

Brenda Bennett

From: Christopher Brousseau <chrisbrousseau@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 1:57 PM
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; alisa.somera@sfgov.org; Breedstaff@sfgov.org; David.Campos@sfgov.org; Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org; Jane.Kim@sfgov.org; John.Avalos@sfgov.org; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org; Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org; Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org; mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org; Norman.Yee@sfgov.org; Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfgov.org
Cc: PARKS_Commission; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; Marlene Finley; Warren Slocum
Subject: Support access to Crystal Springs Peninsula Watershed (YES on SFBOS file # 160183)

Dear Supervisors:

Please include my comments in the public record. Today, I write to express my support for improved public access to the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Peninsula Watershed that is located in San Mateo County.

This issue is very important to me and my family. The public has been unfairly closed off from the Watershed's scenic, historical and recreational experiences for too long.

Public access in the SF Watershed is a social justice, equity issue. I support the resolution (SFBOS file # 160183) to allow responsible access to the SFPUC watershed lands over existing service road such as Fifield-Cahill Ridge, Pilarcitos Road, Whiting Ridge, Old Cañada, and to historical sites for the following reasons:

-Access to the watershed's existing dirt roads would allow hikers, cyclists and equestrians to visit the area's largest and most scenic unused, publicly held open space, integrating National, State and County parklands across the San Francisco Peninsula.

-The "trails" in this space are actually existing dirt roads, which are currently used on a daily basis by SFPUC trucks. These roads could easily be designated as a trail system, similar to the Marin County and Santa Clara County Watersheds.

-Residents of Southern San Francisco and Northern San Mateo County are some of the most socioeconomically and culturally diverse areas of the SF Peninsula. They are as close to the road network in the Watershed as they are to the Presidio. For these residents the SF Watershed is the closest open space.

-Fostering public sentiment of environmental stewardship through public engagement is the model for environmental protection. The communities that surround the Watershed should be as trusted as environmental stewards as the communities that surround Mid-Pen or Marin. People with resources can travel to find open space in Marin, Southern San Mateo County or other locals in California. These alternative options do not apply for many residents on the SF Peninsula.

-The docent program is unusable by many people, primarily those on the lower rungs of the socioeconomic ladder, including those who do not own a motor vehicle and who are unable to fit their lifestyle into the limited times the docent program runs. From a socioeconomic and social justice perspective, the docent program is very far from providing access to economically disadvantaged groups in the peninsula. Indeed, it is contrary to the ethos of enabling those who may not be as economically well off from part taking in the outdoors closest to

their homes. Many who reside in these areas are working class individuals for whom planning a foray the SF Watershed with a docent program is not a viable option. In effect, the barriers to exclude residents who are stone's throw away from the SF Watershed places an inequitable and unfair burden on those individuals from equal access to their environment. From that perspective a permit program would be much better than the docent program to accommodate the economically disadvantaged populations of the area. In fact, open dusk till dawn access is even better than a permit program.

- For clarity, the current method of docent-led public access is extremely limited and unfair to the public. The number of spots available to reserve in advance only, for the few docent led tours that are held - are extremely limited. Typically, there are only a handful of reserveable hiking spots available once a week, and the hikes are only at 9 or 9:30 the morning. In addition, some special interest groups have access to this space, unsupervised, outside of this docent program.

-At this time there are no significant, scientific concerns over water security, fire safety or environmental stewardship. Prior to opening a complete environmental investigation will surface any environmental issues that need to be addressed.

- Other local public spaces allow reasonable and appropriate public access without the negative impacts opponents of SFPUC Watershed access advocate. I draw your attention to the the watershed agencies listed above, and the Midpeninsula Open Space District as successful examples.

Please pass Resolution 160183 and work cooperatively with other agencies such as the SFPUC, San Mateo County and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to achieve access reform for this important public land.

Thank you for your public service.

Brenda Bennett

From: Andrew Davidson <andrew.davidson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 3:47 PM
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; alisa.somera@sfgov.org; Breedstaff@sfgov.org;
David.Campos@sfgov.org; Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org; Jane.Kim@sfgov.org;
John.Avalos@sfgov.org; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org; Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org;
Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org; mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org; Norman.Yee@sfgov.org;
Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfgov.org
Cc: PARKS_Commission; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; Marlene
Finley; Warren Slocum
Subject: Open the SF Watershed Please!

Honorable Supervisors,

Please include this email as part of the public record.

Public access in the SF Watershed, and open space in general is vital to building communities and citizens that respect and want to protect the natural environment. I support the resolution (SFBOS file # 160183) to allow responsible access to the SFPUC watershed lands over existing service road such as Fifield-Cahill Ridge, Pilarcitos Road, Whiting Ridge, Old Cañada, and to historical sites.

