

COMMENTS

RESPONSES

Apr 12 04 08:55a RHS or MCS 310-541-3701 P. 1

copy to Council members
copy to (Joe)

April 12, 2004

Honorable Mayor Peter Gardiner and
Council Members
City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Re: Do We Have An Iceberg On The Palos Verdes Peninsula

Dear Mr Mayor Council Members:

Rather than a "Letter To The Editor" at this time, in the interest of a business like approach, and a voting tax payer, I would like to offer the following comments for your consideration and ultimate action:

Many well meaning people have spent years formulating the potential use of approximately 1500 acres of raw land commonly called , "the Portuguese Bend " parcel in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

What we have seen so far as the result of their work is the tip of the iceberg , but what about the magnitude of what is yet to be seen and analyzed:

- 1) Will the State really furnish us with 17 million dollars to purchase 700 acres of private land by the promised December 1st date in view of the current financial crisis? STANKEY 1
- 2) Another 3 million is expected from County and Federal Agencies. Sensitive politicians facing other critical needs would be hard pressed to give P B a high priority at this time. STANKEY 2
- 3) Support for acquiring the property was generated by a small ,but earnest group who could not have had all of the facts before them to make a prudent decision. How many are actually RPV residents? STANKEY 3
- 4) We haven't heard anything about a valid headcount of local users by the day, week or month, and who are these "users"? Hikers, sport teams , nature lovers ETC ETC. ? STANKEY 4
- 5) Sightings of wild life of many species are reported in the area. Is this REALLY the way you measure species , and their ongoing preservation? STANKEY 5
- 6) The Land Management Team and its goals/mission statement with respect to the City of RPV and PVLC is yet to be formed. They will have to contend with fire prevention, recreational use, parking, sanitation, security, and controlling monthly expenses just to mention a few challenges. It is suggested that a computer model will take care of all this, but a computer cannot function accurately without valid and complete input. STANKEY 6
- 7) It is my understanding that the RPV General Plan will have to be modified to accommodate the acquisition and use of the P B land. It real should be the other way around so that "usage " will conform with the General Plan. STANKEY 7
- 8) Technology will help make this 1500 acres useable at least in part. An endowment fund , that as of right now doesn't exist , would make the project financially feasible by providing corpus amount generated interest money. This will be a real tough deal to negotiate in todays market interest rates STANKEY 8
- 9) Will our friendly neighboring cities financially assist RPV in this regional acquisition, monthly maintenance, and find other ways to dispose of 50 million gallons of runoff a year onto the site? STANKEY 9

Lets melt this iceberg down so that we have a real asset for the many rather than a financial burden for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ronald H Stankey

Ronald H. Stankey
9940 Starline Dr.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-2953

MAYOR PETER GARDINER 310-544-5291
 BY: BILL ATLER PVPLC 310-544-7423
 DEPT: 310-544-5293
 JOEL ROJAS RPV HF FAX
 CO: FROM: (288)
 FAX: DATE: 4/12/04

Comment 1

The state funding source is bond funds specifically dedicated toward acquisition of parks and open space.

Comment 2

Comment noted. The federal funds that are expected for this acquisition are for implementation of regional multi-species Plans like the NCCP. Funding for this purpose has been retained in the Bush Administration's recent budgets. The distribution of these funds is made at the state level. The approval in concept of the NCCP by the Resource Agencies is a commitment that the acquisition will go forward, although a number of other steps in the process will have to be completed first.

Comment 3

The decision to pursue the land acquisition was made by the previous City Council and endorsed by the current City Council. The working group that began working in 1996 to create the NCCP included a number of RPV residents and Councilmen McTaggart and Byrd.

Comment 4

All of the areas proposed to be included in the Reserve presently support informal passive recreational uses such as trail use and picnicking. Although there are some publicly dedicated trails, most of the trails on the lands slated to be in the Reserve are unimproved, non-dedicated trails on private property, which are used by hikers, bicycle riders, and equestrians. There is no data available as to how many persons currently use the trails within the lands that are proposed to be in the Reserve. No head count of users is available. Informal observation has shown that the area is used by hikers, equestrians and bicyclists.

Comment 5

Species distributions are estimated based on sighting locations and the associated habitats the species uses to survive and reproduce.

Comment 6

The "computer model" is a spreadsheet program developed by an organization that specializes in natural land management. Using this program, the PVPLC developed the cost database for specific habitat management activities.

Comment 7

The General Plan must be updated to reference and acknowledge the Subarea Plan.

Comment 8

An endowment would provide the necessary funds to implement the required habitat management program. An endowment can be developed after the land has been acquired, but it is not required for the Plan to go forward.

Comment 9

Comment noted. At this point, neighboring cities have not expressed a willingness to provide financial contributions.