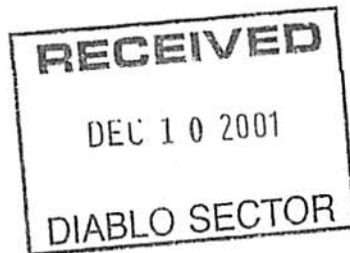


EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT



December 7, 2001

Mr. Norman La Force, Chair  
Sierra Club - East Bay Public Lands Subcommittee  
802 Balra Drive  
El Cerrito, CA 94530



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General Manager

Re: **Eastshore State Park**  
Requests for Ban on Public Access and No Trespassing Signage

Dear Mr. La Force:

This is in response to your November 5, 2001 letter and a follow up to the previous letters regarding your requests for a ban on public access and no trespassing signage at Eastshore State Park. The November 5 letter outlines the following issues:

- 1) request for a ban on public access to the Meadow, except for temporary use leases in the northeast corner (page 2, paragraph 3);
- 2) request for no trespassing signage at the Meadow (page 2, paragraph 6); and
- 3) request for no trespassing signage at the Albany Bulb and the Albany Beach area (page 3, paragraph 2).

The letter also requests that the temporary use leases not be renewed (page 3, paragraph 3).

The Eastshore State Park Management Steering Committee has considered the issues raised in the letter. For background informational purposes regarding the rumor that "any areas currently used for off leash dog activity would be grandfather in as a permissible use", the Committee confirmed that State Parks has NOT made any such commitment. Instead, the Committee acknowledged that at the initial stakeholder meetings, stakeholders including the Sierra Club and Audubon Society provided input indicated a positive willingness to consider continuation of dogs off-leash at Pt. Isabel. Regarding the Albany Bulb under the State Parks/City of Albany agreement, the City of Albany continues to be responsible for the operation, maintenance, and control of the site. By copy of this letter, your request regarding the Albany Bulb will be forwarded to the City of Albany.

The existing agreement between State Parks and the District provides for the District's interim management of the properties pending completion of planning for development and operation; therefore, the law enforcement and ranger patrol budget is quite limited. Additional law enforcement and ranger patrol would not be covered by the existing interim management budget, which is very constrained.

The Committee acknowledged that the East Bay Regional Park District recently conducted an exhaustive review of dog issues, made changes to Ordinance 38 regarding dogs, and is currently monitoring the effects of those changes. The Committee also acknowledged that

Parks on Facebook: www.facebook.com/eastbayparks

existing signage at the Meadow included Eastshore State Park partnership signs, no dumping signs, curfew signs, no camping signs, and dog rules signs. The Committee reiterated that the permissible uses for this area are to be determined through the Eastshore State Park Planning Process. The Planning Process is designed to help achieve the fundamental purpose of a recreational facility harmonious with its natural setting, and it is to have full consideration of the diverse interests, the complex issues, and the significant competing demands.

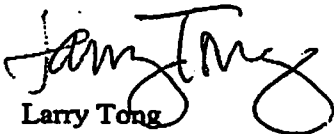
The Committee found that the issues raised in the letter are certainly complex use issues that involve diverse interests, and significant competing demands, and also potentially complex legal issues. The Committee found that the planning process is on schedule for completion in approximately 10 months (October 2002).

(K) The Committee recommends that it would be inappropriate to preempt the planning process and unilaterally attempt to ban public access at the Meadow, Albany Bulb, and Albany Beach. Instead, the Committee recommends that the planning process is a timely and appropriate forum for addressing significant use issues such as these. The Committee also recommends additional on site signage to further clarify that the permissible uses are to be determined in the planning process that is now underway.

The Committee further recommends that the temporary tenant leases for next year be examined for potentially reducing the operational effects from features such as lighting and play structures, or potential termination.

Thank you for your comments. We would be happy to discuss this further and look forward to meeting with the Sierra Club East Bay Public Lands Subcommittee on December 13, 2001.

Sincerely,



Larry Tong  
Interagency Planning Manager

cc: Board of Directors  
P. O'Brien  
D. Fassler  
Eastshore State Park Management Steering Committee  
D. Steele, Citizens for the Eastshore State Park  
A. Feinstein, Golden Gate Audubon Society  
T. Bates, California State Assemblyman, Retired  
A. Chaney, City of Albany