



DATE: August 13, 2009

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Pat O'Brien, General Manager

SUBJECT: Background Information for the August 20, 2009 Board Executive Committee Meeting

I. City of Berkeley-CPS Long-Term Use Agreement, Tom Bates Regional Sports Field: Revision to Phase 2 Buildout Plan

Ted Radosevich, District Counsel, will make a presentation on this agenda item. City of Berkeley staff will also be present to answer questions.

BACKGROUND

In July 2008, the City of Berkeley (City) submitted for District review and approval a proposed long-term use agreement (Agreement) with College Preparatory School (CPS) for the Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex. The City is the lead agency for the complex's development among its Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) partners including, in addition to Berkeley, the cities of Albany, El Cerrito, Emeryville and Richmond. As shown in the attached Exhibit A, in addition to the two existing artificial fields and parking, the approved Master Concept Plan calls for the construction of three natural turf fields - one baseball and two softball fields - along with additional parking, lighting, fencing, a field house and vault restroom.

The Board Executive Committee considered the Agreement on November 25, 2008 and February 26, 2009. The full Board, with the Executive Committee's recommendation, approved the Agreement on May 19, 2009 by Resolution No. 2009-5-132. The Board approved the Agreement based on evidence provided by the City demonstrating that the Agreement would not materially affect the ability of youth groups to use the facilities during peak usage hours. The Board also made its decision based on the City's April 20, 2009 letter agreement providing firm assurances that money generated by the Agreement would be used to construct Phase 2 of the sports field complex (one functional baseball field, one functional softball field and related parking) by no later than April 2010.

In July 2009, City staff proposed changing the scope of Phase 2 from two functional fields to Phase "2A", defined as one complete softball field built to National Federation of State High School Association standards. The revised scope includes protective fencing, dugouts, batting cages, a bull pen, an additional parking lot, and an ADA/emergency vehicle access pathway

Board of Directors

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linking the new parking area to the softball field and the Phase I artificial turf fields. The proposal for Phase 2A is the result of recent JPA meetings during which user group representatives voiced their preference for a completed softball field and continued use of the land where the baseball field was to have been constructed as soccer fields. A fully completed softball field built to national standards also ensures the timely payment by CPS of the final \$150,000 of the \$600,000 due, per the Agreement.

Another element of the Phase 2A plan is a sloped bank and retaining wall extending approximately 10 feet to the west of the sports complex along the 30-foot-wide shoreline band of Eastshore State Park. The encroachment area totals approximately 12,750 square feet. The City is in the process of seeking the State's approval for the encroachment. The encroachment would allow the Phase 2A softball field to be extended from 180 feet to 200 feet, the standard being 185 feet, with reportedly most fields extending to 200 feet. The City's proposed construction schedule for Phase 2A is attached as Exhibit B.

As part of the proposal for Phase 2A, the JPA also proposes to fund Phase 2B, consisting of the completed baseball field at a minimum, from local WWV monies. The cities would apply for their respective local shares in spring 2010, and construction would be completed as early as fall 2010. To date, the JPA has pledged \$798,000, with Albany contributing \$86,000, Berkeley \$543,000, El Cerrito \$119,000 and Emeryville \$50,000. Should Richmond contribute the \$528,000 requested, most likely night lighting for the baseball and softball fields would be added to Phase 2B as well.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board Executive Committee support approval of the revised Phase 2A build out plan, provided that the JPA provide in writing firm assurances of funding for both revised phases 2A and 2B, and a timeline that demonstrates that both phases will be built in the near term. With these assurances, staff believes the revised proposal is consistent with the prior approval given by the Board in May 2009, and no further formal action by the District is needed. However, the Board Executive Committee could determine that the proposed revision should also go to the full Board for approval.

2. Non-Renewal of Williamson Act Contracts

Carol Victor, Assistant District Counsel, and John Bouyea, Real Estate Representative, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, better known as the Williamson Act (Act), is legislation designed to preserve agricultural and open space lands by offering a tax incentive to property owners. The Act provides an arrangement whereby a private property owner voluntarily restricts his/her land to agricultural and compatible open space uses under a contract with either the county or city in which the property is located. In exchange the property benefits from being taxed at a lower rate for agricultural uses.

The minimum term for a Williamson contract is 10 years, and the contract is automatically renewed annually unless the owner non-renews the contract or the contract is canceled. A notice of non-renewal starts the nine-year non-renewal period, during which the annual tax assessment gradually increases to the full assessed value at the end of the 10th year. Contracts may also be terminated by cancellation; however, cancellation requires approval of the local agency and can result in payment of substantial fees.

The District owns 16 properties (approximately 3,916 acres total) in Contra Costa County (Exhibit C) and five properties (4,960 acres total) in Alameda County (Exhibit D) that are under Williamson Act contracts entered into by prior owners. The Land Division and the District Counsel's office have been working together to identify all of the properties owned by the District encumbered with Williamson Act contracts and to develop a program for orderly non-renewal of said contracts. The attached maps show said contracted lands in each county.

Staff recommends non-renewal of 16 properties in Contra Costa County and five properties in Alameda County for the following reasons:

- The mission of the District includes preservation of open space so that the District ownership of contracted lands accomplishes similar purposes to the Williamson Act.
- The District is a tax exempt entity so there is no tax benefit to the agency from the contract and the counties receive no subvention payments from the state.
- The contracts on the property are largely out of date and may impose unnecessary restrictions on the District's ability to efficiently carry out its operations.
- The agricultural use on these parcels is grazing which will be continued by the District.
- Non-renewal by the District will not convert any agricultural lands to non-agricultural use.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The proposed action of non-renewal is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. The non-renewal of the Williamson Contract will not result in any change in use for these properties. The current grazing uses of the property will continue whether under contract or not. In the future, were the District to consider different uses for these properties, such action would be evaluated in a land use plan and pursuant to CEQA and public input at that time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board Executive Committee forward a favorable recommendation to the full Board for staff to file a notice of non-renewal with Contra Costa County and Alameda County for parcels owned by the District covered by Williamson Act contracts.

