rights.

Why does have to be so hard! How much land has to be put under water? Does the rail spur for SMART have to run where it does, surely it would be more accessible next to the Highway 37.

Black Point Hunting Club is a respectful, wise steward of the land, a family operation run for decades, they are responsible and respectful asset to our community.

Observation
When you buy flood insurance if it is purchased prior to a certain closing date it can be grandfathered to the next owner of the land. Why can’t the small amount of land that Black Point has managed for years be allowed to remain in place? Extensive work is being done to revitalize the SMART rail road spur, will the rail road have to move? The beautiful vineyard north of the club while it is above sea level are they
pleased with the fact the tidal salt and fresh water will change the salinity of their wells?

My Question 1
What happens to the hunter, where do we hunt? I asked and you referred to your web site all I could find was the following.

0702SearsPTPlanText.pdf page 42 Hunting Activities The paragraph within the document that speaks of the restoration and relocation of the hunting club. Where is it to relocated to? What provision has been made for the relocation of hunting club and the hunters?
Answered http://www.napa-sonoma-marsh.org/documents/meetings/4-17-08/NSMRG%20041708%20meeting%20notes.pdf page 7
The project includes a lot of public access. Five public access alternatives were evaluated. The biggest concern is the presence of the hunt club (the Blackpoint Sportsmen's Association, a pheasant hunting club). As part of the development of the project plan, SLT worked hard to find an alternate location for the club (as a mitigation measure). However, providing an alternate location for the hunt club would require analyzing the potential impacts associated with each possible alternative location. As a result, the project is not providing an alternative location. Hunting will still be allowed in some form in the tidal marsh area once DFG takes over, but it will be waterfowl hunting.

My Answer: Wow alternate location for the hunt club would require analyzing the potential impacts ... As a result, the project is not providing an alternative location. Ouch! What if it was your passion or your livelihood for the past 40 years? Is that how you would like it handled?

Question 2
So Hunting will be “waterfowl” as per Department of Fish and Game so do we need a FG 994 (7-72) Entry Permit Form signed by agent of Sonoma Land Trust?

My Answer: Your Answer

Question 3
How many minutes do we have to drive for upland game?

My Answer: No Answer within 47 miles.

In conclusion like the little Dutch boy who put his finger in the dike that stopped the flood of all Holland. I request that for the generations that follow us, that Sonoma Land Trust allow Black Point Hunting Club to remain where it is. By supporting the hunting club and your charter you will aiding a crippled native population? A small endangered population like the California Rail bullied by a mean pheasant. This “Endangered Population” you ask? A sportsmen of the genus California Hunter “Californi Unfortunius”. We the marginalized, a minority that pay the bills, that buy the licenses, stamps and donate to DU, CWA and dare I to say the SLT. I searched your web site and then Googled Sonoma Land Trust and hunting with the question was and is the SLT inclusive or exclusive?

Christ's Peace,
Mick

Mick Smith
Catholic Relief Services, Fair Trade Ambassador
Office of Public Policy & Social Concerns
Archdiocese of San Francisco

9/25/2011
Reta Lockert

From: Paul Smith [vpsmith@vpsmith.net]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2009 5:17 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Blackpoint Pheasant Club

Mr. Brosnan,

I urge you to support the Blackpoint Pheasant Club and their continued use of the land. I and my 12 yr old daughter hunted there last year. I have hunted there many years and have always enjoyed the fact that even in Marin, there is a place we can go. That have diversity means allowing all people to enjoy their pursuit of happiness, even if it is one you personally don’t enjoy. There is no real public land available. The surrounding area has almost no access, no game, and is poor consolation compared to a well run and family friendly club.

It is time for the little guys to get a break.

Thank You,

Virgil Smith
From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 2:47 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

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From: Mick Stangrover [mailto:mstangrover@desilvagates.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 2:22 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

I've never hunted there and cannot make the meeting, but would like to show my support for maintaining the club. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know. Maybe someday I can have the privilege of hunting at the club.

Mick Stangrover   Alamo, Calif.

