

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**FINAL GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**Point Reyes National Seashore  
Marin County, California**

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has prepared this Record of Decision (ROD) on the *Giacomini Wetland Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report* for Point Reyes National Seashore, California. This ROD includes a statement of the decision made, synopses of other alternatives considered, discussion of the basis for the decision, a *Statement of Findings for Wetlands and Floodplains* as well as a description of the “environmentally preferred” alternative, a discussion of impairment of park resources or values, a listing of measures minimize environmental harm, and an overview of public engagement and agency coordination that informed the environmental decision-making process.

**BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT**

Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore) is a unit of the National Park Service (Park Service) located in western Marin County, California. It was established by Congress on September 13, 1962, “to save and preserve, for the purpose of public recreation, benefit, and inspiration, a portion of the diminishing seashore of the United States that remains undeveloped” (PL 87-657). A large portion of Tomales Bay watershed lands were acquired by the Park Service in the 1960s and 1970s for establishment of two neighboring parks -- the Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). In 1980, the boundary for GGNRA was expanded to include the Waldo Giacomini Ranch (Giacomini Ranch) and the eastern portion of Tomales Bay. The Giacomini Ranch falls within the north district of the GGNRA, which is administered by the Seashore.

The Seashore and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) are proposing to restore historic wetlands at Giacomini Ranch in Tomales Bay, an embayment that borders the Seashore to the east and north. The Giacomini Ranch property was once part of a large tidal marsh complex at the southern end of Tomales Bay that also encompassed portions of Olema Marsh (a 60-acre freshwater marsh that is partially owned by the Park Service). The Giacomini property was diked in 1946 and has been used by the Waldo Giacomini family as a dairy since then. The property is bisected into two pastures by Lagunitas Creek, which is owned by the CSLC.

The Giacomini Ranch was purchased from the Giacomini family in 2000. Partial funding for the purchase came from the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), which was under obligation to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to mitigate for impacts resulting from the Lone Tree road repair along State Route 1 conducted in the early 1990s. The CCC eventually allowed CalTrans to fulfill mitigation obligations by making funds available to the Park Service to purchase, restore, and manage a replacement wetland site. While the Park Service is obligated under its agreement with CalTrans and CCC to mitigate only a total of 3.6 acres, the Seashore believes that the potential value of restoring a significant portion of the historic salt marsh would benefit not only the Park Service and its resource conservation objectives, but the Tomales Bay watershed ecosystem as a whole.

Tomales Bay was recently declared impaired for sediment, nutrients, and fecal coliform by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Hydrologically connected, natural wetlands provide many important functions and services for humans and wildlife, including floodwater retention, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat and food supply, recreational opportunities, and support of mariculture and fisheries industries. The diking of the Giacomini property resulted in the loss of hydrologic connectivity and diminished wetland condition and functionality for more than 50 percent of the coastal tidal wetlands present in Tomales Bay in the late 1800s. More than two-thirds of the freshwater input – and therefore potential source of contaminants – to Tomales Bay comes from Lagunitas Creek and its tributaries, which flow directly through the Project Area (Fischer et al. 1996). Restoration would reestablish hydrologic connectivity between Lagunitas Creek and the Project Area, resulting potentially in a reduction in delivery of pollutants to Tomales Bay, as well as a reduction in flooding of adjacent private properties and an increase in habitat and use of the Project Area by special status and common wildlife species.

The project purpose: and goals reflect a broad ecosystem-level approach to restoration. The purpose is to restore normal hydrologic processes within a significant portion of the project area thereby promoting restoration of ecological processes and functions. Three goals, which further support the overall purpose, were also developed, as follows:

- Restore natural, self-sustaining tidal, fluvial (streamflow), and groundwater hydrologic processes, thereby enabling reestablishment of some of the ecological processes and functions associated with wetland and riparian areas, such as water quality improvement, floodwater storage, food chain support, and wildlife habitat.
- Pursue a watershed-based approach to restoration so as to emphasize opportunities to improve ecological conditions within the entire Tomales Bay watershed, not just in the project area itself.
- To the extent possible, incorporate opportunities for the public to experience and enjoy the restoration process as long as opportunities do not conflict with the project's purpose or with the Park Service's, CSLC's, or other agencies' legislation or policies.

For these reasons, the Park Service and CSLC propose to restore natural hydrologic and ecological processes on most or all of the 563-acre property. They also propose to incorporate public access opportunities that will enable visitors to enjoy and learn about the restored wetland without improvements conflicting with the project's primary purpose. The Park Service and CSLC developed a range of alternatives for accomplishing this restoration and public access objectives through a variety of hydrologic, topographic and infrastructure changes. The *Final EIS/EIR* identified and evaluated five (5) alternatives: four (4) action alternatives (Alternatives A-D) and a No Action Alternative. Potential impacts and appropriate mitigation were assessed for alternative.

## **DECISION (SELECTED ACTION)**

Alternative D is the selected action and was the alternate identified and analyzed in the *FEIS/EIR* as the "agency preferred" alternative. The Selected Action or Alternative involves extensive restoration of the Giacomini Ranch East Pasture, full restoration of the Giacomini Ranch West Pasture, and restoration of Olema Marsh, with limited public access. Alternative D was slightly modified in the *FEIS/EIR* to improve restoration potential and enhance public access opportunities, without resulting in more than a negligible change in the level of impacts.

The *Selected Alternative* involves complete removal of levees in both the West and East Pasture. In addition, this alternative fully realigns one of the leveed creeks within the Giacomini Ranch; excavates a portion of the ranch pasture to bring topography within 1-foot of tidal marshplain and floodplain elevations;

increases the amount of culvert replacement to improve hydraulic connectivity, streamflow, and passage of salmonid species; and increases active revegetation and invasive non-native plant removal efforts. The restoration elements would be phased over primarily two construction seasons, currently scheduled for fall 2007 and spring, summer, and fall of 2008. One of the proposed culvert replacement elements on Tomasini Creek at Mesa Road would be deferred to some future time, because detailed engineering has not been performed, and there are no funds currently available.

