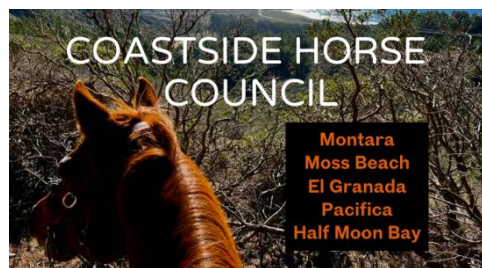


March 28, 2024

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
698 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301



Dear Congresswoman Eshoo,

Coastside Horse Council has been recently [reactivated](#) to protect against the GGNRA's proposed plan that could decimate equestrian centers and horse boarding at Rancho Corral de Tierra on the San Mateo coast.

In response to a Freedom of Information Act request, we recently discovered that GGNRA staff and consultants have been working behind the scenes to develop a Master Plan for Rancho that would devastate the equestrian community.

GGNRA's "[RCDT Comprehensive Site Management Plan](#)" reduces the number of horses boarded at RCDT from 220 to 40 or fewer, eliminates two boarding stables, and consolidates and significantly downsizes the other two. RCDT boarding/training centers host a variety of programs for the public, including summer camps, clinics, trail rides, lessons, and adaptive riding/job training programs that work with disabled and neurodiverse children and adults and help veterans and others cope with PTSD.

GGNRA's plan would be disastrous to the vibrant local horse culture. There will be no place for Coastside residents to board their horses if RCDT ranches/training centers and stables are eliminated. The cost of boarding horses over the hill in Woodside and Portola Valley is out of reach for many Coastside horse owners.

If the plan is executed, Coastside residents could be forced to sell their horses, and it's expected that older horses that could not be sold would be put down. Coastside residents who work at these RCDT ranches would lose their jobs, and those with on-site housing could lose their homes.

The GGNRA did not hold any public meetings or notify Coastside RCDT users and park stakeholders that it was soliciting feedback for the plan. The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (nonprofit arm of GGNRA) says it held community outreach events, but the "Community Engagement Summary 2022-2023" recently posted on the Park Planning website shows that most of these events were held on the bay side of San Mateo.

The GGNRA appears to base their plans on "secret" data indicating horses pollute local streams. We take issue with the lack of transparency and also emphasize that horse manure does not harbor bacteria known to be pathogenic to humans.

It is time for the GGNRA to consult and incorporate the concerns of Coastside residents and visitors affected by the RCDT plan. All actions in subsequent drafts should be transparent, and decisions should be clear, balanced, and fair.

We would like to meet with you to discuss our concerns if you have time in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Larry DeYoung, President
Coastside Horse Council
501c(3) Nonprofit pending