

## **Friends of the North Coast Vision Statement for Cotoni-Coast Dairies**

Considering the vast public lands already available for public recreation along the North Coast of Santa Cruz County, and the objects to be preserved identified in the Presidential Proclamation of Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument, home for over 10,000 years to the Cotoni tribelet of the Ohlone people, the Management Plan specific to Cotoni-Coast Dairies should, first and foremost, promote protection of the unique mosaic of marine coastal terraces, expansive grasslands, and forested stream canyons that serve as habitat for a rich and relatively pristine diversity of flora and fauna, including anadromous and freshwater fish. The undisturbed vista extending across Monterey Bay, to the Santa Lucia Mountains and the Ventana Wilderness, includes in its foreground a “snapshot in time,” a view astonishingly largely unchanged over the past 250 years from that seen by the 1769 Portolá Expedition which traveled this precise terrain. Expedition diaries reflect a friendly encounter in this area with its Native American stewards, further warranting preservation of the viewshed from a designated Overlook at this unique site of national historic significance, a viewshed to remain permanently sacrosanct from any future development impact.

Furthermore, preservation of this viewshed will respect important cultural resources of California’s Native Americans, recognized by the California Coastal Commission as having long served as stewards of the state’s important coastal resources (including vital insulated mountain lion habitat and currently undisturbed, wild, secluded open space areas). These Native Americans have further been recognized as possessing unique and valuable knowledge and practices for conserving and managing these resources in a sustainable manner, and in a manner consistent with the spirit and intent of the Coastal Act.

Cotoni-Coast Dairies also will be purposed to provide public recreation in coordination with other nearby publicly used lands, but in a manner consistent with its focus on preservation of the natural, Native American cultural, historic, and scenic resources.

5-7-2018