

# **Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Land Use Plan Amendment Public Input Meeting – January 12, 2011 Stonebrae Elementary School, Hayward**

## **Community Comments**

- The commenter is pleased that the land use plan process is moving forward, especially the incorporation of the Bailey Ranch property. The LUP should provide a focus on public access, especially with regard to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Property adjacent to Llama Lane is key, as this area provides the best access to the North Garin parcels and there are some graded parcels that would be ideal for staging. Access from Don Castro in the north (the only current access) is too far to travel to reach Garin. Proper public access is needed to reduce private property trespass.
- The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is pleased to see the LUP progressing and looks forward to incorporating the Stonebrae and the Louie public trail easements into the plan. The BARTC is pleased to see the 2005 BART Vargas Plateau to Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Trail Feasibility Study coming to fruition as a result of this plan and will continue to support the planning process.

One of the key issues of the LUP will be to provide access to the Ridge Trail in the form of staging and connector trails. The Ridge Trail and one or more connector trails should be designated high priority implementation projects once the plan is approved.

The BARTC is also interested in the proposal to incorporate back country camping sites into the park plan. This is keeping with the BARTC goals to provide back country campsites along the Ridge Trail route at 7-12 mile intervals. The BARTC believes that these facilities would address a recreation need in the East Bay. The Ridge Trail standard is full multi-use. The commenter asked if there is any active planning on a Ridge Trail connection to Mission Blvd.

- The commenter submitted a query as to the possibility of connecting Garin Regional Park to Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The commenter also noted that typical ranch roads that are generally incorporated into park trail systems are often very steep. There is a need for gentle loop trail opportunities that are not steep and accessible.

Raphael Breines, Project Manger for the District, responded that while Garin Regional Park and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park look close on maps, Palomares Canyon presents a big constraint in connecting the parks. As a result, this connection is beyond the scope of this LUP. Mr. Breines agreed that gentle loop trails would be good and the preliminary

trail plan does include a moderate loop trail opportunity, but noted that the topography of the park leaves little opportunity to develop trails with gentle grades.

- The commenter noted that in early planning efforts for the housing project (Stonebrae) and park acquisition the Bay Area Ridge Trail was always part of the vision. Where the Ridge Trail is in place it adds value to homeowners. Therefore, the Stonebrae agreement should be finalized. The commenter is disappointed that the Ridge Trail will include a section of a paved golf cart path through the Stonebrae property and wondered at the short sightedness in this solution. The commenter is in support of the plan showing a conceptual trail across Palomares Canyon connecting Garin Regional Park and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, even if a specific alignment cannot be finalized as part of the LUP.
- The commenter noted that volunteers were a good resource as equestrians and hikers would like to see trails at Garin Regional Park open. The commenter would prefer to see natural surface trails and was disappointed to learn that the trail section through the golf course is paved. The commenter will continue to follow the planning process with interest.
- The commenter would like the LUP to provide a buffer in front of Dry Creek Cottage and Garden to retain the historic integrity of the site. The site is eligible for listing as a Nation Register Historic District. The park boundary should be extended from Dry Creek Cottage to Mission Blvd. to create a recreation gateway into the park. Save Our Hills would like the EBRPD to pursue purchasing 30 acres of prime agricultural farmland along Mission Blvd. to create this gateway thereby preserving this important resource. The commenter would also like to see the LUP provide a bay to ridge trail connection along Alameda Creek and a conceptual trail alignment across Palomares Canyon connecting Garin Regional Park and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, even if specific alignments cannot be finalized as part of the LUP.
- The LUP needs to show access to the North Garin parcel from Llama Lane or a nearby area – Five Canyons Parkway area. The LUP should also demonstrate that EBRPD is pro horse by encouraging horse use through the development of horse trailer parking in staging areas.
- The commenter would like the District to provide a cell phone site(s) to allow for cell phone connections in emergencies.
- The commenter noted that Llama Lane is a private driveway and that park users should enter from Five Canyons Parkway where there is parking at the HARD park. In this location there is a dedicated trail easement that is shown on a prior developer's drawings and is at least partially developed. The commenter also noted that another developer is interested in this property and as that development is complete it will provide an opportunity for public access into Garin Regional Park.

- The commenter would like to see more trails in the existing park. The commenter indicated that in the north area of Garin Regional Park some of the trails are not in good shape and that the trails in the woods above Zeile Creek need maintenance.
- The commenter would like public access into the park as soon as possible (within his lifetime).
- The commenter expressed concern about possible negative impacts to adjacent property owners. The commenter noted that his property is in the Five Canyons area, which has continuing trespass issues as people try to access the park – related issues may be new trails, firebreaks and horseback riding.