3. 75th Anniversary Book Update

Rosemary Cameron, AGM Public Affairs, will make a presentation on this agenda item.

BACKGROUND

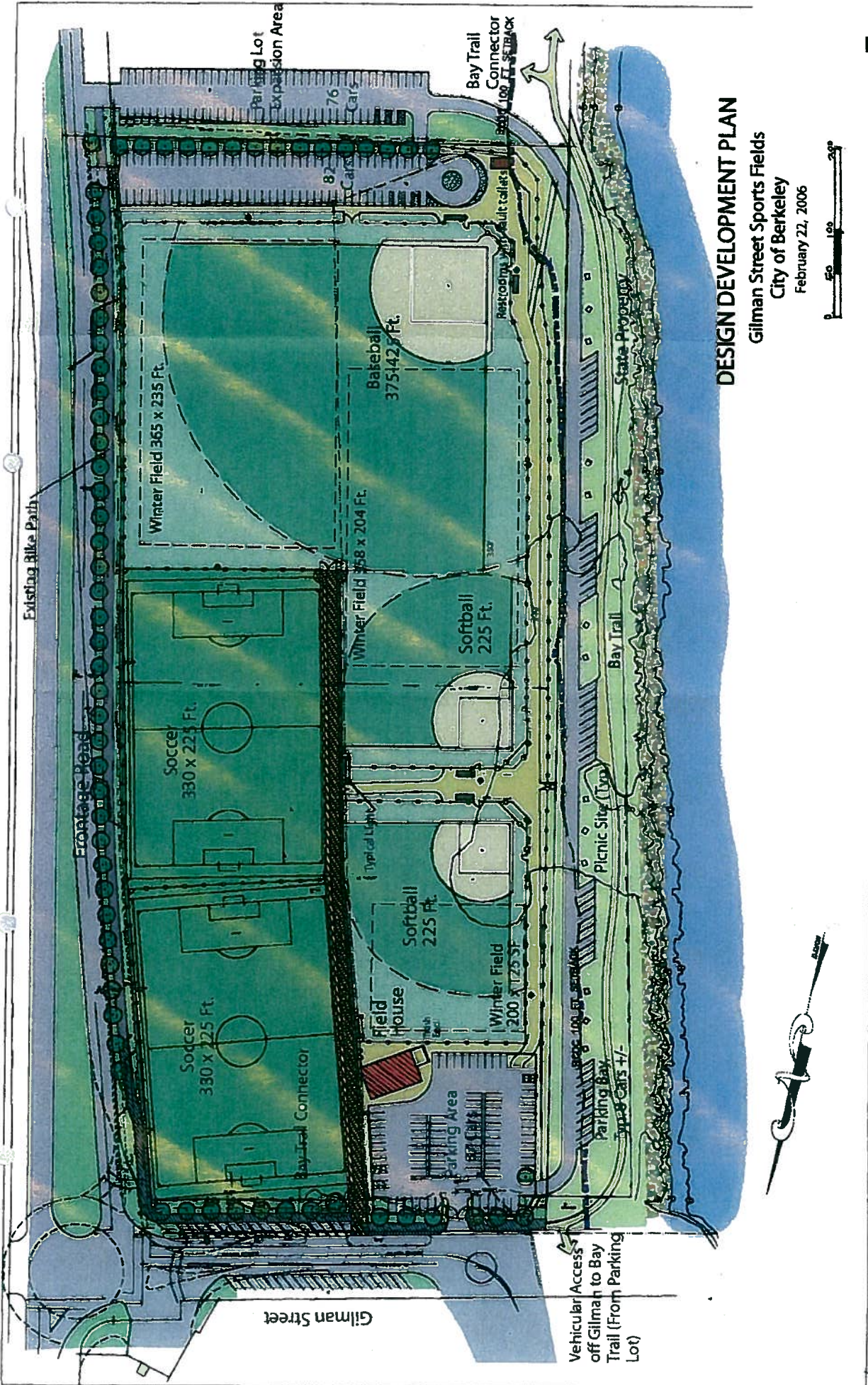
In the run-up to the District's 75th anniversary, the General Manager, Public Affairs staff, and Board member Beverly Lane discussed the idea of having a new updated District history written and published. The reasoning behind this idea was that "A Vision Achieved," the District's oral history, was written and published as part of the District's 50th anniversary commemorations and now, 25 years later, much has happened that warrants telling.

To that end, staff first met with Wilderness Press to determine whether there was interest in working with the District to publish an updated history. Wilderness Press was selected based on the very positive working relationship that developed over the course of publishing "After the Storm," and they expressed interest in bringing the District's 75 year history to press. The search for an author took considerably longer as staff sought out a number of writers who had experience working on books related to the District. Staff settled on Laura McCreery, an oral historian and writer affiliated with the University of California's Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS). Ms. McCreery came to the project with considerable background knowledge of the Park District, having conducted IGS's oral history of Dick Trudeau and now that of General Manager Pat O'Brien.

Since the Board Executive Committee first endorsed this project in August 2007, much work has been done and now the research and writing portion of the project is nearing completion. The project will soon move into the book designer's court. Staff is currently working with Ms. McCreery to select photos, maps and other graphic materials for inclusion in the book. Staff is also just now beginning to review chapters for accuracy as they are completed by the author.

Wilderness Press has set an October 1st deadline for final submission of all text to allow one month for their copy editing process. The goal is to have the final design and copy-edited text submitted by Wilderness Press to their printer by December 1st with a four month printing schedule. The book will then be available for use by the District in Spring 2010, as well as for sale in Visitor Centers and through Wilderness Press local book store distribution channels. Arrangements have been made with Wilderness Press for the District to purchase 3,000 copies of the book at a cost of \$8.00 per unit for a total cost of \$24,000. Funding is available in the Public Affairs budget.