This alternative also incorporates adaptive restoration of Olema Marsh (which is located south of Giacomini Ranch and White House Pool and is owned by Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) and the NPS); this would include a phased approach to shallow channel excavation, vegetated berm removal, and potential replacement of Levee Road and/or Bear Valley Road culverts in the future should initial restoration efforts not achieve the desired degree of success. Implementation of restoration in Olema Marsh would be contingent on adequately resolving concerns surrounding the effects of this component on the potential for increasing the severity duration of salinity intrusion events at North Marin Water District's municipal groundwater wells on Lagunitas Creek, which are located approximately 1 mile upstream of the Project Area. These actions would not be implemented unless it can be demonstrated that they would not cause major impacts to municipal water supply through increasing water salinities in the portion of the Lagunitas Creek adjacent to the wells.

Public access components of the Selected Alternative include an improved spur trail leading to the edge of the Dairy Mesa; an improved spur trail extension of the existing Tomales Bay Trail; an improved spur trail on the southern perimeter following the existing alignment of an informal social path; and an ADA-compliant path and viewing and vault toilet facilities in White House Pool County park. The implementation timeframe for public access is contingent on funding: the Park Service is currently seeking funds for these elements. During scoping, public access was one of the issues that the Park Service and CSLC received many comments on from both the public and interested agencies such as the County of Marin, specifically questions and concerns about the appropriateness, extent, and location of public access facilities on the southern and eastern perimeters. The Park Service will also pursue working with Marin County through additional environmental compliance, as needed, to consider additional public access facilities on the southern perimeter of the Project Area, including reevaluation of a trail along Levee Road, extension of a trail to Inverness Park, and a non-vehicular bridge across Lagunitas Creek.

## **OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The FEIS/EIR analyzes four other alternative: one No Action Alternative and three (3) action alternatives (Alternatives A-C)

*No Action Alternative* -Under the *No Action Alternative* levees, tidegates, and culverts in the Giacomini Ranch will remain. An 11-acre area will be restored on the northeast corner of the east pasture to satisfy mitigation requirements for aquatic habitat impacts caused by CalTrans due to road repairs on State Route 1 in Marin County in exchange for the Park Service receiving monies to purchase and restore the Giacomini Ranch. The remainder of the levees in the East Pasture and West Pasture would no longer be maintained. Under the *No Action Alternative* only, there is potential for limited grazing, with consultation conducted under a separate compliance process. Olema Marsh would not be restored, and there would be no new public access facilities.

*Alternative A - Limited Restoration of the Giacomini Ranch East Pasture Only with Expanded Public Access, Including Culverted Earthen Fill Trail on Eastern Perimeter.* This alternative involves selective breaching of the East Pasture levee, while levees and tidegates in the West Pasture would not be removed. A limited amount of tidal channel creation, creek bank grading, and revegetation would also be performed in the East Pasture. Most of the actions under this alternative focus on removing agricultural infrastructure such as filling of ditches, ripping of compacted roads, fence removal, and removal of pumps, pipelines, and concrete

spillways, as well as removal of ranch buildings. For future public access, the southern perimeter trail would include a prefabricated bridge across Lagunitas Creek, near the old summer dam location across from White House Pool County Park. The bridge design would place footings outside of the active channel, so as to not impinge on hydrologic processes. Future extension of the southern perimeter trail, in collaboration with the County of Marin, would connect White House Pool County Park with a path along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (that would either run alongside the road or move off the road at the southern end of the unrestored West Pasture onto a low-elevation boardwalk that would join back with Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Inverness Park). Other infrastructure constructed is a culverted berm through-trail on the eastern perimeter of the East Pasture.

*Alternative B - Moderate Restoration of the Giacomini Ranch East Pasture and Limited Restoration of the West Pasture with Expanded Public Access, Including Boardwalk Trail on Eastern Perimeter.* This alternative would completely remove the East Pasture levees and create several breaches in the West Pasture levee, as well as remove the tidegate on Fish Hatchery Creek. More tidal channel creation, grading, and revegetation would occur than under *Alternative A*. There would be no activities taken at Olema Marsh. Most of the new public access facilities would continue to be limited to the eastern and southern perimeters of the East Pasture, including construction of the pedestrian access bridge across Lagunitas Creek near the old summer dam, and extension of the southern perimeter trail to Inverness Park. The culverted berm through-trail on the eastern perimeter in *Alternative A* would instead be a boardwalk. On the West Pasture north levee, a viewing area would replace the existing informal trail.

*Alternative C - Full Restoration of the Giacomini Ranch East and West Pastures and Restoration of Olema Marsh, with Moderate Public Access.* This alternative involves complete removal of levees in both the West and East Pasture. In general, this alternative would result in more tidal channel creation, grading, and revegetation than *Alternative B*. In addition, the project boundary is expanded to include Olema Marsh, which is located south of the Giacomini Ranch and White House Pool and is owned by ACR and the Park Service. Olema Marsh and the Giacomini Ranch once formed an integrated tidal wetland complex. In *Alternative C*, there would be an adaptive approach for Olema Marsh restoration that would include phased shallow channel excavation and vegetated berm removal. Levee Road and Bear Valley Road culverts could be replaced in the future should initial restoration efforts not achieve the desired degree of success. Public access components include the southern perimeter path and proposed future trails as described under *Alternative A* and *Alternative B*, but there would be two spur trails rather than a through-trail on the eastern perimeter of the Giacomini Ranch.

*Alternatives Dismissed.* Through consideration of objectives and planning criteria and use of available information, the project team eliminated alternative approaches or frameworks (conceptual models for developing alternatives), alternatives, or alternative components or actions (specific tasks or actions within alternatives) that are considered infeasible for technical or economic reasons and that are therefore not carried forward for further analysis. Some alternatives or alternative actions or components required more detailed technical and economic analysis before a decision could be made as to whether to carry these alternatives forward for analysis. In 2004, the Park Service and CSLC contracted for some further technical evaluation of public access in response to the considerable public scrutiny of the public access portion of the proposed project. Listed below are alternative framework, alternatives, and alternative actions that were initially considered, but dismissed from inclusion in the final range of alternatives.

