



SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

Box 3058 San Rafael CA 94912 sanfranciscobay.sierraclub.org/marin
c/o Margot Biehle (415)891-8891 377 Madrone Ave Larkspur Ca 94939 mbiehle@comcast.net

February 20, 2006

Town of Corte Madera
Town Council
300 Tamalpais Drive
Corte Madera, California 94925

Re: Corte Madera Inn Parking Lot Expansion Project (the "Project")

Dear Mayor Yang and Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 7,000 Marin County members, I submit the following comments regarding the captioned Project.

We continue to oppose the Project, as we did on record in 1990 when the Council originally visited this issue, and we recommend that the Town deny the Project entirely. Filling this remnant tidal marsh would have a significant impact both on the wildlife that inhabit the wetland as well as the now underground but still jurisdictional connecting "waters of the US." Moreover, the Project conflicts with the Town's General Plan, which protects wetland habitat under policy Sections 3.2.b, c., f., and I.

If the Town continues to pursue the Project, it should require the applicant to complete a Focused Environmental Impact Report as is mandated by CEQA. Among other problems with the Negative Declaration, it does not identify appropriate mitigation for the wetland's removal. The Mitigation Bank mentioned in the Initial Study is neither "equivalent habitat value" nor "in close proximity to the project site," as required by the Town's General Plan policy 3.2.i. It is 17 miles away, shallow, and riparian in nature, compared with the deep, saline nature of the Corte Madera wetland. Accordingly, a full focused EIR must be required to analyze the significant environmental impacts of this Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment again on the Corte Madera Inn Expansion Project.

Sincerely,

Margot Biehle
Sierra Club Marin Group Executive Committee