Attached for the Executive Committee's information is the final annotated outline of the book as it is being written by Laura McCreery. (Exhibit E). Rather than a strictly chronological approach, Ms. McCreery has crafted more of a thematic approach to the treatment of the District's 75 year history.



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN
 Gilman Street Sports Fields
 City of Berkeley
 February 22, 2006



EXHIBIT B

ATTACHMENT

**TOM BATES REGIONAL SPORTS CENTER
PHASE II-A - PROJECT SCHEDULE
6/17/2009**




| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Work Authorized to Start | 3/1/09 |
| 60% CD package submitted for City review | 5/15/09 |
| COB submits 60% comments to Consultant | 5/29/09 |
| Obtain permits | 6/1/09 |
| 95/100% CD package submitted for City review | 7/6/09 |
| COB submits 95/100% comments to Consultant | 8/12/09 |
| CD's complete (95/100% comments incorporated into CD's) | 8/18/09 |
| Berkeley City Council approves bidding the project | 8/21/09 |
| Out to Bid (4 week bid period - 28 calendar days) | 8/25/09 |
| Bids submitted to City | 9/22/09 |
| Council awards contract | 10/13/09 |
| Execute contract and NTP | 10/26/09 |
| Start construction | 11/9/09 |
| 120 days construction period (not including holidays) | Nov 2009 - Mar 2010 |
| Construction complete | 3/9/10 |
| EBRPD accepts project completion | 3/16/10 |

7/27/2009



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EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT Lands in Western Contra Costa County under Williamson Act Contract Attachment I

-  EBRPD Properties under Williamson Act
-  EBRPD Lands
-  Other Open Space / Watershed Lands

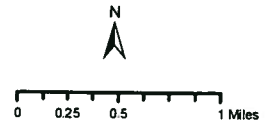
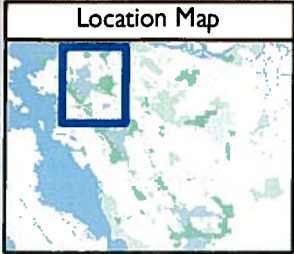
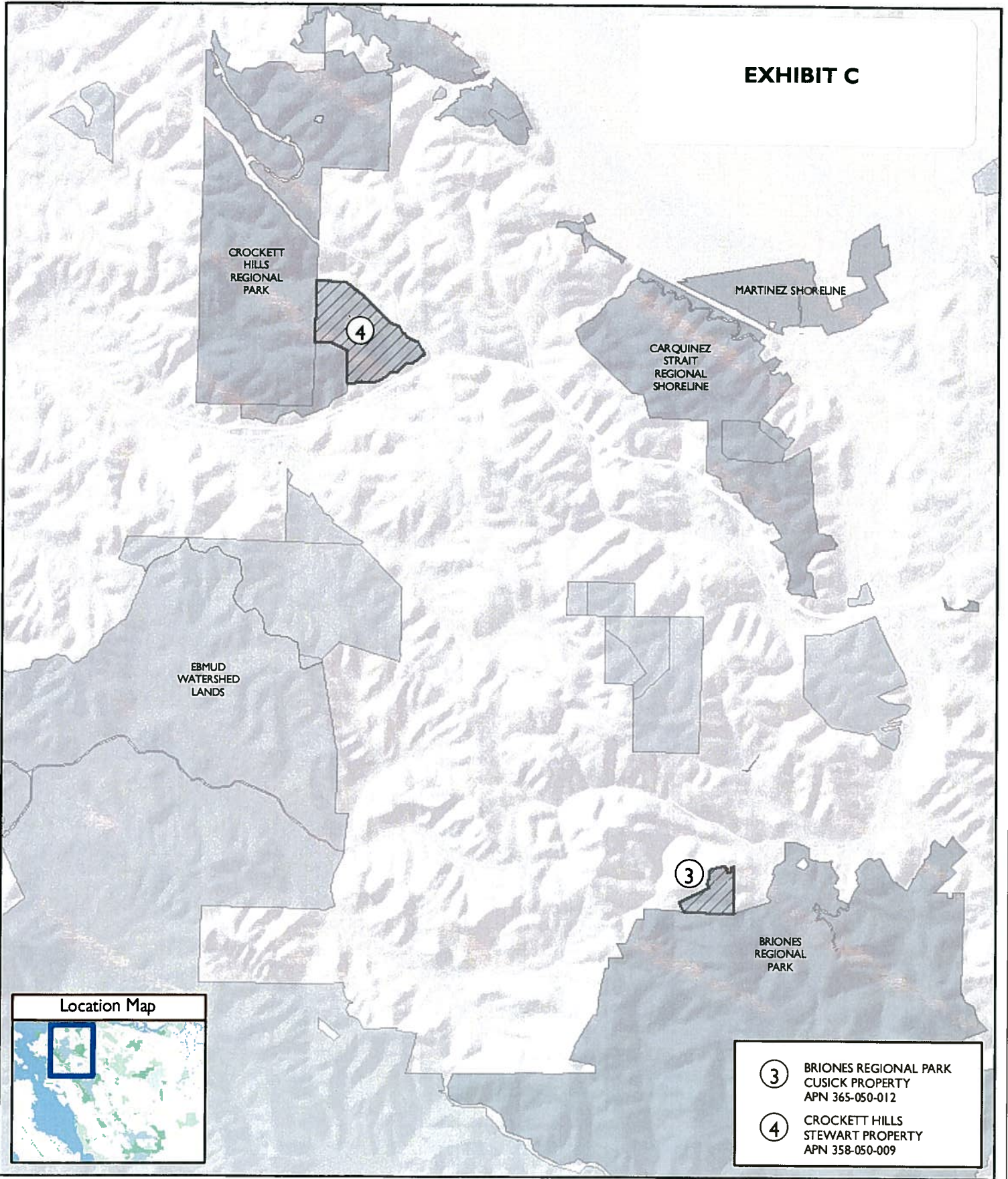