1. ***Alternative Framework:*** Restoration to Historic Conditions.
2. ***Alternative Framework:*** Phased Approach to Restoration.
3. ***Alternative:*** Restoration of West Pasture Only.
4. ***Alternative:*** Natural Degradation of Levees.
5. ***Alternative Action-Restoration:*** Removal and/or Regrading of Tomasini Creek Levee.
6. ***Alternative Actions-Restoration:*** Olema Marsh – Causeway on Levee Road.

7. **Alternative Action-Public Access:** Location of Bridge for Southern Perimeter Through-Trail near White House Pool.
8. **Alternative Action-Public Access:** Extending Proposed Southern Perimeter Through-Trail to Inverness.
9. **Alternative Action-Public Access:** Routing the Proposed Southern Perimeter Through-Trail over the Green Bridge
10. **Alternative Action-Public Access:** Connecting Point Reyes Station to western side of Tomales Bay using the historic railroad grade and a bridge at the north levee of the Giacomini Ranch

## **BASIS FOR DECISION**

After careful consideration of the alternatives presented, the foreseeable environmental impacts, planning goals, and public comments received throughout the conservation planning process, including responses to the *Draft Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR)*, Alternative D has been selected for implementation. This alternative best accomplishes expressed purpose and need for federal action, complies with Park Service management policies and the legislated purpose of the Seashore and the GGNRA, and fulfills the statutory mission of the Park to provide long-term protection of natural and cultural resources.

One of the goals of the project is to pursue a watershed-based approach to restoration so as to emphasize opportunities to improve ecological conditions within the entire Tomales Bay watershed, not just in the Project Area itself. Because of water quality issues associated with failing septic systems, agriculture, mercury mining, and landfill operations, Tomales Bay has been declared impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for excessive sediment, nutrients, pathogens, and mercury. These water quality threats have galvanized community-led efforts to improve the health of Tomales Bay, including development of a stewardship plan that has established water quality improvement and restoration and preservation of the integrity of natural habitats and native communities as key goals (TBWC 2003).

The importance of this project to achieving these goals is underscored by the fact that the Point Reyes Station Community Plan (Marin County Community Development Agency 2001) calls for restoring Giacomini Ranch to “natural conditions.” In addition, the Tomales Bay Guidelines for Protection and Use, developed by a planning group composed of local, state, and federal agency representatives in close collaboration with local residents, called for an investigation into the “feasibility of restoring tidal circulation in leveed marshes” and “enhancing these areas, if appropriate.”

## **ENVIROMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

National Park Service policy regarding implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that an environmentally preferred alternative be identified in all NEPA analysis documents. Determination of this alternative takes place after the environmental analysis is complete. The environmentally preferred alternative is the alternative that would promote national environmental policy as expressed in NEPA and cause the least damage to the biological and physical environment. Essentially, this means the environmentally preferred alternative is the one that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment or best perpetuates natural physical and biological processes. It also means that it is the alternative that is best suited to protect, preserve, and enhance historic, cultural and natural resources and process. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations requires that an EIS discuss how each alternative achieves the requirements of §101(b) of NEPA and identify the “environmentally preferred” course of action. This is the alternative that would best fulfill the following criteria:

- **Criterion 1:** Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- **Criterion 2:** Assure for all visitors a safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- **Criterion 3:** Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- **Criterion 4:** Preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- **Criterion 5:** Achieve a balance of population and resource use which would permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- **Criterion 6:** Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

After analyzing the alternatives described in this document, the Park Service and CSLC have determined that Alternative D is the environmentally preferred alternative, although Alternative C has very strong environmental merits, as well. Alternative D includes the most extensive restoration of wetlands, riparian habitat, and other aquatic systems and minimizes the impacts associated with incorporating public access on the perimeter of the Project Area, which contains large amounts of wetlands and riparian areas due to the groundwater influence from adjoining terraces and mountain ridges. Although Alternative C would also provide a substantial amount of restoration of wetlands and riparian habitat, the degree of restoration is slightly less extensive as it would not fully remove Tomasini Creek from its levees, would not replace culverts on Tomasini Creek at Mesa Road, and would include construction of a bridge over Lagunitas Creek that may impact, to some degree, natural hydrologic processes. However, Alternative C would involve considerably less excavation, hauling, and off-site disposal, with differences in off-site disposal needs between Alternatives C and D estimated at approximately 50,000 cubic yards. Increases in the number of truck trips needed to haul excavated sediment to off-site disposal areas affect the environment through increasing air pollution, demand for non-renewable energy resources, and traffic in the local community and region. Of the five alternatives, the No Action Alternative would provide the least amount of restoration and public access opportunities.

*Alternatives C-D* perform best on Criteria 1 and 2 in that they maximize through more extensive restoration in both the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh benefits to the environment that can be enjoyed by succeeding generations and would produce more aesthetically pleasing surroundings. The *No Action Alternative* may also meet Criterion 2 if leased grazing was permitted in that it would continue – and perhaps even improve -- the existing Pastoral Landscape, which is considered from a visual point of view both aesthetically and culturally pleasing in the western portions of Marin County and elsewhere.

*Alternatives C and D* would offer the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment over the long-term, although there might be some short-term degradation during the transitional phase as the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh adjust to changed conditions. *Alternatives A and B* would have less benefit to the environment with the most potential for degradation because of loss of wetland, riparian, and bluff habitat from construction of the Eastern Perimeter through-trail and possibly extension of the Southern Perimeter Trail to Inverness Park at some point in the future, particularly if it were extended by widening the Sir Francis Drake Boulevard road berm.