Our society is growing ever more focused on the electronic world - looking inward, and often downward into our mobile devices, and experiencing things secondhand through film and the internet. I fear that the lack of easy public access for all (not just those who live nearby city, state, or national parks) will lead to a future generation that does not understand the value of the outdoors, and does not prioritize protection of the natural environment.

At the same time, the manner in which the population experiences and enjoys the outdoors is changing. In Marin County, approximately one out of every three users of the Marin open space is riding a bicycle. These users are predominantly on the younger side. Years of study have shown that bicycles have the same environmental impact as pedestrians, and far below that of equestrian users. And safety concerns are largely overblown by a small, vocal minority of users who prefer not to share the experience of the outdoors with anyone with a different preference for the manner in which they experience it.

It is vital to open the San Francisco watershed to any and all human-powered user groups, so that they may experience the value of these lands. I look forward to bringing my young children to these lands, and traveling freely through them by foot or by bicycle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrew Davidson
3321 Octavia Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

Brenda Bennett

From: Stephen Denney <srdenney@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2016 4:02 PM
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; Breedstaff@sfgov.org; David.Campos@sfgov.org; Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org; Jane.Kim@sfgov.org; John.Avalos@sfgov.org; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org; Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org; Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org; Norman.Yee@sfgov.org; Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org
Cc: alisa.somera@sfgov.org; mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfgov.org; PARKS_Commission; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; Marlene Finley; Warren Slocum
Subject: The San Francisco Watershed

Dear members of the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you concerning the resolution before you to improve public access to the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Peninsula Watershed.

Fifty years ago, when I was a member of the Mills High School Cross Country team, our coach obtained permission from the San Francisco Water Department that allowed us to run in the restricted area of this watershed, behind Sawyer Camp Road. As often as three times a week, a group of us would run on these roads, ranging from a half-hour to an hour and a half each time. It was a deeply enjoyable experience as we could enjoy this wildlife preserve secluded from the general public, but we were also aware that we were there as visitors, and of its environmental importance.

I support more public access to the watershed, but favor doing this through expanding the current system of docent-led visits, or having small groups obtain permission from the SFPUC for visits on specific days and times.

To allow unrestricted access would disturb the wildlife in this watershed and create possible fire hazards as well as litter and other problems. It is much wiser, in my opinion, to proceed with caution and on a trial basis, than to make such a radical change as opening the Watershed to anyone and everyone without supervision.

I am especially concerned about opening the watershed to bike riders. As Howie Wolke pointed out in High Country News:

Backcountry biking damages the land. Bikers often veer off trail just to keep from crashing. Last year, I sent the district ranger photos of mountain-bike damage to vegetation at Kissinger Lakes in the DuNoir, but the problem persists. Because mountain bikers ride fast, they startle wildlife more than hikers or horseback-riders do. They also make formerly remote areas more accessible, thereby reducing solitude and increasing the disturbance of wilderness-dependent species such as lynx and wolverine. Like trail runners with ear pods, mountain bikers inadvertently "troll for grizzlies," as demonstrated by the 2004 mauling of a DuNoir mountain biker. Speeding mountain bikers also endanger horse-packers and hikers on steep trails. Let's face it: Mountain bikers need all that protective gear because they're not always in control.

<https://www.hcn.org/wotr/mountain-bikes-and-wilderness-dont-mix>

Bike riding is forbidden in wilderness areas under legislation passed by Congress in 1964. The San Francisco Watershed as it now exists is essentially a wilderness.

One potentially dangerous area in this regard is the road leading from Sawyer Camp Trail up to the ridge, from my memory almost two miles long. This road is steep and with many turns, often blind turns. A bike rider coming down this road could easily reach high speeds presenting danger both to whomever the rider might encounter, as well as to himself or herself.

Finally, I have read reports of responsible environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club, the Audobon Society and the Committee for Green Foothills who oppose unrestricted access to the watershed. As one of the most progressive, environmentally friendly counties in the nation, I hope you will heed their concerns.

Sincerely,

Stephen Denney

srdenney@gmail.com

541 Everett Street, El Cerrito 94530

tel: 510-684-1165

Brenda Bennett

From: Dan <danismaximus@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 8:54 AM
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; alisa.somera@sfgov.org; Breedstaff@sfgov.org; David.Campos@sfgov.org; Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org; Jane.Kim@sfgov.org; John.Avalos@sfgov.org; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org; Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org; Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org; mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org; Norman.Yee@sfgov.org; Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfgov.org
Cc: PARKS_Commission; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; Marlene Finley; Warren Slocum
Subject: Access to SF Watershed

Dear honorable Supervisors,

Please include this email as part of the public record.