EXHIBIT C



- 3** BRIONES REGIONAL PARK
CUSICK PROPERTY
APN 365-050-012
- 4** CROCKETT HILLS
STEWART PROPERTY
APN 358-050-009



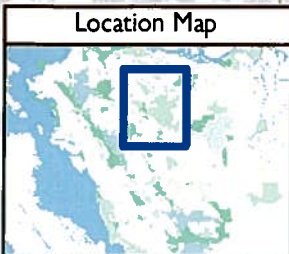
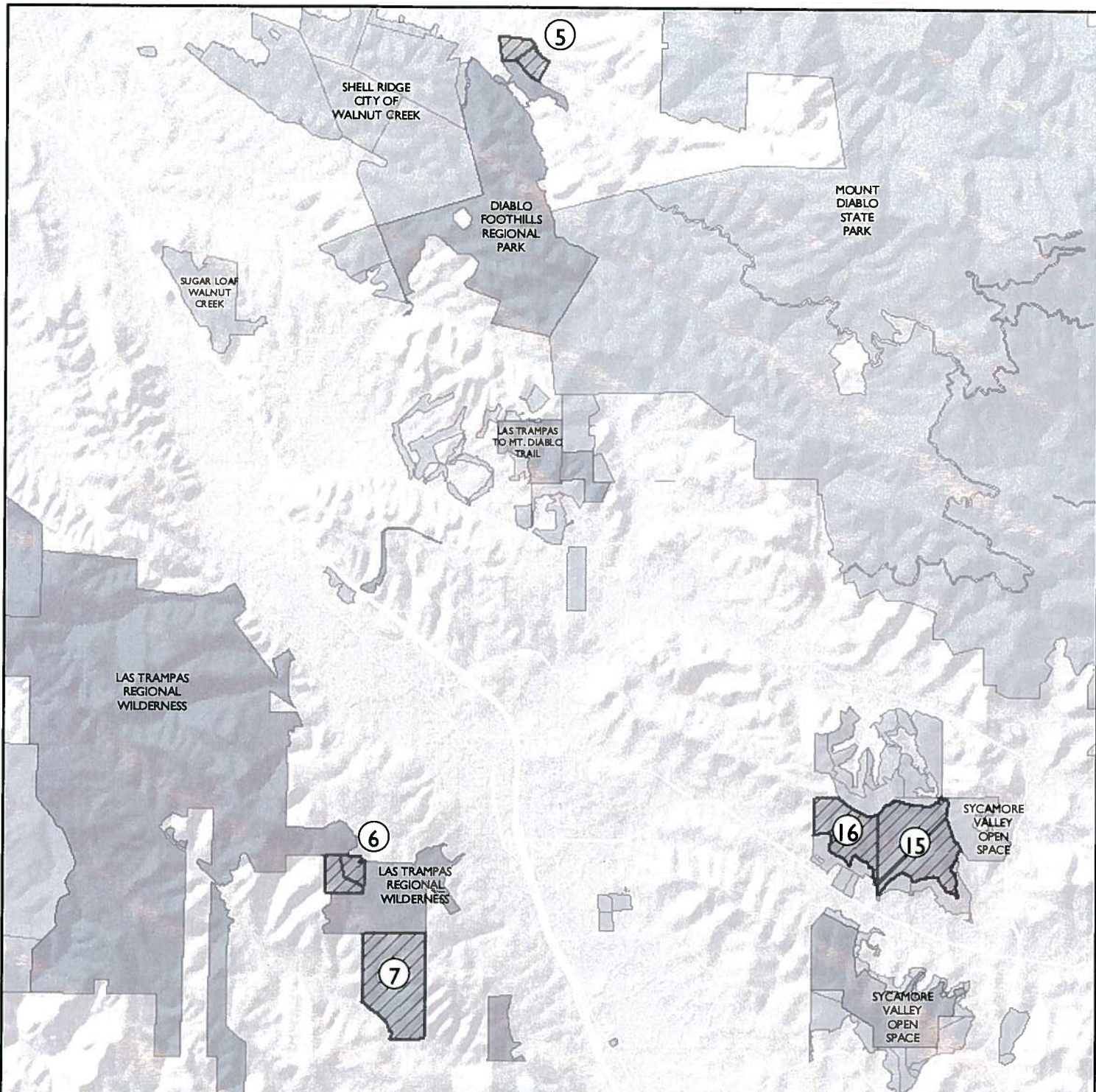
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EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT Lands in Central Contra Costa County under Williamson Act Contract Attachment 2

- EBRPD Properties under Williamson Act
- EBRPD Lands
- Other Open Space / Watershed Lands



