



**NORTH COAST FACILITIES AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (NCFMP)
STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY
Rural Bonny Doon Association (RBDA)**

Date/Time of Meeting: Monday, November 21, 2022, 3:30-4:30pm
Format: Virtual (Zoom)

ATTENDEES

Project Team:

- Isabelle Minn, Principal, PlaceWorks
- Janet Chang, Senior Associate, PlaceWorks
- Rob Tidmore, Park Planner IV, County of Santa Cruz

Participants:

- David Rubin, Chair
- Ted Benhari, former Board member

SUMMARY

Janet Chang welcomed stakeholders and attendees introduced themselves. Janet gave a brief presentation to provide context about the project, including the project scope and schedule, the draft vision and goals, and community engagement. After the presentation, there was a time for questions and discussion. The following is a summary of comments provided by RBDA.

Discussion

General

- RBDA has concerns with overuse of lands (i.e., mountain biking at Wilder Ranch).
- Previous accomplishments of the RBDA since 1957 include preventing development that will impact wildlife and increase the risk of wildfire, including a trailer park development and a nuclear powerplant in Davenport.
- Seeking grant funding for enforcement and preservation efforts should precede funding new facilities.
- RBDA supports Davenport North Coast Association (D/NCA) and FONC's comments on this project. It is important to preserve and limit impacts on natural resources.

- RBDA supported farmers about their concerns of the Rail Trail going through agricultural lands and impacting the farmers' spraying activities.
- Feasibility of a train running through the North Coast is doubtful.
- There is concern about the location of commercial cannabis operations.

Wildlife Protection

- There should be less multi-use in areas with wildlife like bobcats and pumas. Support for trails like those developed by the Land Trust (San Vicente) with different uses on different trails.
- Allowing cannabis in rural/agriculture properties could impact wildlife. The use of pesticides on the plants poisons rats, which can impact the pumas and coyotes that eat the poisoned rats.

Public Access

- RBDA prefers a more cautious approach to open lands to the public gradually. If people do not follow rules (e.g., biking, dog use), then public access should be cut back.
- People should not be wandering onto private land (Cotoni-Coast Dairies).
- Parking at Cotoni-Coast Dairies should not be open 24/7 and be closed at night due to concern with illegal campfires/wildfire risk. There needs to be coordination of allowable shoulder parking.
- RBDA supports the recent appeals to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to move the northern access point more south to the Cheese Barn visitor access because BLM's proposed entrance does not have an easement.
- Property owners in the northern portion of Wilder Ranch (Gray While), north of Smith Grade, are concerned about an "illegal barking dog trail." People, including mountain bikers, are trespassing through the property to find the trailhead.

Amenities

- More restrooms (i.e., porta potties) and trash facilities are needed and should be funded. The North Coast is experiencing increased visitation but there is limited trash and restroom facilities. These facilities need to be put in place before there visitation increases even more.