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Mick Stangrover
Estimating Manager
DeSilva Gates Construction
Direct:(925) 361-1580
(925) 829-9220 x1334
mstangrover@desilvagates.com
Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I am writing to you as a hunter all my life and also as a member of Black Point for some 35 years. I plead with you to allow the Club to continue to operate as before, at least for the next few years. There really is no similar club nearby in the Bay Area. I not only shoot there but also exercise and train my dogs as well. The same can be said for just about all of my fellow members. In addition the Club supports considerable wild life in addition to game birds. In particular, a large number of raptors can be seen around the Club almost all the time.

All of us really have the same objective as our goal, to preserve the area in its wild state for the benefit of ourselves and for our children. Again, I plead with you and your organization to keep Black Point as it is for the next few years, at least.

Sincerely,

V.T. Storer

vstorer@comcast.net
From: Mike Sutsos [blckpt@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2009 4:16 PM
To: John Brosnan
Cc: Ralph Benson
Subject: EIR Comment

Dear John, Ralph and Sonoma Land Trust Board Members,

It is with great dismay that I am writing this letter - but also with great pride.

I am dismayed at the fact that Sonoma Land Trust and its supporters cannot see what this facility – Black Point Sports Club – is contributing to the Bay Area.

Of course, our contribution is best appreciated by our members and associates, many who have spoken on our behalf about what the club means to them.

They’ve shared excellent examples and descriptions of family outings to hunt and run dogs at Black Point. Some remember first coming out as young kids, for example, who are now grown with children of their own – handing down a tradition introduced to them by their grandfathers.

These days, a means of getting young people outdoors and away from the television, X-Box and computers is a true plus and Black Point provides just that for many families.

For adults Black Point is a means of recreation and escape – just a short ride from the hustle and bustle of the office and the city congestion. Once again, our location is paramount to our success in providing an outlet for our many members who work and reside in the Bay area.

I realize you have heard these points over and over again. The fact that Black Point means so very much to our members and friends seems to compel them to come out and speak in its favor – over and over again, in the hope that SLT will reconsider and let Black Point remain open.

We all understand the proposed restoration of the wetlands and its importance to the Sonoma Land Trust, but in my mind and the minds of many, the importance of real people – real families – actually out and enjoying nature, setting foot on the property, experiencing the outdoors, seems like a far greater use and cause. I don’t see where the EIR addresses this at all.

The pride – it’s a big part of the fulfillment I have achieved in my life to have involved so many (as my Father did before me) in helping to achieve a balance between a harvest of nature’s offering and trying to leave behind a better place.

Years from now someone can drive by our location and see just another empty marsh. How nice it would be, instead, to be able to drive in and say – this is the place my grandfather used to bring me when I was your age, to pheasant hunt.

Of course, the word “hunt” is most probably our biggest downfall. It is no secret that SLT and its supporters are not sympathetic to hunting. We hear so much about rights, fairness and tolerance these days where so many interest groups are concerned. It would be wonderful if SLT was open to compromise and tolerance where this project is concerned. I would certainly welcome an opportunity to discuss how we can achieve non-partisanship in the place of over-reaching in order to let Black Point remain in operation.

I would like to raise the point that many of our members are a committed and influential group in the Bay area, and supporters of environmental restoration. Since SLT is constantly working to raise a lot of funds for conservation, it seems like politically it would be a good move for the Land Trust to take an action that will make the members allies and supporters of SLT, not enemies.
This situation presents an excellent opportunity to work together to achieve a balance that is beneficial to both sides of the issue - an example of outreach and compromise.

Respectfully,

Mike Sutsos

Mike Sutsos
Black Point Sports Club
7711 Lakeville Hwy.
Petaluma CA 94954
buss. 707-763-0076
fax 707-313-0186
blickpt@ix.netcom.com or www.blackpointsportsclub.com

9/25/2011
From: Jim Swanson [jaswanson2@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2009 9:03 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

John, it is with great dismay that I have heard of the potential closing of hunting opportunities at the Black Point Sports Club. I consider this club to be an irreplaceable resource for residents of Marin and Sonoma counties. The idea that there are other hunting facilities available within reasonable driving distances is not realistic. It is environmentally sound to have dozens of hunters traveling 50 miles or more (each way) to enjoy their sport? I think not. Speaking of environmentally friendly, this club and its activities are exceedingly low impact while giving outdoor sporting enjoyment to North Bay families. I have volunteered with youth groups at this facility teaching sportsmanship and wildlife stewardship. It would be a great loss if these opportunities would no longer be available to our youth. Finally, as a disabled person I do not relish the thought of traveling long distances to other facilities to enjoy hunting and shooting sports.