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles






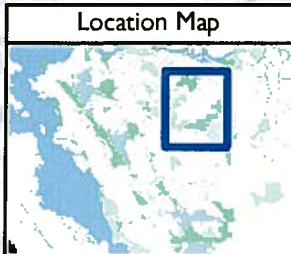
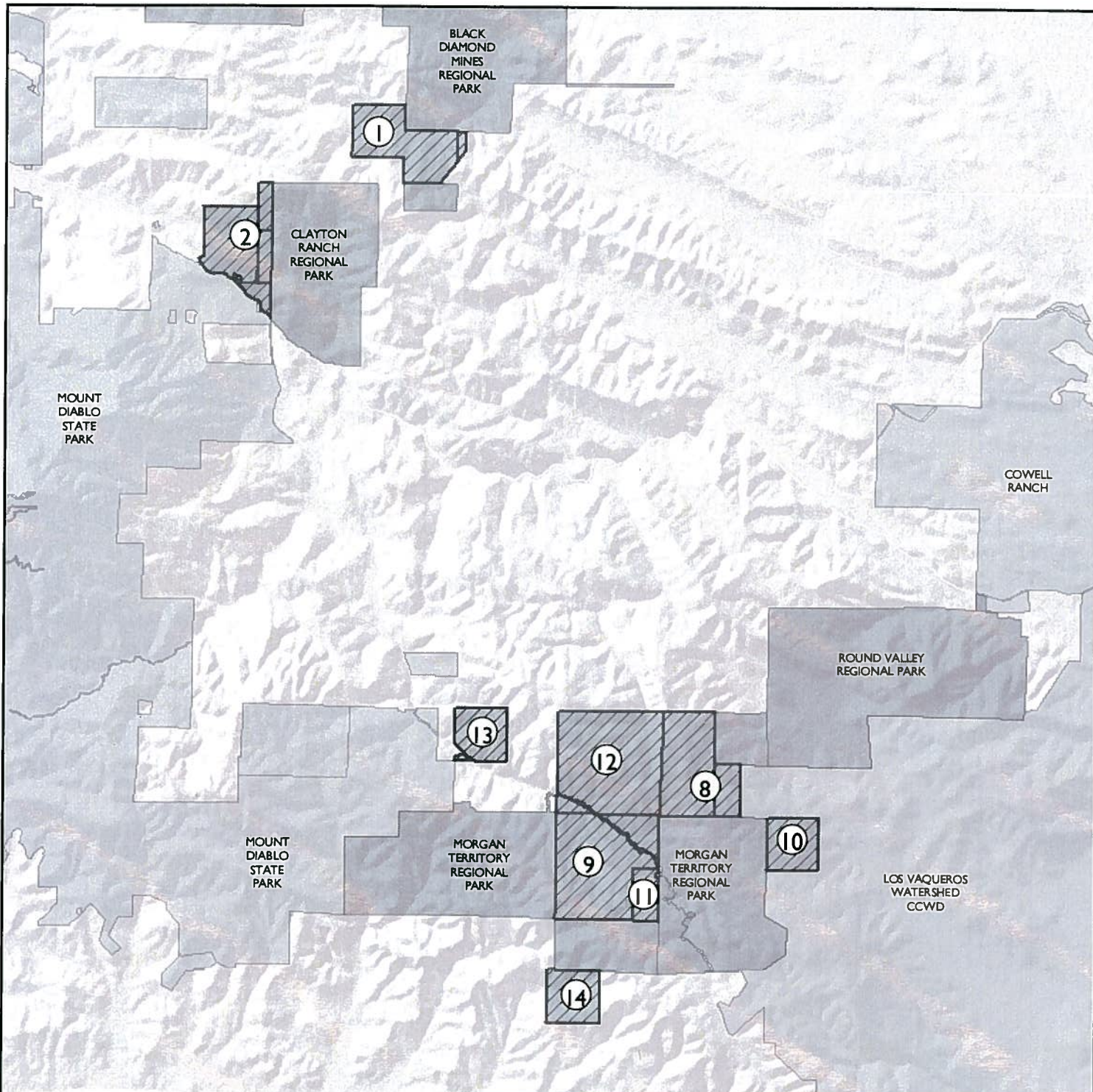
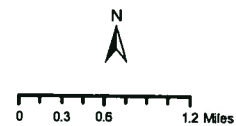
- 5** DIABLO FOOTHILLS GINOCHIO PROPERTY
APN 138-220-002, -003
- 6** LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK CHAN/CHEN PROPERTY
APN 208-210-005, -006
- 7** LAS TRAMPAS REGIONAL PARK CHEN PROPERTY
APN 208-220-010
- 15** SYCAMORE VALLEY OPEN SPACE DAVIDON HOMES (WOOD RANCH)
APN 215-100-022
- 16** SYCAMORE VALLEY OPEN SPACE DANVILLE (WOOD RANCH)
APN 215-090-035



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EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT Lands in Eastern Contra Costa County under Williamson Act Contract Attachment 3

-  EBRPD Properties under Williamson Act
-  EBRPD Lands
-  Other Open Space / Watershed Lands



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ① BLACK DIAMOND LENTZNER PROPERTY APN 075-180-002, -003, | ⑩ MORGAN TERRITORY CARDOZA, BEATRICE APN 006-060-001 | ⑭ MORGAN TERRITORY SHAPPELL-ELWORTHY APN 060-090-008 |
| ② CLAYTON RANCH CHAPARRAL SPRING APN 078-280-002, -070-026, -040-009, -040-011 | ⑪ MORGAN TERRITORY GIM PROPERTY APN 006-040-002 | |
| ⑧ MORGAN TERRITORY CARDOZA, BEATRICE APN 006-030-001 | ⑫ MORGAN TERRITORY MARSHALL, SILVA PROPERTY APN 006-020-002 | |
| ⑨ MORGAN TERRITORY CARDOZA ESTATE APN 006-040-001 | ⑬ MORGAN TERRITORY SCHWARTZ APN 080-080-002 | |



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT Lands in Alameda County under Williamson Act Contract