*Alternative B* would, in many ways, offer the most in terms of decreasing existing risks to health or safety from flooding by reducing vertical flood elevations for adjacent homes along Levee Road and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard without any potential for causing other undesirable and unintended consequences. While *Alternatives C- D* would reduce potential flooding from both Lagunitas and Bear Valley Creeks for homes along the western portion of Levee Road more than *Alternative B*, they would, conversely, potentially result in a slight increase in vertical flood elevations for undeveloped portions of properties

along the east side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard relative to existing conditions and, because of restoration of Olema Marsh, possibly increase the potential for salinity intrusion events in municipal groundwater wells operated by North Marin Water District. Increased flooding of the undeveloped portions of properties would not affect homes, driveways, or access roads and, therefore, would not increase risks to public health and safety. In addition, the Park Service, CSLC, and Audubon Canyon Ranch would not proceed with full restoration of Olema Marsh until it could be determined that restoration would not affect local water supply.

While none of the cultural landscape features is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, all five alternatives would preserve the historic railroad grade on the eastern perimeter of the Giacomini Ranch, while only the *No Action Alternative* would preserve the two manure lagoons on the Dairy facility mesa.

Criterion 5 discusses those alternatives that achieve a “wide sharing of life’s amenities.” In terms of the proposed project, this phrase was taken to mean those alternatives that offer the most benefits for plants and wildlife, as well as for humans with and without disabilities. These alternatives would offer opportunities for people, including those with disabilities, to experience, enjoy, and learn from the restored landscape through sensitively designed public access facilities that do not fragment important wildlife habitats or cause potential for disruption of natural processes and wildlife activities such as breeding, nesting, and foraging. From h s perspective, *Alternative C* would appear to offer the best benefits in terms of sharing resource amenities, because it offers a moderate amount of public access facilities, including an ADA-compliant access component, that do not degrade or fragment important vegetation communities or wildlife habitat. Alternative B would be ranked second probably for Criterion 5. Criterion 6 is not applicable to the proposed project.

In addition to Section 101(b), Park Service policy also directs that all environmental analysis documents address compliance with Section 102(1) of NEPA. This section states that the policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies set forward in NEPA. In the Park Service, this requirement is met by disclosing any inconsistencies between the alternatives analyzed in detail and other environmental laws and policies. None of the alternatives developed and analyzed in detail are inconsistent with other environmental laws and policies.

## **FINDINGS ON IMPAIRMENT OF PARK RESOURCES AND VALUES**

The Park Service has determined that implementation of the Selected Alternative (Alternative D as contained in the *Final Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report*) will not constitute an impairment to park resources and values. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the *Final EIS/EIR*, the public comments received, relevant scientific studies, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction in the Park Service’s Management Policies (NPS 2006). Based on analyses in the *FEIS/EIR*, all uses that may occur in the park as a result of implementing the Selected Alternative are appropriate, and none of the foreseeable impacts are unacceptable. While the proposed project may have some adverse impacts, in all cases, these adverse impacts are no more than moderate or, if more than moderate, temporary in nature and related specifically to construction, with the intensity of impacts reduced to less than major through mitigation. Overall, the proposed project results in major benefits to park resources and values and would not lead to their impairment.

## **MEASURES TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL HARM**

Impact avoidance and mitigation measures refer to measures and practices adopted by a project proponent to reduce or avoid adverse effects that could result from construction or operation of the

proposed features. CEQ recommends consideration of five types of mitigation measures: avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, and compensating (40 C.F.R. 1508.20). Mitigation measures that are mandatory to implementation of the proposed project are discussed in this section and include Best Management Practices (BMPs) to avoid, minimize, or reduce the impact from construction. A number of BMPs would be adopted as part of the selected alternative and would be incorporated into construction documents (plans and specifications), providing a contractual requirement that any contractor retained for any phase of the action would abide by the conditions and procedures identified in this document and permits. These measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### **Measures to Protect Water Quality**

- Conduct major construction activities in wetlands and riparian areas during the *dry* season.
- Minimize removal of and damage to native vegetation.
- Install temporary construction fencing to identify areas that require clearing, grading, revegetation, or recontouring, and minimize the extent of areas to be cleared, graded, recontoured, or otherwise disturbed.
- As appropriate, implement erosion control measures to prevent sediment from entering surface waters, including the use of silt fencing or fiber rolls to trap sediments and erosion control blankets on slopes and channel banks.
- Avoid operating equipment in flowing water by using temporary cofferdams and/or other suitable structures to divert flow around the channel and bank construction area.

#### **Measures to Protect Wildlife**

- To prevent disturbance of migratory birds, no construction-related activities would take place during the migratory bird nesting season (March 1-August 15) during an established buffer zone of any active nest (100 feet). Preconstruction surveys for migratory birds and their nests within the Project Area would be conducted no more than 1 week prior to the initiation of site preparation, staging, or construction activity planned before August 15.
- Before any potential de-watering activities begin in any creeks within the Project Area, the Park Service and CSLC would ensure that native aquatic vertebrates and larger invertebrates are relocated out of the construction area into a flowing channel segment by a qualified biologist.

#### **Measures to Protect Vegetation and Prevent Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plant Species**

- Requiring the use of temporary construction fencing to delimit work areas. Requiring that fencing be installed before site preparation work or earthwork begins.
- Excluding foot and vehicle traffic from particularly sensitive areas by delimiting exclusion areas with temporary construction fencing and flagging tape in a conspicuous color.

#### **Measures to Protect Wetland Resources**

- Where possible, construction access and staging shall occur in uplands and non-riparian habitat.
- If construction access or staging must occur in wetlands and riparian habitat, access within these areas shall be kept to the minimum road width and acreage possible. Contractors would work with Park Service personnel to minimize impacts to wetlands and riparian habitat.
- Where possible, construction equipment would work from upland locations to minimize impacts to wetlands and riparian habitats.



- Any temporary “fill” or staging material placed in wetlands would be removed to upland locations at the earliest possible date.

### **Spill Prevention and Response Plan**

Construction contractors would prepare a spill prevention and response plan that regulates the use of hazardous and toxic materials, such as fuels and lubricants for construction equipment. The Park Service or designated representatives would oversee implementation of the spill prevention and response plan.