Jim Swanson
112 DuBois St.
San Rafael, CA 94901

Jim Swanson - 1
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 5:04 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Sports Club

From: Scott Swasey [mailto:scott.swasey@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 4:10 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I fully support the ideals of the Trust in it's objective of preserving lands as they have been from the early days of California. As a fourth generation Californian, nobody knows the value of the effort more than people like me. In that light, I urge you to reconsider your planned cancellation of the Black Point Sports Club lease in 2011.

This private club relies on its membership to remain open, yet provides a greater service to the area by protecting and providing exceptional habitat for wildlife. I understand that Sonoma Land Trust believes that the surrounding public lands provide more than adequate hunting opportunities, yet these under funded and poorly managed public lands have poor access, maintain less wildlife. I beleive the Trust will do a great service to restoring and maintaining the lands it controls by continuing the Club's lease and thus maintaining both hunting access and habitat that has been available to the sportsman for as long as both sportsman and wildlife have been in the area -- centuries.

Scott Swasey
scott.swasey@sbcglobal.net
From: Jim Tank [mailto:jimtank@jeffcoptg.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Dear John Brosnan,

I am contacting you in regards to my support of the Black Point Sports Club. I am a relatively new member at the club (4yrs).

I just find it very hard to believe that the Sonoma Land Trust feels that they need to shut down the hunting club just to flood some of the area and restore it to what (Brackish salt water swamp)? The few acres that the club uses equal nothing in the big picture. The land already supports a lot of different (dry ground) animals that will be affected and is not a wining situation for those animals to flood the ground.

In support of Black Point, this is a club that generations of fathers and mothers have taken there sons, daughters and dogs out for family bonding. Those very sons and daughters are now taking their kids out and even their grandchildren. I too have taken my boys out there hunting and will be taking my 10 year old grandson this fall as he just passed his hunter safety class. I grew up in a State where hunting was a way of life (North Dakota). I learned the values of quality family time with my Mom & Dad, Brothers, Sister, Aunts, Uncles, cousins and friends while either bird or deer hunting. The first lesson I passed on to my kids and grandson was if you shoot it, you eat it as this was passed on to me from my family. We all enjoy the Pheasant BBQ's after a good hunt.

Black Point is one of the last clubs in the Bay area that can still be gotten to with out excessive traveling and expense. If they have to move out of the area that would equal more gas being used thus more air pollution. There really is no close acreage for a new hunting club, if there was someone else would have opened one up by now.

Please reconsider your options regarding the club since it has been on this very site for more than 47 years. I am hoping that the Sonoma Land Trust and Black Point Club can come to a mutual agreement on how to make it work for both parties.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter.

Regards,

Jim Tank
229 Boulder Dr.
Antioch, CA 94509
510-774-1503
October 7, 2009

Mr. John Brosnan  
Baylands Program Manager  
Sonoma Land Trust  
966 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan:

I write this letter to provide you with my comments concerning the Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report. I do not believe the relevant facts support section 3.8 of the Report which states that the loss of upland game hunting at Black Point Sports Club would not cause a substantial impact on recreational opportunities in the region.