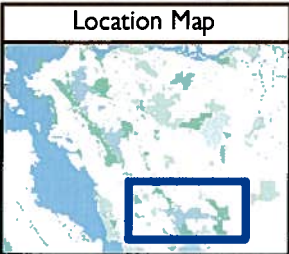
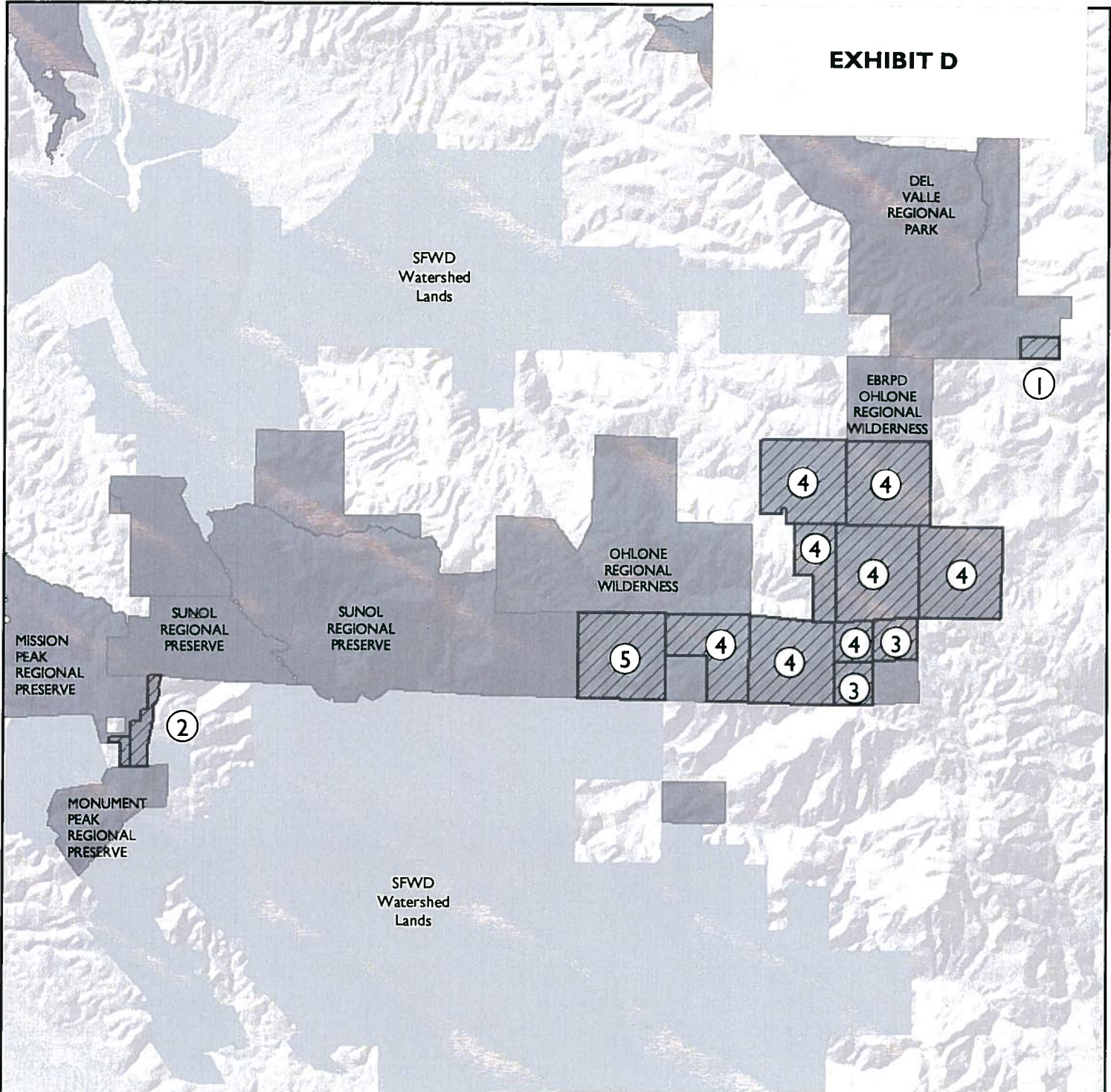
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- EBRPD Properties under Williamson Act
- EBRPD Lands
- Other Open Space / Watershed Lands



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

EXHIBIT D



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>① DELL VALLE NEWBURY PROPERTY APN 99A-2720-008</p> <p>② MISSION PEAK WOOL RANCH PROPERTY APN 096-0090-005-06, -006-01</p> <p>③ OHLONE REGIONAL WILDERNESS AMARAL PROPERTY APN 99A-2900-009, -007-01</p> | <p>④ OHLONE REGIONAL WILDERNESS ROWELL PROPERTY APN 99A-2710-004 99A-2800-001 99A-2900-004, -005, -019 096-0460-005 096-0420-020-02</p> <p>⑤ OHLONE REGIONAL WILDERNESS TELLES PROPERTY APN 096-0460-003</p> |
|--|--|

EXHIBIT E

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Berkeley, CA 94707
510.524.8377
mela@aceweb.com

Narrative Outline East Bay Regional Park District's 75th Anniversary Book revised July 2009

Working title:

Living Landscape: The Extraordinary Rise of the East Bay Regional Park District

Total length of manuscript:

Projected at 35,000 words of text

Book format:

Softbound with French flaps; 9.7 inches square; full color throughout; featuring review quotes from writers, activists, and politicians on back cover and flaps

Front matter:

Title page

Frontispiece photograph(s) and map(s)

Copyright and publication information

Table of contents

Introduction (written by key legislator or other prominent affiliate)

Illustrations: (throughout the text)

Landscape photos (full color images by Bob Walker and others)

Photos of board, central and field staff, and the public (especially action and event shots)

Maps of parks and trails at various points in the history

Reproductions of selected memorabilia

Sidebars: (throughout the text)

Brief 500-600 sections of text (boxed or set aside some other way) to give emphasis to people or events over and above the main text, on such topics as (1) the first board of directors elected in 1934; (2) trails and larger trail systems; (3) annotated list of key state and national legislators and what they worked on; (4) interpretive services; (5) recreation services.

Prologue: (about 600 words)

[Summary:] In 1988—more than fifty years after its founding and a full ten years after passage of the property tax revolt known as Proposition 13—the East Bay Regional Park District takes an enormous gamble, asking East Bay voters for 2/3 approval of a twenty-year \$225 million bond measure, one that will make or break everything for years to come.

Chapter 1: (the early decades and up through Mott's tenure, 1962-1967)

"Each chapter is introduced with a relevant quote."

Chapter 1 opens with the events of January 29, 1931, when more than 1,000 East Bay citizens gather at the Hotel Oakland to set in motion their vision of turning 10,000 acres of former water-company lands into parks. The chapter then backtracks to a brief early history of those lands, which became available in the 1920s after the East Bay began to draw its water supply from the Mokelumne River instead of small local sources. After the Olmsted-Hall report of 1930 suggests formation of parks, key players in the private sector and in local and state government overcome opposition by the East Bay Municipal Utility District to establish the East Bay Regional Park District, the first "special district" in California devoted to parks. Touching on early notions of regional planning, the chapter reviews the process leading to the 1934 election; the first elected board of directors and first employees; acquisition and development of the first three parks (Redwood and Temescal in 1936 and Wildcat Canyon [renamed Tilden] in 1940); and the effects of World War II (covering along the way the characteristics, leadership, and accomplishments of the first few general managers: Elbert Vail, Harold Curtiss, Richard Walpole, Wes Adams [interim], William Penn Mott). After annexation of Contra Costa County (1964) and Pleasanton (1966), the chapter ends with Mott being hired away to Sacramento to direct the state parks.