### **Measures to Protect Natural Quiet and Soundscapes**

- Construction equipment would be required to have sound-control devices at least as effective as those originally provided by the manufacturer, and no equipment would be operated with an unmuffled exhaust. In general, construction would take place between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- In areas identified in the FEIS/ELR as sensitive construction zones, hours of construction would be pushed back to 8 a.m., and the number of pieces of concurrently operating construction equipment would be reduced, along with implementation of other noise-reducing measures for construction.

### **Measures to Protect Air Quality**

- Cover trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials, or require them to maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard.
- Sweep streets daily with water sweepers if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets.
- Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 10 mph.
- Maintain properly tuned equipment and limit idling time to 5 minutes.
- Wash tires of hauling trucks before exiting Project Area onto local roads.

### **Measures to Address Effects on Traffic**

The construction contractor would be required to prepare and implement a traffic safety plan. The traffic safety plan would address appropriate vehicle size and speed, travel routes, closure plans, detour plans (if any), flagperson requirements (if any), locations of turnouts to be constructed (if any), coordination with law enforcement and fire control agencies, measures ensuring emergency access, and any additional need for traffic or speed-limit signs. Delivery and haulage access, including contractor mobilization and demobilization, would be scheduled to minimize impacts on traffic on area roadways. Construction worker parking and access would be managed to avoid impeding access for park visitors and emergency vehicles.

### **Measures to Protect Cultural Resources**

The Park Service would coordinate with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) to ensure that either a Park Service or FIGR representative is on-call during the construction activities. While the proposed alternatives would not appear to be affecting documented resource areas, with the exception of the historic railroad grade, a Park Service or FIGR would be on-call to ensure that construction activities do not impact cultural resources that have not been previously documented. In the case that resources are discovered during the course of construction, the Park Service would act immediately and appropriately as documented in 36 CFX 800.13 “Post-review discoveries” (<http://www.achp.gov/regs.html#800.13>).

### **Measures to Protect Recreational Use**

The Park Service and CSLC would take feasible measures to minimize the effects of project construction on recreational use. Information on upcoming closures, including closure dates and arrangements for alternate parking, restroom facilities, and trail access points would be posted on the park website, distributed at the Bear Valley Visitor Center, and posted at the construction site. Information on alternate recreational opportunities would be publicized on the park website, in the park newsletter, and in signage at the construction sites where closures are necessary.

## **PUBLIC AND INTERAGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

### **Public Scoping**

On September 23, 2002, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to conduct public scoping was published in the Federal Register. This NOI announced the initiation of public scoping for the environmental impact analysis process for a proposed wetlands restoration project at the former Waldo Giacomini Ranch. On September 25, 2002, a copy of the NOI and scoping information was sent to 45 adjacent landowners to the Project Area and 163 persons and organizations on a public review request list maintained by the Seashore. On October 4, 2002, the NOI was distributed to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse for distribution to relevant state agencies.

Following agreement by CSLC to act as the lead CEQA agency, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for preparation of a joint EIS/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared by CSLC, the lead CEQA agency, and distributed to the State Clearinghouse, which circulated the NOP between May 29 and June 30, 2003. The public scoping period for the NOP closed on June 30, 2003.

A preliminary list of potential scoping issues was first developed through internal scoping, including meetings and a site visit with Park Service staff to the Project Area. The Park Service mailed 1,380 notices announcing the public Advisory Commission meeting on October 1, 2002, listing the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project as an agenda item for the October 19, 2002 meeting. On October 2, 2002, a press release announcing public scoping was distributed to the *Point Reyes Light*, *Marin Independent Journal*, and *Press Democrat*, as well as 28 other media outlets, including newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. A notice of the public scoping was printed in the *Point Reyes Light* newspaper on October 3, 2002. Approximately 30 to 40 members of the public attended the meeting. The *Point Reyes Light* published an account of the meeting on October 24, 2002. The Seashore also held meetings with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations on November 6, 2002 and November 8, 2002. The public and agencies were also encouraged to voice concerns about potential issues during a formal public comment period that followed the two meetings. The 45-day public scoping period closed November 8, 2002. Due to delays at the State Clearinghouse in distributing the NOI, the scoping period for state agencies was extended to December 6, 2002.

In addition to the public meeting, approximately 86 individuals or private organizations mailed, faxed, or emailed comments regarding the proposed project. Commenting organizations include the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Access4bikes, Manzanal Homeowners Association, and Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Seashore and CSLC received comments from seven (7) local, state, or federal agencies. Commenting agencies were the CCC; CalTrans; North Marin Water District (N.IMWD); Marin County Department of Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services; Marin County Department of Public Works; and the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture and the County Supervisor for the Fourth District, Steve Kinsey.

The Park Service and CSLC continued efforts at early involvement by holding a series of internal Park Service meetings, as well as workshops with agencies and the public in 2004 to get feedback on the range and appropriateness of the preliminary restoration and public concepts developed. In early 2004, the Park Service and CSLC began conducting workshops with agencies and adjacent landowners to present preliminary alternatives and solicit input. The culmination of these series of alternative workshops was an alternatives workshop for the general public, held on June 22, 2004.

The Park Service mailed 263 notices announcing the public workshop for the proposed project on May 12, 2004. On June 7, 2004, a press release announcing the public workshop was distributed to the *Point Reyes Light*, *Marin Independent Journal*, and *Press Democrat*, as well as 28 other media outlets, including newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. Meeting information was also posted on the Seashore's website. The local radio station, KWMR, broadcast information about the meeting during a noontime *Park Wavelengths* show on June 14, 2004. A notice of the workshop was printed in the *Point Reyes Light* on June 10, 2004.