The person responsible for this erroneous statement does not understand the difference between sports club hunting and wild bird hunting. The recreational opportunities provided by wild pheasant hunting in the immediate area are negligible at best. First of all, the season lasts only five weeks as opposed to five months. More important is the fact that the wild bird population in the immediate area is very limited as are the hunting opportunities. Private land is not available, only public land, and the local public land does not present good hunting opportunities at any time. There is limited wild pheasant hunting available in the northern Sacramento Valley, but we are talking about an additional hour and a half to two hours of driving time to access the same. Again, even in that area, the hunting opportunities on public lands are quite limited. The existing public hunting areas limit the number of hunters. Hunters must make application for the hunting opportunity on a reservation basis that is sometimes managed through a lottery system. Private land is not available without the permission of the farm owner, and permission is generally not granted to the unattached hunter. Anyone with knowledge of the facts knows that wild pheasant hunting is not a substitute recreational opportunity to replace Black Point Sports Club and its pheasant hunting recreational opportunities. Black Point Sports Club releases birds for hunting on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, there is not an adequate private game bird club substitute available as well. The nearest private game bird club is located in Fairfield, one half hour from Black Point, and I am certain that it would not have enough open memberships to provide hunting recreational opportunities for the hunters now served by the Black Point Sports Club.
Realistically, Black Point Sports Club members will have to drive anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half to replace the hunting opportunity that the Black Point Sports Club provides. Closing Black Point Sports Club, the only game bird shooting preserve in the immediate Bay Area, will have a substantial impact on the hunting recreational opportunities for the region, which otherwise are quite limited.

The need for the Bay Area for continuation of the Black Point Sports Club and the recreational opportunities it provides is best demonstrated by my family’s history with Black Point Sports Club.

Four generations of my family have enjoyed the opportunity to hunt at the Black Point Sports Club over the last 40 years. My personal pleasure is the opportunity to watch my trained hunting dog, and, in addition, the opportunity to give my children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews an opportunity to have a supervised hunting experience in a very controlled environment. At the present, more than 30 members of my family utilize Black Point’s recreational facilities on an annual basis. For the last 15 years, we have used it for a springtime family reunion event. No other shooting preserve within a two-hour radius from Marin County would accommodate our family reunion. My family’s experience is typical of many of the families that use the Black Point Sports Club and its loss will have a substantial impact on each and every one of those families.

I am grateful that the Sonoma Land Trust has acquired the Dixon Ranch to preserve it from development; however, breaching its levies to return the area to baylands has a very limited and expensive public purpose. I would rather see the Sonoma Land Trust use its dollars to acquire additional lands now threatened with development to preserve the same. At some time in the future, when there is less need to acquire land to preserve open space, it would be the proper time to consider bayfront restoration at Black Point Sports Club, not now. Please preserve the Black Point Sports Club for the enjoyment of its present and future members.

Very truly yours,

Bartko-Zankel-Tarrant-Miller
A Professional Corporation

Richard T. Tarrant
From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 1:59 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Closure

From: thompsonld2@aol.com [mailto:thompsonld2@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 1:48 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Closure

I oppose the closure of the Black Point Sports Club. Voter and member of SCI.

thompsonld2@aol.com - 1
From:  twins350@aol.com  
Sent:  Wednesday, September 23, 2009 5:44 PM  
To:  John Brosnan  

Subject: Black point sports club

To who it may concern, My name is Dannie, Im a licensed registered gun owner and deer and Pheasant hunter and would like a chance to express my interest in the potential closure of The Black Point Sports Club. I have hunted many years with my father as a pre teen and even threw my teens, I have many memories getting together with my uncles and grandfathers during hunting season. I would also like to continue this tradition with my children. We as hunters are running out of legal places to hunt. If this keeps on this way a major part of my life and alot of others growing up will vanish for good. If you look at the stats, hunters definitely do our part to contribute finacialy to clubs and wildlife management. If clubs keep closing who is going to pick the finacial end of wild life management? There will be no more revenue from licensing. I'm not a criminal, I am a Civil Engeneering student in college and choose to follow and obay all hunting laws but not everybody thinks like I do and I believe this will cause a major increase in poaching and we have a big enough poaching issue as things are.

I would like to see the club stay open, I would like the opportunity to take my children hunting some day. Thanks for your time and for considering my opinion.
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:10 AM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Please Keep Black Point Sports Club Open

From: Brian Tyler [mailto:ic747@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 12:53 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Please Keep Black Point Sports Club Open

I am writing to urge you to keep the Black Point Sports Club open and renew their lease to provide well-maintained lands for hunting. I have not hunted but respect the activities of outdoorsmen and conservationists, and this land is much better suited than the surrounding public lands due to the conditions there and the maintenance of the club.