Chapter 2: (the Trudeau leadership period, 1967 through 1984)

In Chapter 2, the board faces the task of replacing Mott as general manager. After interim leader Irwin Luckman, the directors appoint Richard C. Trudeau, first as "acting" general manager and then permanently. Outlining Trudeau's background, the chapter then covers accomplishments of this period: creating Contra Loma on a tight schedule in 1968; establishing the Regional Parks Foundation in 1969; the protracted fight to preserve Apperson Ridge from quarrying; lobbying the legislature to win an unprecedented 10-cent tax increase for parks in 1971; creating the first professional master plan in 1973; the District's only labor strike, a two-month dispute in 1975;

passage of the property tax revolt, Proposition 13, in June 1978 and its fiscal effects, including staff layoffs; establishing the Adopt-a-Park program and other responses to Prop. 13; hiring a lobbyist to represent the District in Sacramento; evolution of interpretive programs; significant land acquisitions, as well as early work on long-term acquisitions, such as Pleasanton Ridge; the annexation of east Contra Costa County in 1981; and the status at the 50th anniversary in 1984.

Chapter 3: (thematic history of land acquisition and development of the trail system)

Chapter 3 opens with the first land chief, Hulet Hornbeck, weaving his personal story into a thematic overview of land acquisition, starting in the 1960s. Focusing on the newly annexed Contra Costa County, the chapter reveals how acquisition practices evolved under the team of Trudeau and Hornbeck and how they made effective use of contacts in local government and in Sacramento, along with the power of eminent domain, to add large tracts of land to the District's territory at Briones, Black Diamond, and Las Trampas. Special attention goes to the rise of trail systems, both within the District and on the national scene, and tells how managing the trails program became a key step for Hornbeck's eventual successor, Bob Doyle. The chapter describes other acquisitions, including the complex arrangements to create Claremont Canyon, recognizing the role of citizen advocacy in the realization of many regional parks.

Chapter 4 (leadership changes after Trudeau's retirement)

Chapter 4 explores the District's leadership immediately after the long tenure of Dick Trudeau. After sketching the larger economic picture of the early 1980s, nationwide and in California (including the effects of Proposition 13), it covers the hiring and tenure of General Manager David Pesonen, who ran the agency for two-and-a-half years between 1985 and 1988. After giving Pesonen's own history and the board's process for hiring him, the chapter elaborates on the changes he instituted and why he proved a poor match for the job. As the story continues into 1988, the board of directors—still recovering from Pesonen's short and divisive tenure—begins the process of hiring General Manager Pat O'Brien away from a park district in Sacramento. Interwoven with O'Brien's background is a look at the rising environmental movement and how the natural tension between environmentalists and traditional park administrators is playing out in state government and beyond. The chapter ends with the hiring of O'Brien and with a preview of his assessment of District needs and how he will respond.

Chapter 5: (overview of park bond and other financing and the detailed story of Measure AA)

Chapter 5 opens as Jerry Kent—a 25-year employee tapped as acting general manager after Pesonen's departure—runs the agency while the board hires a permanent general manager. The chapter reviews two significant statewide park bond acts passed in June 1986 (Proposition 43) and June 1988 (Proposition 70). Passage of the latter measure suggests that voters are supportive and sets the stage for the controversial decision to place on the ballot a \$225 million "EBRPD only" bond measure later that year (as foretold in the prologue). Janet Cobb of public affairs, along with board members Ted Radke and Jocelyn Combs, helps convince others, including

Kent, to think big and pursue the bond. Cobb takes a leave of absence to work on the campaign and makes large personal loans to that effort. After much turmoil, the board votes to put the measure on the November 1988 ballot. The chapter follows the groundbreaking campaign for and passage of Measure AA, which will transform everything for the next twenty years. The chapter adds to the fiscal “big picture” of the post-Proposition 13 era (from the standpoint of key players), including liaison with Sacramento, budget changes, and a revision to the master plan.

Chapter 6: (accomplishments of the early O’Brien years, from 1988)

Taking over just after passage of Measure AA, General Manager Pat O’Brien moves quickly but carefully to begin restructuring the organization and improving board relations. The chapter includes a detailed history of the board and its membership, characterizing the various wards and their histories—both under the old system of elections at large and the new system of election by wards. The chapter explores the competing interests of the board, especially the bloc of “environmentalist” members vis-à-vis more traditional business-oriented members. Meanwhile, applying an entrepreneurial streak learned in the trenches at the Southgate Recreation and Park District, O’Brien realigns the staff to help him increase the effectiveness of Measure AA bond funds by pursuing additional grants and matching funds. He establishes a delivery system to get AA funds committed and creates the revenue-sharing program that provides grants to local park and recreation entities. He also accomplishes the annexation of Livermore to complete the two-county area (1992); forms a trails assessment district as a local revenue source (1993); revitalizes the Park Advisory Committee; tackles the property tax shift of 1991; and creates a lighting and landscape assessment district in east Contra Costa County. Under his hand, the District begins to set itself apart from comparable park districts nationwide. Public affairs leadership by Rosemary Cameron helps O’Brien realize his vision of serving more citizens. He guides the purchase of the new headquarters building on Peralta Oaks Court, consolidating staff from five locations to one.

