

From: Beth Bruzzone <beth.coastmac@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 11:16 AM  
To: Gary Helfrich <Gary.Helfrich@sonoma-county.org>  
Subject: Fwd: Estero Americano Marsh Road/Valley Ford Access

EXTERNAL

Hi Gary....Please add this letter to the packet.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beth Bruzzone <beth.coastmac@gmail.com>  
Date: February 26, 2022 at 2:40:11 PM PST  
To: Gary Helfrich <Gary.Helfrich@sonoma-county.org>, Eric.Koenigshofer@sonoma-county.org,  
"Peter@Coastal Benham" <peter.benham@coastal.ca.gov>  
Subject: Estero Americano Marsh Road/Valley Ford Access

Dear PRMD, Planning Commissioners and Coastal Commissioners.....

In reviewing the Public Access Maps for the Sonoma County Local Coastal Plan, I have become fondly familiar with the Estero Americano. I request that Sonoma County's Local Coastal Plan mirror Marin County's Local Coastal Plan and prohibit development other than scientific study, rehabilitation and habitat restoration.

Docks, floating or otherwise, put ins, pull outs and foot traffic on the Estero is environmentally irresponsible. Walk in only kayak and canoe access, but no motorboats of any kind should be allowed. No trails, paths or walkways should be allowed anywhere near wetlands or sensitive animal habitats. Bicycle, motorcycle or E-Bikes should be strictly prohibited. Absolutely no overnight camping or substance ignition should occur. ( No campfire, camp stoves, fuel or sterno)

The Valley Ford-Marsh Road access and the access from the open ocean waters fulfill the Coastal Acts requirement for coastal access for all. However, I am concerned with how the current access is being managed, and the safety of people unfamiliar with the area. Attached are pictures I took on February 18, 2022. You can see a Subaru parked in what I believe is a seasonal eel grass bed. Also visible is incredible erosion and chunks of asphalt missing. There is plenty more to say about safety on Estero

Americano and managing the current access point, but that is another letter, another day to Marin County and the Coastal Commission.

I understand, and don't disagree with the Coastal Act's policy of coastal access for all. I agree wholeheartedly with the Coastal Act's policy that such access should not be to the detriment of the fragile coastal environment. Degradation of the fragile bio habitats is occurring. The Covid shutdowns has amplified the degradation and disrespect of Estero Americano. Many people from outside Sonoma County have discovered the Estero Americano, some respecting the sensitive habitats, others cruelly destroying it. It is a myth that those folks that newly discovered Estero Americano will cease to use it when the pandemic is no longer a factor.

The Estero Americano is a stunning, flowing body of water that should be treated as its own entity, not as the subject of a custody battle between Sonoma and Marin Counties. We can not split the baby. It's not to be treated as an attraction for tourism. Sonoma County should use the same guidelines and verbiage as Marin County in the LCP.

Sincerely.....

Beth Bruzzone

5B Ranches

Bodega/Valley Ford CMAC

Sonoma RCD, Director

Sonoma Valley GSA, Alternate

Sonoma County Sheriff CREED Member