Regards,
Brian Tyler
Vallejo, CA

Brian Tyler - 1
Van Gorder

From: Sheri Cardo  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:42 PM  
To: John Brosnan  
Subject: FW: BLACK POINT SPORTS CLUB.

From: KENSPLANEONE@aol.com [mailto:KENSPLANEONE@aol.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:39 PM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Subject: BLACK POINT SPORTS CLUB.

HEY, WHATS WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE, THIS IS AMERICA, LEAVE THE CLUB ALONE, THEY HAVE CARED FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THERE FOR ALMOST FIFTY YEARS AND DO A DAMN GOOD JOB OF IT. BACK OFF AND GIVE THEM SUPPORT, THANK YOU  KEN VAN GORDER

Ken Van Gorder - 1
From: Henrik von der Lippe [mailto:hvdlippe@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 11:21 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: SAVE BLACK POINT SPORTS CLUB

Dear Mr. John Brosnan,

Upland hunting in the Bay area is limited. Black Point Sports Club is one of its levels and condition. Yes, there are other areas/clubs further away were we puluting our environment. Please let us keep this Sports Club.

Thanks,

Henrik von der Lippe

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-----Original Message-----
From: Waite, Douglas J CAPT CNRH N00R [mailto:douglas.waitel@navy.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 7:46 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Cc: blkpt@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Black Point Game Bird Club

John,

Aloha. This is probably too late but I finally got a break to send. Black Point has had a huge influence on my life. I am a career U.S. Naval Officer of 32 years still on active duty. Black Point has given me the chance to hunt with my sons in the Bay Area and to train my GSP. This has had a tremendous impact on my quality of life as a service member during the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please do everything you can to keep the Black Point Club. It is one of a kind and very important to all sportsmen, the area and the nation. Mahalo, Captain Doug Waite, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy

Navy Region Hawaii/Surface Group Middle Pacific Chaplain (N00R) 850 Ticonderoga St, Suite 110 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-5102

Cell: 808-722-5755
Off: 808-473-1433
Fax: 808-473-3614

"Helping others get to Heaven"
October 2, 2009

Mr. John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I am a U.S. Navy Captain stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI. For many years I have been associated with the Black Point Sports Club for hunting and training of my German Shorthair Pointer (GSP). As you many know, owner Mike Sutsos is a nationally known trainer of hunting dogs. He even trained the national champion dog, a GSP, at his club a few years ago. I had the privilege of training my GSP with Mike and with the national champion GSP. As a result, I have one of the finest hunting dogs imaginable and I know how to handle him.

One of the arguments printed in the EIR against the continuation of the Black Point Sports Club is that there are many other similar clubs in a 50 mile range of that facility. I have hunted all over that 50 miles and more and am here to tell you that there is nothing in Northern California like the Black Point Sports Club and Mike Sutsos. In fact, I have traveled the world hunting and have not encountered anything like Black Point Sports Club and Mike Sutsos anywhere. He and the club are one in a million.

As a senior career member of the U.S. military, I would like to ask your help in protecting us against the loss of the Black Point Sports Club. Nowhere else kind we find the quality of hunting and training afforded by Mike Sutsos and his fantastic club. It is a great source of recreation, joy and time with our children and families that cannot be duplicated. The loss of that club would have a serious detrimental impact on thousands of lives. Please do everything in your power to keep the Black Point Sports Club operational for us all.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Waite
Captain, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy
Dear Sirs,

I am writing to oppose the closing of the Black Point Sports hunting club. I am a native California gal and a lifelong huntress. We as hunters in this state of California are losing our hunting areas at record numbers. Not only do we lose our right and areas to hunt the wildlife suffers immensely as well as the habitat. Hunters tax dollars and licensing and tag fees as well as other various money that is spent in the communities that we hunt in are in the billions. It is our heritage and we are the true stewards of the land and we love the wildlife and want it to be around for the future generations to enjoy. Please I sincerely urge you not to close this club down. Thank You.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Wallen
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo  
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:35 PM  
To: John Brosnan  
Subject: FW: Preservation of an important public resource - the Black Point Sports Club

From: Jim Waltz [mailto:jpwaltz@eraenergy.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:22 PM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Subject: Preservation of an important public resource - the Black Point Sports Club

Dear Mr. Brosnan,

It has come to my attention that what is essentially a special interest group is acting to restrict the long-enjoyed rights of a group they don't like.