Chapter 7: (thematic history shoreline and island parks, highlighting Eastshore State Park)

Chapter 7 provides a history of acquisition and mitigation of shoreline parks and islands at the eastern edge of San Francisco Bay and along the inland Delta, including the first bayfront parks at Crown Beach (Alameda), Miller/Knox (Richmond), Point Pinole (this one in some detail, including the role of citizen advocates, the board, and the staff), and Point Isabel, as well as bay and delta shoreline additions in later years. The discussion of shoreline issues includes personal details and insights from such employees as Bob Doyle, who worked at length in shoreline parks before becoming the District’s land chief. The chapter includes the story of how, beginning in the 1990s, the District expands on its record of creative liaisons by acquiring more than 1,400 acres of bayside land from Catellus Corporation (the newly created development arm of Santa Fe Railroad) in partnership with the State of California. The resulting Eastshore State Park opens in a limited capacity in 1997-1998, but the intense, complex, and controversial process of public input, planning, and mitigation of industrial effects still lies ahead. The unusual arrangement benefits from advocacy by key state legislators and survives opposition from representatives of the executive branch. The hard-fought success of Eastshore provides an important window on the District’s willingness and growing skill at taking on difficult urban park projects.

Chapter 8: (natural history, flora and fauna, and natural disasters)

Chapter 8 opens with a vignette from the Oakland/East Bay hills firestorm of October 1991. It then describes that event and its aftermath in more detail, including creation of the Hills Emergency Forum. Touching on the range of other natural and unnatural disasters over the years, including the eucalyptus freeze of 1972; (2) significant El Nino storm damage in the winter of 1998; and the Shell Marsh and Cosco Busan oil spills. Woven in is some natural history of the range of District lands, including flora and fauna, endangered species, and related issues of grazing, ranching, and agriculture. The chapter reviews how natural disasters have shaped the District's history and practices, and it traces the development of cutting-edge police and fire safety practices that make the District a leader among park entities.

Chapter 9: (growth of the agency in 1990s and 2000s, especially building financial portfolio)

Chapter 9 carries forward the story of adding parks and services while creating and protecting a solid financial base, using entrepreneurial techniques to build a financial portfolio just as a private enterprise would. Again the District goes to voters with Measures KK and LL, qualifying for the November 1996 ballot with little lead time. Both measures pass by more than 2/3, which allows continuation of the assessment districts funding trail maintenance in both counties and park operations in Contra Costa County. Effective liaison with legislators and other branches of government leads to refinance of existing bonds at a lower interest rate, saving \$14 million and further expanding the financial and land acquisition picture for the 21st century. The District reviews priorities and makes service changes in response to Bay Area's growing population (e.g., advancing communications and outreach through new publications, new media, and new technology such as GIS). Finally, the chapter relates the story of the failed Measures B (June 1998) and W (November 1998) and outlines the reasons for a split in the board's support for those measures before the third successful effort to fund "environmental" maintenance in a limited portion of the District (passed as Measure CC in 2004).

Chapter 10: (excellence of board and staff; master plan; new parks; campaign for Measure WW)

Chapter 10 recaps the gradual but dramatic evolution of the board and its practices over time (with special attention to changes in Ward 1 after the death of longtime board member Jean Siri, whose successor, Nancy Skinner, served two years before being elected in 2008 to state assembly, a first for the District). It touches on the current organizational structure of the staff; the roles of AGMs, the evolving social concept of recreation and park use against the District's creation of a recreation services department as a counterpart to interpretive services (a significant change to the internal culture) to increase public access to and use of parks. A major revision of the master plan in 1997 had specified that "an environmental ethic guides us in all that we do," and the chapter explores the meaning of that for the 21st century. The District continues to acquire and open additional parklands, such as (1) Camp Arroyo and the unique partnership with Taylor Family Foundation to create facility for children, "green" building methods, bringing disadvantaged children to camp; (2) Vasco Caves Regional Preserve, acquired with Contra Costa Water District, 1997; and (3) Round Valley Regional Preserve, opened in 1998. The chapter also

touches on statewide Proposition 12, the California State Park Bond Act, and its effect on the District's program of acquiring and opening new parks (which continues with, for example, completion of three-phase purchase of Clayton Ranch in 2001 and the opening of Quarry Lakes, also in 2001, after 25 years on master plan). The District lobbies to reduce a property tax shift from non-enterprise special districts, and the fiscal discussion ties in the 30-year anniversary of Proposition 13, the property-tax revolt. The heart of the chapter is the story of the November 2008 election, in which the District will elect a new board member to Ward 1 and will put forth the whopping \$500 million bond titled Measure WW (the extension of Measure AA from 1988). The chapter examines the board's approval process, development of the funding proposal, details of the ballot-measure language, voter research and polling, public information efforts, and the dramatic run-up to election day (including two last-minute snafus, one with the election department of each county).

Epilogue: (about 650 words)

[Summary:] By 2008 the District operates 65 regional parks on nearly 100,000 acres and oversees 1,100 miles of trails. It serves more than 2.4 million residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Measure AA, the \$225 million bond of 1988, has helped the District preserve 34,000 acres of open space, create 17 new regional parks, add over 100 miles of trails, and fund 235 neighborhood recreation projects. The District has nearly doubled the \$225 million investment, leveraging money to secure "matching" funds at no cost to taxpayers. In November 2008—exactly twenty years after approval of Measure AA—the District again goes to the ballot box, asking voters to expand on the previous success by approving a \$500 million bond extension measure (Measure WW) with no increase in property tax rates above the present rate of \$10 per year per \$100,000 of assessed value. Of that \$500 million, \$375 million (75%) will fund regional park acquisitions and capital projects. The other \$125 million (25%) will go to local park and recreation entities, many of which will depend on funding from an extension of this bond. As the District prepares to celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2009, the voters come through, passing Measure WW at a rate of 71%. The board vacancy for Ward 1 is filled by Whitney Dotson in the same election.

Back matter: [book designer may create some of these as additional sidebars in the main text]

- cumulative list of parks, trails, and visitor centers, with dates acquired/established
- cumulative list of ballot measures and legislation over District's entire history
- cumulative list of board members and dates served
- cumulative list of general managers and dates served
- list of current management staff
- timeline of key events
- endnotes and list of sources
- acknowledgments
- index