

From: Arthur Moritz For The Stinson  
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Dear Sirs: This is a response to your  
call for comment in The "Comment Form" sent  
with your General Management Plan / E.I.S.  
GG NRA, Muir Wood National Monument  
Newsletter #4. My comments are limited  
to pages 14 and 15 of your recent news  
letter as these issues have the most  
impact and hold the most interest for  
the town of Stinson Beach. My comments  
also cover the information gathered  
, or not gathered as was mostly the case,  
at your June 10th Open House in the  
SF Bay Model, Multi-Purpose room.

To begin with, separating your proposals  
as abstract as they are, into Alternatives  
1, 2, or 3 seems almost silly. Example:  
under Alt. 1 The park managers "would  
explore ways to improve visitor access  
to Stinson Beach, such as introducing  
seasonal alternative transportation, and  
would continue to work with the  
community to address congestion." In  
Att. 2 "the park managers would ex-  
plore year round alternative transportation  
After years of Comprehensive Transit Plan  
Management Plan meetings, and now  
this plan, a lot of "exploring" has

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been done. The County of Marin brought us The "Stage" and has supplied some deputies to direct traffic at the stop sign - park entrance juggernaut during seasonal peak traffic periods. Stinson Beach would like to know what exactly you have in mind. The idea of choosing "Alt. 1" over "Alt. 2" because we like "seasonal alternative transportation" rather than "year round" seems, as I said, silly. A ranger at the park entrance at peak traffic hours to assist the County Deputies would seem like a good simple concept but it's not in any of the alternatives.

In both Alt. 1 and Alt. 2 "sustainable new facilities" would replace deteriorated restrooms, showers, picnic areas, and parking lots. The existing deteriorated restrooms, showers, picnic areas and parking lots are concrete concepts. They exist. "Sustainable new facilities" is completely abstract, and could mean just about anything. Stinson Beach would love to see the preliminary concept drawings. How does Alt. 1 differ from Alt. 2? Where are the new bathrooms going to be located exactly? These are fair questions and ones

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one would think, easily answered. At the June 10th NPS Open House I asked these questions and expressed the fact that over recent years the consensus in Stinson Beach has been that preserving the number of parking spaces in the Park is important but maintaining the "No Fee" status of the parking lot critical to managing traffic and parking congestion in town. All the NPS personnel I talked to were evasive when it came to anything specific about any of the alternatives. They could not or would not direct me to anyone in the NPS who could answer whether or not parking fees were part of any of the alternatives.

In alternative 2 "The Easfoot Creek riparian corridor would be further enhanced by re-designing the parking lot," "and the south parking lot would be removed to support wetland restoration." Although environmental restoration does not necessarily reduce the number of available parking spaces a significant reduction seems likely. Again Stinson Beach would love to see the plan. As private property owners in Stinson Beach fill in the flood plain along Easfoot creek,

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mitigating flooding in town may begin to take precedent over parking. Wetland restoration and developing a sustainable creek riparian habitat zone in the Park that functions naturally during periods of high and low rainfall and supports the variety of indigenous plant and animal species while helping to mitigate flooding in the developed part of town may well become very attractive in a practical as well as environmental sense. Again Stinson Beach would love to see the plan.

Under Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway it mentions new facilities, such as pullouts, picnic areas, restrooms etc. These kinds of facilities, including parking, developed at the old White Gate Ranch House site would be a boon to those who like to hike the "Mid Hill" and or enjoy the "panoramic" views from that area. It might also take a bit of the pressure off the main parking lot at the beach and would also still be within quick reach of the Stinson Beach Fire Department and EMTs. We'd like to see what you have in mind. The Stinson Beach Village

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Association would be very open to meeting with an informed person from the Park service with specifics, hopefully site plans, of what it is you would like to do in our locale! The Comprehensive Transit ~~man-~~ Management Plan process seemed a lot like a game of "Hide The ball", hopefully this time things will be more transparent.

Sincerely yours  
Arthur Moritz

To contact the SBVA. E-mail  
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Go to contact