Diversity is a widely-held tenant of our modern society. This means not just diversity of races and cultures, but on interests and points of view as well.

One of the greatest conservationists in the history of this great nation was President Theodore Roosevelt - who not only had a great vision of the preservation of public lands, but recognized that hunters were some of the greatest conservationists in our society - and was himself an avid hunter.

I would suggest very strongly that hunters appreciate nature more, and do more to preserve it than the urbanites whose fancy homes encroach on open lands and work to restrict others' use of those lands - simply because of their ignorance and self-serving "concerns. It is actually beyond ludicrous to hear folks talk of how bad it is to kill animals, when they sit down to a beef, pork, or chicken dinner at night - and have so little understanding of others' view of the world that they don't realize the traditions behind hunting - or that traditional hunters, particularly upland, consume the game they bring down, which is far more environmentally sound than the Sushi that the supposed "environmentalists" think nothing of consuming.

This effort is nothing more than a culture war, disguised as "environmentalism". We need education (sensitivity training??), not harangues and harassment and disparagement from know-nothings, and should resist the tyranny of the (supposed) majority.

The Black Point Sports Club, has been operating in service to the public at essentially no taxpayer cost for more than 47 years. The club relies on its membership funding to remain open, yet provides a greater service to the area by protecting and providing exceptional habitat for wildlife.
I find it egregious that the Sonoma Land Trust is trying to end the Club's lease of the land in 2011.

Sincerely,
James P. Waltz, P.E., C.E.M., A.C.F.E.
1729 Creek Road
Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: (925) 447-1140
Fax: (925) 447-1706
www.eraenergy.com

9/25/2011
Reta Lockert

From: Don [dwatts171@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 7:55 PM
To: John Brosnan
Dont take black point away from us this gun club is one of the few left in N cal thanks Don Watson

Don Watson - 1
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 12:04 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Black Point Hunting Club

From: Jeffrey Wayne [mailto:jeway@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 9:53 AM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Hunting Club

Hi John:

Just wanted to voice my support for the Black point Sportsman’s club. I have been a member for over 15yrs and take my two boys hunting w me as much as I can. My brother when he is in town as well as customers and other long-time friends.

The next closest club is about 1.5 hrs away vs 20 mins to Black point. Closing Black point down will cause a huge disruption to many of the members. I will not be making the extra drive. I am self-employed and don’t have the time. I am sure many of the members feel the same way.

The Sutso’s Family have been very fair and reasonable over the yrs. They do a good job running the club. The other asset they bring is that they board and train dogs for members.

I urge you to re think what you are trying to do, it is a big mistake !

Bst Rgds,

Jeff

Jeffrey J. Wayne
The Wayne Group Ltd
PMB 955
Tiburon, CA 94920
415 421 2010
415 652 2010 mobile
415 873 2010 e fax
jiw@wayne-group.com

9/25/2011
I am writing in response to the Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report.

The Black Point Sports Club has been an important part of my and my dogs lives for over 25 years. So important that I am willing to pay $620.00 annually so my clients, friends and I can hunt in a safe, clean, well maintained area that is as close to home as possible.

Not only do my dogs, friends and I have fun hunting there but the game (healthy birds) also helps feed our families and friends.

To have to drive farther to a less safe area and where the birds may not be as healthy would be the end of the sport for my friends and myself.

Please reconsider and do not close Black Point.

