

<p>11/10/2022</p>	<p>November 10, 2022</p> <p>Brigitte Shearer, Director</p> <p>Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>2 Twin Pines Lane</p> <p>Belmont, CA 94002</p> <p>RE: Comments on Belmont PROS Plan Final Draft dated 06-28-2022</p> <p>Dear Director Shearer,</p> <p>Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Belmont PROS Plan Final Draft dated June 28, 2022 and associated Open Space Management Plan. Our comments in the attached letter address those sections of the documents concerning Open Space policies. California is world renowned for its biological diversity and its unique plant and animal species. Approximately 40 of the state's 770 native wildlife species and about 2,100 of its 6,300 plant species are found nowhere else. Our region is one of the world's 25 biological hot spots, places of greatest biodiversity and greatest threat. Belmont's new PROS Open Space Master Plan offers an opportunity for Belmont to contribute to Federal, State and local goals to conserve these valuable biodiversity hotspots.</p> <p>Sierra Club endorses the comments of the WaterdogPreserve.org letter "Requirements for Belmont's Open Space Master Plan" dated October 26, 2022 (also attached with this letter).</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Respectfully Yours,</p> <p>Gladwyn d'Souza</p> <p>Conservation Committee Chair</p> <p>Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter</p> <p>Cc: James Eggers</p> <p>Executive Director</p> <p>Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter</p>	<p>Gladwyn d'Souza</p>
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Duplicate emails received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com

Dear Belmont Belmont,

As a local resident, someone who is concerned with wildlife and wilderness protection, and a supporter of In Defense of Animals, I am writing to urge you to prioritize the protection of wildlife and habitat at Waterdog Lake & Open Space in the PROS Master Plan.

Belmont offers many recreational opportunities, but Waterdog is its primary natural open space, and only by prioritizing protection over recreation will we leave future generations of all species the same beautiful and essential wild land we witness today.

While opportunities for outdoor recreation and simply being able to enjoy nature are important, with increasingly little habitat in the Bay Area, this open space is critical for wildlife, and provides an invaluable and much-needed corridor that many species rely on and benefit from.

Protecting spaces like this is also important to residents, who see and respect the value of conserving natural spaces and habitat; Belmont and San Francisco Bay Area residents care about the environment, and they care about protecting wildlife.

If the area is given over further to recreational purposes, it will cease to function as it should. I am also extremely concerned that trails will be further opened here to mountain bikers, who have been damaging trails and running over wild animals.

I sincerely hope you will put conservation first when planning the future of this open space, and prioritize the need to protect it over development.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Date Received	Quantity	Commenter Name
11/18/2022	1	Valérie Cassé
11/27/2022	1	Daved Wachsman
November 2022	2	Duplicate Emails Received at Info@BelmontPROSplan.com