

As in #3 above, each proposed mitigation site should be adequately described and shown on a map to enable the reader to locate the site on the ground and to assess the mitigation potential.

5. A criterion for mitigation is identified in the last sentence of the third paragraph, page 75, third paragraph, as "restored areas should be contiguous with themselves and existing salt marsh vegetation, rather than a series of small isolated patches." This criteria ignores the reality that some isolated wetlands provide important habitat for local species and that, when these habitats are lost, local species suffer. To ensure species that lose habitat will benefit from the mitigation, efforts should be made to mitigate lost wetlands within the same area or at least the same drainage basin as the site of loss, prior to moving to another drainage basin.

6. It is proposed that some wetland losses be mitigated out of kind. Mitigating out of kind is often proposed because it would be easier or cheaper. What is the biological justification for mitigating salt marsh losses with riparian habitat?

7. It appears that the habitat mitigation plans are proposed to be reviewed and approved apart from the DEIR process. How can the public participate in this process? There should be a way for the public to participate in the review of the plans.

8. What is the specific location, size and age of the trees in 1.75 acres of Oak/Bay woodland that would be impacted in Segment 1. What attempt has been or would be made to replace these trees in Segment 1 before deciding on replacement in a different drainage basin?

9. Care should be taken at the north of Grand Avenue mitigation site that native willows not be removed in mitigating for the loss of native oaks and bays.

10. The discussion on page 80 identifies that the increase amount of impervious surface area would result in increased loading of heavy metals, petroleum products and particulate matter to Corte Madera Creek. A mitigation using a BMP using biofilters and treatment wetlands is proposed within "small vacant upland areas isolated by the interchanges on the north, and south sides of Corte Madera Creek. How would it be assured that stormwater retention ponds and/or the constructed wetlands wildlife would not become contaminated with an accumulation of the heavy metals and petroleum runoff, and harm wildlife? Would measures be taken to keep wildlife away from these facilities? What maintenance would be needed to ensure these facilities continue to function and do not become a hazard?

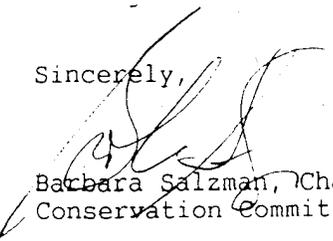
11. In shed #2 (page 81) where would the existing ditches, culverts and portions of Irwin Creek be relocated or replaced? There is little room for replacement or relocation.

12. Identify trees and plants that would be used in the landscaping plan. We are concerned about the loss of mature trees in segment 3. Mature trees contribute habitat value and also absorb sound. Replacement of mature native trees with large specimens that will not take as long to replace existing values.

13. Noise barriers deflect noise from at ground areas to areas further up on hills. How would this impact be mitigated?

Thank you for considering our comments. And thank you for adding us to the mailing list for this EIR.

Sincerely,



Barbara Salzman, Chair
Conservation Committee