Public access in the SF Watershed, and open space in general is a social justice, equity issue. I support the resolution (SFBOS file # 160183) to allow responsible access to the SFPUC watershed lands over existing service road such as Fifield-Cahill Ridge, Pilarcitos Road, Whiting Ridge, Old Cañada, and to historical sites for the following reasons:

-Residents of Southern San Francisco and Northern San Mateo County are some of the most socioeconomically and culturally diverse areas of the SF Peninsula. They are as close to the road network in the Watershed as they are to the Presidio. For these residents the SF Watershed is the closest open space.

-Fostering public sentiment of environmental stewardship through public engagement is the model for environmental protection. The communities that surround the Watershed should be as trusted as environmental stewards as the communities that surround Mid-Pen or Marin. People with resources can travel to find open space in Marin, Southern San Mateo County or other locals in California. These alternative options do not apply for many residents on the SF Peninsula.

-The docent program is unusable by many people, primarily those on the lower runs of the socioeconomic ladder, including those who do not own a motor vehicle and who are unable to fit their lifestyle into the limited times the docent program runs. From a socioeconomic and social justice perspective, the docent program is very far from providing access to economically disadvantaged groups in the peninsula. Indeed, it is contrary to the ethos of enabling those who may not be as economically well off from part taking in the outdoors closest to their homes. Many who reside in these areas are working class individuals for whom planning a foray the SF Watershed with a docent program is not a viable option. In effect, the barriers to exclude residents who are stone's throw away from the SF Watershed places an inequitable and unfair burden on those individuals from equal access to their environment. From that perspective a permit program would be much better than the docent program to accommodate the economically disadvantaged populations of the area. In fact, open dusk till dawn access is even better than a permit program.

Thank you for your public service.

Dan and Kara Littlefield
Residents of El Granada, CA

Sent from my iPhone.

Brenda Bennett

From: Carly McCaffrey <cmm299@georgetown.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 5:01 PM
To: Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org
Cc: alisa.somera@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfwater.org; PARKS_Commission; Marlene Finley
Subject: SF Water Shed at Crystal Springs

Please include my comments below as part of the public record.

Dear Supervisors Mar,

I would like to express my support for improved public access to the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Peninsula Watershed.

I grew up in Half Moon Bay and over years of "driving over the hill" on Highway 92 to San Mateo, I have always ogled at this SF watershed area and wished I could explore it. Even as a little girl I was captivated by the beauty and grandeur of the fog gently rolling over the hills (usually staying stuck in Half Moon Bay). As a high school and college rower, I have particularly always admired the Crystal Spring reservoir for its beauty and row-ability. To this day, if I could row on any body of water in the world, this would be my top choice. For these reasons, I urge you to allow people like myself and countless others to truly experience and engage with this wonderful area by granting public access to the land.

I support the resolution (SFBOS file # 160183) to allow responsible access to the SFPUC watershed lands over existing service road such as Fifield-Cahill Ridge, Pilarcitos Road, Whiting Ridge, Old Cañada, and to historical sites for the following reasons:

-Access to the watershed's existing dirt roads would allow hikers, cyclists and equestrians to visit the area's largest and most scenic unused, publicly held open space, integrating National, State and County parklands across the San Francisco Peninsula.

-At this time there are no significant, scientific concerns over water security, fire safety or environmental stewardship. Prior to opening a complete environmental investigation will surface any environmental issues that need to be addressed.

-The "trails", dirt roads actually, are currently used by SFPUC trucks on a daily basis. They could easily be designated as a trail system, much as is done in the Marin County and Santa Clara County Watersheds.

Please also retire the "mandatory docent system". There are times when we will need to enjoy these lands with out being forced into a large group. This approach works well in other watershed lands across the state, there's no reason it shouldn't work on the Peninsula.

I ask for your support of Resolution 160183 and for SFPUC to work cooperatively with San Mateo County to improve access to the watershed.

I truly hope to experience engaging with this land in the near future.

Thank you,

Carly McCaffrey
2990 Turk St, San Francisco
(650) 922-7614

Brenda Bennett

From: Mark Sutherland <mtsutherland@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 4:51 PM
To: Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org; Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org; Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; Breedstaff@sfgov.org; David.Campos@sfgov.org; Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org; Jane.Kim@sfgov.org; John.Avalos@sfgov.org; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org; Norman.Yee@sfgov.org; Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org
Cc: alisa.somera@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfgov.org; PARKS_Commission; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; Marlene Finley; Warren Slocum
Subject: Letter to Support opening the SF Watershed

Please include my comments below as part of the public record:

Dear Supervisors:

I would like to express my support for improved public access to the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Peninsula Watershed. This issue is very important to me and my family. The public has been closed off from the Watershed's scenic, historical and recreational experiences for too long. Please do what you can to help achieve access reform.

I support the resolution (SFBOS file # 160183) to allow responsible access to the SFPUC watershed lands over existing service road such as Fifield-Cahill Ridge, Pilarcitos Road, Whiting Ridge, Old Cañada, and to historical sites for the following reasons:

-Access to the watershed's existing dirt roads would allow hikers, cyclists and equestrians to visit the area's largest and most scenic unused, publicly held open space, integrating National, State and County parklands across the San Francisco Peninsula.