More than 110 people attended the meeting, and the *Point Reyes Light* published an account of the meeting on June 24, 2004. Following the meeting, the public had a 30-day opportunity ending July 23, 2004 to submit comments to the Park Service on the restoration concepts and scope of the proposed *DEIS/EIR*. During this period, the Park Service received more than 100 letters or petitions, phone calls, and requests for meetings. Approximately 58 individuals and 14 private organizations or agencies mailed, faxed, or emailed comments regarding the Giacomini Project by the July 23, 2004. Commenting organizations include the Rails to Trails Committee, Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Marin Conservation League, Tomales Bay Association, Inverness Yacht Club, Point Reyes Village Association, and County of Marin Public Works. The Park Service also received two petitions with a total of approximately 450 signatures.

In response to the considerable public scrutiny of the public access portion of the Project, the Park Service decided to contract for some further technical evaluation of public access. During this process, several meetings were conducted with adjacent residents during preparation of this document to better define potential technical feasibility and land use issues. Meetings were held on March 3, 2005, with residents along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard; March 22, 2005, with residents on Levee Road and separately with residents near 3rd and C Street in Point Reyes Station; and on March 23, 2005, with residents near the historic railroad grade on the Point Reyes Mesa. In addition, a meeting for the general public was held on April 11, 2005, at the Red Barn at the Seashore. Approximately 40-50 people attended this meeting.

#### **Release of Draft EIS/EIR for Public Review and Comment**

The Park Service's Notice of Availability for the *DEIS/EIR* was published in the Federal Register on November 3, 2006. Federal Register notification that the *DEIS/EIR* had been filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) was published on December 15, 2006. A notice that the *DEIS/EIR* had been filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH # 2002114002) was published on December 18, 2006.

On December 13, 2006 the Park Service mailed more than 450 letters announcing availability of the draft EIS/EIR and the commencement of the approximately 60-day public review and comment period. A public meeting was held to discuss the alternatives and potential benefits and impacts of the proposed alternatives on January 25, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Red Barn at the Seashore. On December 14, 2006, a press release announcing the public workshop was distributed to the *Point Reyes Light*, *Marin Independent Journal*, and *Press Democrat*, as well as 28 other media outlets, including newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. Meeting information was also posted on the Seashore's website. The *Marin Independent Journal* and *Point Reyes Light* published articles about release of the *DEIS/EIR* and the public

meeting on December 14, 2007. A small notice about the public meeting was also published in a *Point Reyes Light* article on whether bike paths had adverse environmental impacts on January 25, 2007.

Approximately 100 members of the public attended the January 25, 2007, meeting. The *Point Reyes Light* published an account of the meeting on February 1, 2007. The approximately 60-day period for comments for this second public scoping closed February 14, 2007. Approximately 187 individuals, organizations, and agencies mailed, faxed, or emailed comments regarding the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project by February 14, 2007. Of the 187 letters, approximately 170 were from private individuals. There were no form letters. More than 99 percent of the letters submitted were from residents of Marin County. There were seven (7) commenting organizations: the California Native Plant Society; Environmental Action Committee of Marin; Marin County Bicycle Coalition/Sierra Club, Marin Chapter/Community Pathways Committee/Access 4 Bikes; Point Reyes Lodging Association; Point Reyes Village Association; Sierra Club, Marin Chapter; and Tomales Bay Association.

The Seashore and CSLC received 10 comments from local state, or federal agencies – the California Coastal Commission; the California Regional Water Quality Control Board; the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary; the North Marin Water District; the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District; the County of Marin Department of Public Works; the County of Marin Department of Parks and Open Space District; the State Department of Conservation; the State of California Department of Fish and Game; and the USEPA. On March 2, 2007, the USEPA published its findings on review of the draft EIS/EIR as Lack of Objection (LO), noting that the “EPA supports the proposed project and believes it will significantly improve the hydrologic and ecological processes and functions in the Tomales Bay Watershed.”

While the planning team felt initially that Alternative C offered the best combination of restoration and public access benefits, this determination was subsequently reevaluated based on comments received after release of the *DEIS/EIR*. Many public comments expressed support for maximizing the opportunity for restoration and minimizing public access elements that might detract from restoration such as the non-vehicular bridge. Proposed public access components that once received considerable support from the local community -- who would be both most affected by the facilities and most likely to use them -- received considerable opposition during the public comment period for the *DEIS/EIR*, while a number of people expressed support for one of the alternative elements that once received considerable opposition -- creation of a trail along Levee Road and the Green Bridge.

In switching to Alternative D as the preferred alternative, the planning team recognized that, based on the amount and types of comments that it received from individuals and agencies, public access components on the southern perimeter of the Project Area warranted additional analysis; therefore the Seashore has committed to further conservation planning on these public access components in collaboration with Marin County. In particular, the planning team has elected to work cooperatively with the Marin on future options for connecting the Park Service trails on the northern bank of Lagunitas Creek with existing and potentially new facilities on the southern bank of Lagunitas Creek.

Under the Selected Alternative, the Park Service commits to working with Marin County on reevaluation of public access options on the southern perimeter of the Project Area, including Levee Road and the Green Bridge, extension of a trail to Inverness Park, and/or construction of a non-vehicular bridge across Lagunitas Creek at the location of the old summer dam. Implementation of any of these options may entail completion of an environmental compliance.

### **Federal Compliance Status**

Requirements related to the requirements of applicable federal and state laws and regulations are summarized here.

**Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) and subsequent amendments of 1977 (33 USC §1251 et seq.).** The Clean Water Act provides for the restoration and maintenance of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. This project would potentially involve removal or breaching of levees on creeks, realignment of creeks, and excavation and/or permanent or temporary fill in special aquatic sites such as wetlands. It also has the potential to affect water quality within the Project Area and in downstream water bodies. The Park Service and CSLC submitted to the Corps on July 19, 2007, a Statement of Qualifications under Nationwide Permit #27 for Phase I of the proposed project, anticipated to occur in fall 2007. A request for certification or waiver under §401 was submitted concurrently to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Park Service and CSLC intend to submit an Individual Permit application in early fall 2007 for Phase II, scheduled to start in April 2008. Concurrently, it would submit a request for certification or waiver under §401 to the RWQCB. Any construction activity that includes clearing, grading, excavation, stockpiling, or reconstruction of existing facilities involving removal and replacement, resulting in land disturbance of 1 acre or greater, must be conducted in accordance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System General permit for Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction Activity (referred to as the Construction Activities Storm Water General Permit). Applications for a permit will be submitted prior to any construction starting.

**Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended through PL 104-150, The Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. §1451 et seq.).** Within California, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) administers the state program (California Coastal Act) for implementation of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Any action by a federal agency such as the Park Service requires a federal consistency determination by the CCC as required by CZMA. This project falls within the Coastal Zone and has wetlands and riparian areas that would be subject to oversight under the Coastal Act and the Local Coastal Program (LCP), which are policies established by counties in the Coastal Zone. The Park Service submitted a negative determination letter to the Coastal Commission on July 18, 2007, for most of the Phase I activities. It submitted a request for concurrence with its consistency determination for the remainder of the project activities on August 14, 2007. The consistency determination is expected to go before the Coastal Commission board at its September 5-7, 2007, meeting in Eureka, Calif.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, PL 93-205, 87 Stat. 884, 16 USC §1531 et seq.** Several federally threatened or endangered species, as well as Critical Habitat, have been documented in the Project Area. The Park Service and CSLC initiated formal consultation with the USFWS and NMFS through submission of a Biological Assessment on June 14, 2007. USFWS and NMFS staffs have both begun preparation of a Biological Opinion that would cover both Phase I and Phase II of the project.

**Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act, as amended (PL 94-265, 16 U.S.C. §1801).** This Act is the governing authority for all fishery management activities that occur in federal waters within the United States 200 nautical mile limit (or Exclusive Economic Zone EEZ), and it requires conservation and enhancement of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Species that are regulated under EFH include chinook and coho salmon, both of which have been sighted in Lagunitas Creek, which runs through the center of the Project Area. The Park Service and CSLC initiated consultation with NMFS regarding EFH concurrently with the §7 submission of the Biological Assessment (see above).

**Clean Air Act, as amended (PL 101-549) and General Conformity Rule (40 CFR parts 51 and 93).** The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the air quality management district for the Project Area and has prepared SIPS to address non-attainment and maintenance issues related to the national ozone standards and the national carbon monoxide standard. The Park Service has consulted with BAAQMD, and in an email dated July 11, 2007, the agency stated that it has determined that impacts associated with both construction and implementation would be *de minimis*, and the proposed project

would be in conformance with the appropriate SIPS for the Bay Area's non-attainment and maintenance criteria pollutants (ozone precursors, ROG and NO<sub>x</sub>, and carbonmonoxide).

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA).** Based on a review of survey data on file with various city, state, and federal agencies, no historic or archaeological resources with potential for listing by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are known to occur in the Project Area. SHPO has already reviewed and concurred with the Park Service's determination of no historic properties affected under §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (letter dated August 21, 2006). If unrecorded resources are discovered during construction of the project, operations will be suspended until the Park Service completes consultation with SHPO in accordance with §106.

### **State Compliance Status**

Because the proposed project incorporates state-owned and county-managed lands, it is also required to comply with certain state and local laws, policies, and regulations for those actions carried out on non-federal lands. Summarized below are the applicable state and local laws, policies, and regulations.

**California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.).** The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is the State equivalent of NEPA that applies to projects undertaken or requiring approval from state and local governments. While many aspects of CEQA are similar to NEPA, there are some differences, including in terminology, structure of the environment document required, noticing, evaluation and analysis of alternatives, and requirements regarding mitigation for significant environmental effects. In addition, CEQA provides that all species of concern (e.g., any species considered at-risk by the California Native Plant Society) be considered as protected, regardless of appearance on a formal federal or state Endangered Species Act ESA lists (Guidelines, §15380 (b)(d)). The lead CEQA agency for this project is the CSLC. The CSLC Commissioners approved the *FEIR* for certification on June 28, 2007.

**Porter-Cologne Act (California Water Code, Division 7, s13000).** The Porter-Cologne Act is the principal law governing water quality control in California and applies broadly to all State waters, including surface waters, wetlands, and ground water; it covers waste discharges to land as well as to surface and groundwater, and applies to both point and non-point sources of pollution. The agencies intend to submit a separate request for certification or waiver under §401 and the Porter-Cologne Act for Phase II in early fall 2007 concurrent with submission of an application for an Individual Permit to the Corps.

**Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Fish and Game Code, §1600 et seq.).** Any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility is to notify the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) before beginning an activity that will substantially modify a river, stream, or lake. Because this project may affect creeks and riparian areas adjacent to creeks, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement is expected to be required for construction affecting creeks on state, county, and private lands. An application will be filed in fall 2007 for Phase II work, which would affect creeks owned by CSLC.

**California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code, § 2050 et seq.).** The state of California has designated certain wildlife and plant species as endangered, threatened, or rare. Regulation of activities affecting these species is handled by the CDFG. The Park Service and CSLC will seek a consistency determination from CDFG following issuance of a Biological Opinion by USFWS, as well as consult with CDFG specifically on species that are state-, but not federally, listed.

**Marin County Local Coastal Program, Unit II (LCP).** In 1976, the California Legislature enacted the Coastal Act, which created a mandate for coastal counties to manage the conservation and development of coastal resources through a comprehensive planning and regulatory program called the Local Coastal Program (LCP). The Park Service addressed consistency with the LCP as part of its consistency determination submitted to the Coastal Commission on August 14, 2007.

## **CHANGES INCLUDED IN THE GIACOMINI WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT FINAL EIS/EIR**

**Change in Preferred Alternative:** In the *FEIS/EIR*, the “agency preferred” determination was changed to *Alternative D* from *Alternative C*. The lead agencies initially considered *Alternative C* to be Preferred based on apparent fulfillment of both wetland restoration goals and community public access needs. During public review of the *DEIS/EIR*, a large number of responses from the public, organizations, and agencies advocated selecting *Alternative D* because it was more compatible with restoration and would have less traffic, noise, pollution, and land use impacts.

