

From: [Nichola Spaletta](#)
To: PRMD-LCP-Update@sonoma-country.org; [PlanningAgency](#); [Nichola Spaletta](#)
Subject: SCLCP Update - Sensitive Habitat Areas - Public Comment
Date: February 02, 2022 9:33:13 AM
Attachments: [sonoma_lcpcomment03082021.pdf](#)
[Dear Cicely Condon 2021.doc](#)

EXTERNAL

To Whom it may Concern,

Our family borders the Estero Americano on the Marin County side of Valley Ford, California.

We have been writing letters to both Marin County and Sonoma County for years asking for protection of the Natural Resources in and around the body of waters of the Estero Americano. Some of our letters have been heard. Others have not been addressed or posted to the public. We have included two letters that I did not see on your public comment list. These are important letters of many that have been written over the years to Sonoma County.

We are writing once again to bring to your attention some of the wording in the Revised Public Review Draft - June 2021, regarding development of the Estero Americano-Valley Ford, California

Page # OSRC-28 Public Review Draft LCP- Sept. 2019:

PRD LCP- June 2021 (NO Change):

Policy C- OSRC-5d (5) :

"Diking, filling, draining, and dredging of coastal waters, wetlands, and "ESTUARIES" shall be permitted only in accordance with other applicable provisions of this Local Coastal program where there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternatives, and where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimise adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to uses and methods described in Habitat Protection Guidelines"

Page # 17 Appendix E: Natural Resources

SCLCP Appendix E : Natural Resources September 2019:

5.2 "Diking, filling, draining, and dredging of Coastal waters, "WETLANDS", and "ESTUARIES" shall be permitted..."

(C) "In open waters, other than wetlands, including streams, estuaries, and lakes, new or expanded boating facilities and placement of structural piling for public recreational piers that provide public access and recreational opportunities."

Page # OSRC-58 SCLCP/Revised Public Review Draft September 2019:

Policy Comparison Table (2) Designate the mouth and banks of the Estero Americano and its offshore area as an Ecological Reserve, representative of the coastal estuarine environment of Northern California.

Our family is very concerned that the Estero Americano will be developed by Sonoma

County with several boat launch sites on the shores of this Estero. The California Coastal Commission and the Marin County Board of Supervisors agreed to not allow any development in or near the water's edge of the Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio in their New Local Coastal Plan Section- Policy C-BIO- 15. "Limited to any alterations to those for the purpose of scientific study and or restoration." Why has Sonoma County not followed Marin County guidelines regarding Local Coastal Plan Updates over the years? This is the same body of water that Marin County Governs. Sonoma County should also ask for NO DEVELOPMENT of the Estero Americano. Since Sonoma County has listed ESTUARIES in their future plans of possible development, we would like Sonoma County and the Coastal Commission to take another look into possible harmful development of the Estero Americano. This word, "Estuaries" is listed in their Update of their Revised Public Review Draft wording

Sonoma County has mentioned three possible boat launch development sites on the Estero Americano for future use. One, located at the mouth of the Estero Americano estuary in the middle of a Steelhead Trout run located on their Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESHA) Map: Figure C-OSRC-2k SubArea Valley Ford. Another boat launch site in the middle of the estero near Eelgrass beds that provide freshwater herbaceous wetland for numerous wildlife. The Tidewater Goby lives in freshwater to brackish lagoons created by coastal streams, the federal government has identified portions of the Estero Americano as a critical habitat area under Section. 30121. The third boat launch site is planned for the area of Sonoma County and Marin County Line near Valley Ford. Markers for this boat launch site stated in SCLC Plan were placed on Marin County lands and were asked by the County of Marin to be removed. Marin County understands the sensitive wetlands, estuary of the Estero Americano that is overseen by the Greater Farallones National Sanctuary and is also a State Marine Protection Area. This estero is home to the California Red-legged frog, Western Pond Turtle, Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly, Tricolored Blackbird, and Steelhead trout. These are all Special status species in this watershed. There is no accessible boat launch site for this Valley Ford area in Sonoma County unless boaters trespass. The waters of the Estero Americano banks are located near cattle pastures and are privately owned.

In conclusion, we feel that NO DEVELOPMENT in or near the Estero Americano should happen. Sonoma County Revised Public Review Draft and Updated Local Coastal Plan needs to follow their neighbor, Marin County wishes regarding the SAME body of water. Designate the Estero Americano waters and shores as a Ecological Reserve with no public development for the future of its integrity. Please follow Marin County Local Coastal Plan's wording regarding the SAME body of water and only allow "Scientific Study and or Restoration" of the Estero Americano..
Please ask any questions.

Sincerely,
The Spaletta Family
Valley Ford, California

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