-At this time there are no significant, scientific concerns over water security, fire safety or environmental stewardship. Prior to opening a complete environmental investigation will surface any environmental issues that need to be addressed.

-The "trails", dirt roads actually, are currently used by SFPUC trucks on a daily basis. They could easily be designated as a trail system, much as is done in the Marin County and Santa Clara County Watersheds.

Please also retire the "mandatory docent system". There are times when we will need to enjoy these lands with out being forced into a large group. This approach works well in other watershed lands across the state, there's no reason it shouldn't work on the Peninsula.

I also urge you to support the proposed expanded access and see to it that our County works cooperatively with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, The San Francisco Planning department and the GGNRA to achieve access reform.

Thank you for your public service.

Mark T. Sutherland

Resident of Portola Valley, CA
County of San Mateo
mtsutherland@hotmail.com

Brenda Bennett

From: Sean Walton <gtifreak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 1:55 PM
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; alisa.somera@sfgov.org; Breedstaff@sfgov.org;
David.Campos@sfgov.org; Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org; Jane.Kim@sfgov.org;
John.Avalos@sfgov.org; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org; Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org;
Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org; mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org; Norman.Yee@sfgov.org;
Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfgov.org
Cc: PARKS_Commission; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; Marlene
Finley; Warren Slocum
Subject: I am in support of Resolution 160183

Honorable Supervisors,

Please include this email as part of the public record.

Public access in the SF Watershed, and open space in general is vital to building communities and citizens that respect and want to protect the [natural environment](#). I support the resolution (SFBOS file # 160183) to allow responsible access to the SFPUC watershed lands over existing service road such as Fifield-Cahill Ridge, Pilarcitos Road, Whiting Ridge, Old Cañada, and to historical sites.

Our society is growing ever more focused on the electronic world - looking inward, and often downward into our mobile devices, and experiencing things secondhand through film and the internet. I fear that the lack of easy public access for all (not just those who live nearby city, state, or national parks) will lead to a future generation that does not understand the value of the outdoors, and does not prioritize protection of the [natural environment](#).

At the same time, the manner in which the population experiences and enjoys the outdoors is changing. In Marin County, approximately one out of every three users of the Marin open space is riding a bicycle. These users are predominantly on the younger side. Years of study have shown that bicycles have the same environmental impact as pedestrians, and far below that of equestrian users. And safety concerns are largely overblown by a small, vocal minority of users who prefer not to share the experience of the outdoors with anyone with a different preference for the manner in which they experience it.

It is vital to open the San Francisco watershed to any and all human-powered user groups, so that they may experience the value of these lands. I look forward to bringing my young children to these lands, and traveling freely through them by foot or by bicycle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sean Walton
Belmont, CA

Brenda Bennett

From: Daniel Yost <dkyost@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2016 6:00 PM
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org; alisa.somera@sfgov.org; Breedstaff@sfgov.org;
David.Campos@sfgov.org; Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org; Jane.Kim@sfgov.org;
John.Avalos@sfgov.org; Katy.Tang@sfgov.org; Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org;
Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org; mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org; Norman.Yee@sfgov.org;
Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org; commissioners@sfgov.org
Cc: PARKS_Commission; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dave Pine; Marlene
Finley; Warren Slocum
Subject: Request to improve access to the SF PUC Peninsula Watershed

Dear honorable Supervisors,

Please include this email as part of the public record.

I would like to express my support for improved public access to the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Peninsula Watershed. This issue is very important to me and my family. The public has been closed off from the Watershed's scenic, historical and recreational experiences for too long. Please do what you can to help achieve access reform.

I support the resolution (SFBOS file # 160183) to allow responsible access to the SFPUC watershed lands over existing service road such as Fifield-Cahill Ridge, Pilarcitos Road, Whiting Ridge, Old Cañada, and to historical sites for the following reasons:

- Access to the watershed's existing dirt roads would allow hikers, cyclists and equestrians to visit the area's largest and most scenic unused, publicly held open space, integrating National, State and County parklands across the San Francisco Peninsula.
- There are no significant, scientific concerns over water security, fire safety or environmental stewardship. By law prior to opening a complete environmental investigation will surface any environmental issues that need to be addressed when a CEQA review is done.
- The "trails", dirt roads actually, are currently used by SFPUC trucks on a daily basis. They could easily be designated as a trail system, much as is done in the Marin County and Santa Clara County Watersheds.
- The Watershed property contains some of the most important historical and cultural heritage sites in the state of California. The public has a right to be able to access these sites.

Please support of Resolution 160183 and for SFPUC to work cooperatively with San Mateo County to improve access to the watershed.

Daniel Yost
Town Councilmember
Town of Woodside