

January 31st, 2022



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Jon Campo, Principal Natural Resource Planner
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Marin County Parks and Open Space
3501 Civic Center Dr #260, San Rafael, CA 94903

Re. Marin Conservation League (MCL) Comments for Trail Designation at Ring Mountain, revised

Dear Jon,

The purpose of this letter is to supplement MCL's recommendations and make a revision to our letter of January 18th, 2022, concerning the proposed trail designations on Ring Mountain (attached). We appreciate being included in the recent field trip to Ring Mountain on Monday January 24th and the opportunity for a thorough and transparent look at the Loop Trail and Phyllis Ellman Trail. It was an excellent group of experts, and the meeting enabled us all to discuss more detailed information about the overall site and these proposed routes. It was especially helpful to be there with Lynn Lozier and also to have the detailed species maps with us.

MCL's letter of January 18th identified 4 recommendations:

1. Examine a project that stabilizes the existing Loop Trail,
2. Analyze the existing social trail network in more detail,
3. Complete more detailed study of the ecology of Ring Mountain, and
4. Increase protection of the natural resources through education, interpretive signage, and/or low-impact fencing prior to determining the need for new trail designations.

We maintain our recommendations 2, 3, and 4 as described in the Jan. 18 letter. As a consequence of the field meeting, however, we are modifying the first recommendation. We understand that you have already examined the alternative of stabilizing the existing Loop Trail. Therefore, we have more specific comments:

- a. We agree that the alternative with two re-routes creating two smaller loops with creek crossings is the best alternative for protecting the sensitive ecosystems. It was good to see that the reroute will no longer go past the Tiburon Buckwheat population that is threatened by the existing deteriorating trail nearby it.
- b. We encourage the Marin County Parks (MCP) to follow through with Lynn Lozier's strong recommendation of taking immediate measures to protect this Tiburon Buckwheat population by improving the trail, fencing the population, and installing educational signage.
- c. We support the reroute of the Phyllis Ellman Trail as you have proposed.

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Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.

Thank you for considering our revised comments. We look forward to continuing to work with MCP to protect the resources of Ring Mountain.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller
President



Terri Thomas
Vice President
Chair, Parks and Open Space Committee

cc. Max Korten (MKorten@marincounty.org), Director and General Manager, Marin County Parks and Open Space District
Lynn Lozier (llozier@tnc.org) Monitoring & Oversight Program Director, The Nature Conservancy