Sincerely,

Edwin S. Weber

RECEIVED

OCT 14 2009

10/12/2009
From: jweir39@aol.com [mailto:jweir39@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2009 6:14 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Black Point Game Bird Club

John Brosnan, Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Via info@sonomalandtrust.org

Jack Weir
31 Banbridge Place
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
September 19, 2009
Re: Black Point Game Bird Club
Dear Mr. Brosnan,

I am an NRA certified instructor, coach and range safety officer. I co-founded the California Musketeers, a youth shooting club, which is affiliated with the NRA and the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). We have taught firearms safety and outdoors ethics to over 100 youngsters and their families since its inception.

I am also a life-long shooter, hunter and fisherman. My children and grandchildren and I have enjoyed many hunts at the Black Point club, and I have high regard for Mike Sutsos' dedication to outdoor Asports and to the environment as well.

It is and has always been very important to the American way of life that those interested in outdoors sports, and hunting in particular, have access to land. It is also very important that youngsters have an opportunity to learn the skills and outdoor ethics that continue this aspect of American life.

It has become increasingly difficult for sportsmen and their families to find places where they can hunt, particularly in urban areas. Not everyone has the ability to spend large amounts of money or to take the time necessary to travel to remote places to hunt. Black Point offers an ideal property, secluded but relatively close to Bay Area families.

As a life-long environmentalist, I am very concerned about the trend of land trusts gaining title or control over lands previously open to the public, and then denying public access. This is especially disturbing when the acquisition of land is financed wholly or in part by public funds. My personal opinion holds that when public officials at the state level support such programs, they are violating one of our most sacred rules – not to make gifts of public assets.

I hope you will reconsider your intention to cancel Black Point's lease. We need places on which we can hunt far more urgently than we need man-made wetlands. I am in favor of preserving existing wetlands, but opposed to converting an existing hunting facility to additional wetlands.

Thank you,
s/ Jack Weir
Reta Lockert

From: Sheri Cardo
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:59 PM
To: John Brosnan
Subject: FW: Closing Black Point

From: Joe White [mailto:joewhite@sonic.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:44 PM
To: Sheri Cardo
Subject: Closing Black Point

I am not a NRA member. I have hunted there for 30 years and it would be a shame if it closes.

JOE WHITE, Broker
P.O. Box 728
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Office: 707-431-2151
FAX: 707-433-1236
Cell: 707-463-5427
Email: joewhite@sonic.net
Website: joewhite.net
John Brosnan
Bayland Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust

Dear John Brosnan!

I'm writing you today, in hope that you have a change of mind.

I know you have done some good work in the past and the idea of saving the land for all time from development appeals to all of us. However, since Black Point has been in operation on the Dixon Road for almost half a century, we were hoping that the EPA Report would have been friendly to Black Point.

Mike Sutski and Familie have been good Stuarts of the land. I wish you could give them a chance to continue.

We have gone hunting and training our Dogs on Black Point off and on for over 30 years. It is easy walking and especially now that we belong to the older generation.
We are familiar with other hunting areas and as Birdlanding and Hastings Island, they do not compare to Black Point. Black Point has always been unique, and we feel safe here and Black Point is so convenient, we don't have to drive for hours on the freeway to go hunting.

I wonder if the EPA Report states anything about all the little creatures that live at Black Point, not only the jack rabbit, he is easy to spot, but also the mouse, lizard, snakes and the birds like owls, RedTailed and Marsh Hawks and Vultures. I have to my surprise seen humming birds in the middle of winter at Black Point.

If you flood Black Point most of the older hunters will just give up and that is a shame, here at Black Point the can be active and get there. Exercise and enjoy the hunt with these eagles.

So I'm asking you what is the Rush? To turn this beautiful land into a wetland, you not only kill the spirit of the older hunter but also all the small creatures that depend on Black Point.
Hunting is as old as time, that is how mankind survived. It is part of history, the older hunter are really the endangered specie.

Why not give the older hunters a few more years to hunt at Black Point. What is the harm?

I was hoping you could see how much these people care about Black Point. The would be forever grateful to you, for your kindness and understanding.

Once the Bulldozer come and scrape the land to reshape it, this whole part of history will be gone forever and you can never get it back, a tradition would have died.