**Changes to Alternative D:** *Alternative D* was modified slightly in the *FEIS/EIR* in response to public feedback so as to slightly decrease the degree of excavation, to remove eucalyptus from Tomasini Creek, and to construct an ADA-compliant trail and viewing platform at the nearby White House Pool County Park. In addition, this alternative now also stipulates that the Park Service collaborate with Marin County in a separate environmental process on possible additional public access facilities on the southern perimeter of the project area (as noted above).

**Change in Impact Determinations:** Because of refinement of construction scheduling and project design (identified in Chapter 2), the Park Service and CSLC re-assessed some levels of impact identified, although none of these changes results in any “Significant, Unavoidable Impacts,” such that all major impacts are mitigated to moderate or lesser intensities. The more notable changes include:

- Construction-related air quality impacts under *Alternative C* were reduced to moderate, although *Alternative D* still would have major or substantial impacts that are mitigated to moderate levels through implementation of recommended Best Management Practices.
- *Alternative A* and *Alternative B* would have major impacts on riparian habitat due to construction of the eastern perimeter trail that could conflict with state and local policies on riparian habitat protection, but these impacts would be mitigated to minor or moderate through active and passive revegetation efforts.
- Major restoration actions in Olema Marsh identified as part of the adaptive restoration under *Alternative C* and *Alternative D* such as culvert replacement would not be implemented until the NPS can confirm these actions would not cause major impacts to municipal water supply through increasing water salinities in the portion of the Lagunitas Creek that is adjacent to municipal groundwater wells.

## **DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING RELEASE OF FINAL EIS/EIR**

Distribution of the *FEIS/EIR* began June 13, 2007. Notification was sent to more than 500 people, including 137 CDs of the project *FEIS/EIR* and the volume containing letters from all agencies, organizations, and individuals. A press release was sent to over 40 news agencies on June 14, 2007, including newspaper, radio and television. Concurrently, the *FEIS/EIR* was posted on the park website, along with a summary of the planning process and important dates regarding certification of the *FEIR* component by the CSLC Commission. The Park Service’s Notice of Availability for the *FEIS/EIR* was published in the Federal Register on July 2, 2007 - the EPA’s filing notice formally initiating a 30-day no-action waiting period was published June 29, 2007. In addition to the 137 CDs sent out on June 13, 2007, 17 copies of the *FEIS/EIR* were subsequently requested by and distributed to 10 interested individuals and agencies. The *Point Reyes Light* carried a front-page story based on release of the *FEIS/EIR* on July 5, 2007.

During the 30-day No Action waiting period, the CSLC received one letter from the Marin County Public Work and County Parks and Open Space Departments. Shortly before a June 28, 2007, meeting, the County of Marin Departments of Public Works and Parks and Open Space notified the CSLC staff regarding concerns that the *FEIR* component could not be certified based on inadequacy relative to the

County's plan and policies, specifically its Countywide Plan Trails Element and County Parks and Open Space Regional Trails Program.

The County of Marin is currently in the process of revising its Countywide Plan. A Final EIR has been released for the CWP, but it is not expected to be certified until November 2007. In the interim, the 1994 CWP serves as the County's approved plan. In preparing the *EIS/EIR* for the Giacomini project, the planning team reviewed both the 1994 and revised versions of the CWP and addressed consistency with County plan and policies in several sections of the document, including General and Agricultural Land Use and Planning, Traffic and Transportation Resources, Visitor and Resident Experience-Public Access Resources, Vegetation Resources - Wetlands and Riparian areas, and other resource topics.

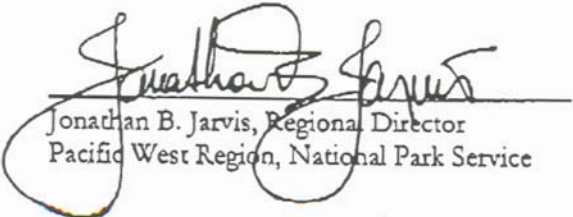

Because of public and agency input, and to maintain consistency with the County's General Plan, the Park Service and CSLC had modified Alternative D in the *FEIS/EIR* to increase public access potential relative to what was proposed under this alternative in the *DEIS/EIR*. Specifically, in addition to improving and expanding trails on Park Service lands, the agencies:

- Added an ADA-compliant trail, viewing overlook, and vault toilet facility component that would be built on White House Pool County park lands after consultation with the County of Marin Parks and Open Space District Supervisor Sharon McNamee.
- Articulated in the *FEIS/EIR* (and as noted in the description of the approved project above) the intent of the Park Service to work with County of Marin in the future on evaluation and development of additional trail facilities on the southern perimeter of the Project Area, including potentially 1) a Levee Road alignment, 2) extension of a trail to Inverness Park, and 3) construction of a non-vehicular bridge across Lagunitas Creek at the site of the old summer dam (page 89, etc).

The Selected Alternative does not preclude construction of trails in the future in any portion of the Project Area. This was one of the primary reasons that, despite objections raised by the County, the CSLC Commissioners unanimously approved the *FEIR* for certification during its June 28, 2007, meeting in Sacramento, Calif.

## CONCLUSION

The Selected Alternative provides the most comprehensive and effective method among the alternatives for meeting the purpose and objectives of the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project and for meeting national environmental and NPS management policy goals. The selection of this alternative, as reflected by the *Final Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project EIS/EIR*, would not result in the impairment or unacceptable impact of park resources and would allow the Park Service to conserve park resources and provide for their enjoyment by visitors. The Selected Alternative would also protect the overall long-term ecological health of the park's natural resource areas and assist the Park Service in the restoration of native ecosystems within the park, as well help to restore the ecological health of the Tomales Bay watershed. The Park Service will take steps to implement the approved project as soon as practicable, as appropriate based upon all necessary permit approvals.

Approved:    
Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director  
Pacific West Region, National Park Service  
Date