

Cicely Condon [PRMD-LCP-Update@sonoma.county.org](mailto:PRMD-LCP-Update@sonoma.county.org) March 21, 2021  
Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department  
2550 Ventura Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: Sonoma County Draft Local Coastal Plan Update - Public Access Plan

Dear Ms. Condon,

Our family has a working cattle ranch in Marin County along the coast stopping at the Marin County line at the Estero Americano in Valley Ford.

For years we have been fighting future proposed trails to not be placed in or on our property lines. We were involved in the Local Coastal Plan update for Marin County regarding the California Coastal Trail to be placed on our property. Marin County agreed with us and felt that a trail in this area was only going to damage the environment, affect agricultural operations and trap pedestrians in a rural area. Marin County placed the CCT on Highway One to be continuous with Sonoma County Local Coastal Plan Update. (Map included with this letter) Marin County does not identify a continuous coastal alignment from Sonoma County across the county line at the Estero Americano showing on map # 25 of their Marin County Local Coastal Program. This area along the Estero Americano is only accessible during low tides as stated by Sonoma County. In Marin County, it is not accessible in many areas of this coast line. The cliffs are steep and the footing is mostly in the water. This is dangerous to place and advertise a public trail in this area trapping people and or having them climb up the cliffs to private property.

We have been involved with Sonoma County for several years writing letters to keep development off the Estero Americano.

The proposed California Coastal Trail in your PRMD-LCP Update:

Public Review Draft September 2019  
Appendix B: Public Access Plan page 87  
(I-34) Short-Tail Gulch Trail

“It is possible to walk along the beach from the Estero Americano to Doran Beach at low tide.”

Placing this sentence in your Public Access Plan invites people to damage the coast line and the estero’s fragile integrity with out having a permanent, managed foot trail. It invites trespassing and this trail is not continuous with Marin County Local Coastal Program Maps. Please take this sentence out of your LCP-Update.

Valley Ford Subarea 10 (Figure C-PA-1K)  
(J-1) California Coastal Trail: Bodega Harbor Subdivision to Marin County page 88

“The coastal and inland routes of the California Coastal trail from Bodega Bay Harbor to Marin County are intertwined with both the Bodega Bay and Valley Ford Subareas. The coastal route follows the shoreline of the Bodega Harbor subdivision from Doran Regional Park to the Marin County line at the Estero Americano. This pedestrian only route is limited to use during low tides.”

Placing unmanaged coast line public trails in this fragile area will only cause harm to this area’s ecosystem. Marin County has placed the California Coastal Trail inland as to not harm the coast environment. We would like Sonoma County to connect the California Coastal Trail inland to Marin County. The Marin County land along the coast at the Marin County line is in agriculture use with Marin Agriculture Land Trust. There is no sign managed public trail in this area. Telling the public that you can walk the coast to the Marin County line will cause trespassing, conflict with agriculture, and cause erosion to coast habitat. Please take out the sentence that invites the public to walk this proposed California Coastal Trail to the Marin County line that is not continuous.

“The inland route generally follows Highway 1 and Valley Ford Estero Road from the entrance of the Bodega Harbor Subdivision to the Marin County Line.”

This sentence needs to be changed to: “The California Coastal Trail route continues on Highway 1 at the County line of both Marin and Sonoma Counties.”

The word “generally” is an opinion, not a fact and needs to be taken out. Most highway traffic continues on Highway 1 and does not turn on Valley Ford Estero Road.

(J-2) Estero Americano Preserve page 89

Map marker (J-2) and wording needs to be taken out of Public Access Plan as asked by the land owners. This property is not open to the public unless by an appointment. This marker posting and wording only invites trespassing.

(J-3) Estero Americano Water Trail page 89

There is no developed access water facility on the Estero Americano. The waters of the Estero Americano have the most significant habitat in the state. Marin County has elected in their Local Coastal Plan to have NO DEVELOPMENT in, on or along the Estero Americano. Marin County only allows scientific study and or restoration. We find it puzzling that Sonoma County wants to develop the same body of water that Marin County wants to protect! Sonoma County Public Access plan wants to develop many boat launch sites – (J-5) Estero Trail Bordessa Ranch - Floating Dock, (J-6) Wildlands Conservancy - Boat Pull Out, (J-2) Sonoma Land Trust - Low-Impact Support Facilities, (J-3) Estero Americano Water Trail & (J-4) Estero Americano Valley Ford Access - Create a Maximum Public Access with Bathroom Facilities. (J-4) is on Marin County Land and is not located in Sonoma County; the land is also private property. These proposed development plans will surely decimate the Estero Americano waters and shores with increased public population.

Who will patrol the public and keep them safe while protecting the estero's integrity?  
Why is Sonoma County developing Marin County lands in their county LCP-Public  
Access Plan? Does Marin County develop Sonoma County Lands? What county will pay  
for this development and keep it maintained? Did Marin County give consent to Sonoma  
County to develop private property on the Estero Americano?

Please take out map markers (J-3) & (J-4) that are located in Marin County on your maps.  
Please take out ALL wording located on page 90, Public Review Draft, September 2019,  
that pertains to the Estero Americano Water Trail and Estero Americano Valley Ford  
Access located in Marin County. You listed Valley Ford Estero Road as the access point  
of boat launching. You listed the wrong road. It is not Valley Ford Estero Road. The  
private property that people use to launch boats into the Estero Americano is located in  
Marin County on Marsh Road. Your proposed Estero Americano Water Trail is also in  
Marin County on Marsh Road and needs to be removed from maps.

We would like to see the Estero Americano preserved and not developed. We hope you  
understand our concerns with public trails and the adverse effects that they may cause to  
the estero's beautiful eco system.

We appreciate being able to comment on your proposed Sonoma County Draft Local  
Coastal Plan Update - Public Access Plan.

We would also like to remain on the contact list for any further plans for the Valley Ford  
Area and the development of the Estero Americano. In past years, we have been taken off  
mailing list. Can you also print our letters with other comment letters? Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,  
The Spaletta Families  
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