Sincerely

Christel Wiegandt

35 Ryan Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941
From: Greg Wilkins [mailto:greg@irhadley.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 4:40 PM  
To: Sheri Cardo  
Subject: Black Point Sports Club

Dear Brosnan,

As a long time hunter and son of a Fish and Game warden. I have been taking my dog out and hunting this land for over 15 years now. Prior to this I would drive 3 hours for a short hunting season with tons of people and dangerous moments. This club not only makes it much more convenient for us who live in the North Bay but also give us a professional safe area to take our dogs out and hunt. As we're all trying our best to limit our carbon footprint we'll have no choice but drive longer distances and contribute to traffic congestion and smog. I have watched our land dwindle over the years and it's sad that my children can't carry on a tradition handed down through generations. Is it right to force a Native American and native Californian out of there area and ultimately the state because of continuing special interest groups that don't agree with our way of life? We lost everything else why not our last hunting ground...... Please consider us when making your decision.

Sincerely,

greg wilkins  
project manager  
irhadley construction  
off: 415.789.2061  
fax: 415.259.2779  
www.irhadley.com
Have you ever seen a dog that is trained for upland game hunting? If not I will tell you it is truly a vision of beauty and evolution. The facility provides affordable boarding, year round training, and exercising for dogs that require vast open space to run and exercise.

Black point game bird club truly is one of the finest training facilities available. It offers the local sportsman an opportunity for an experience like no other. My family has hunted this game club for four generations and without it traditions will be lost. The club accessibility affords more seasoned hunters opportunity to partake in this sport where other clubs like this are not accessible because of distance to travel and the vigorous physical requirements of the terrain. The unique location provides bay area families an opportunity to schedule time for their hunting tradition while the distance to travel to other locations is not practical financially or obtainable with busy family schedules. Black point game bird club is a unique resource that would be eliminated from the region under this proposed project.

The lease for the Club should be extended to 2025 to give the public land managers time to improve management and operation of nearby public hunting areas so that no loss of recreational opportunities will occur when the Club is closed.

R.W. Williams III
The Sustos family maintains this land and habitat for a large variety of local wildlife, and without their level of knowledge and expertise, the land would become wasted and useless. Please do not close this valuable asset down, and renew their lease. Thank you; Bob Wilson.
September 22, 2009

John Brosnan
Baylands Program Manager
Sonoma Land Trust
966 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
info@sonomalandtrust.org

Blackpoint Sports Club

I am writing to you about the Sears Point Draft Environmental Impact Report which I hear concludes that it's not a substantial impact to recreational uses if the hunting club were not allowed to use Blackpoint anymore. I strongly disagree and want to see hunting continued at Blackpoint.

I've belonged to Blackpoint for 3 years and hunted there as a guest for much longer. The nearest other pheasant club is in Suisun and others are further than that. With today's prices on gas and the community goals for us to drive less, asking us to use them instead is not financially or environmentally responsible. It's a significant loss to close Blackpoint.

I have taken my elder relatives from the South Bay Area there and my son, daughter, and my wife. We have multi-generations using the club; walking and hunting is an activity we can all share, but there are not many other interests we can share like this. It's a great place to be outdoors with my dog and family and it's something close enough to home that we can do this after work on the weekdays. The other hunting clubs, as you know, are hours away, which make them a significantly worse choice or really not a choice for recreation at all. It would take a weekend and maybe a place to stay overnight to use the other club sites. I can't afford the travel time or the expense to do that these days. If Blackpoint closes, my family and friends' pheasant hunting activity is pretty much over. So this does significantly impact us and other hunters who recreate in this area.

State parks are closing due to money problems. It is wrong for you or others to suggest that public agencies or public facilities can accommodate us in this manner. It's just not going to be that way. It's not a reasonable option.

Please help keep Blackpoint open to us to hunt. At the very least, if the club lease could be extended so that there is time to find an alternative. (NOT EASY, it will take much longer than 2011 to figure out and get financial support). If our lease is not extended, would you be helping us Sonoma County pheasant hunters to find another spot in our area? It would be the only responsible way to take Blackpoint hunting away from us.

Sincerely,
Ray Yung and Family

c: Mike Sutsos