



SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

COASTAL SECTION C/O GORDON BENNETT

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March 16, 2004

Laura Wong, Supervising Ranger
Mt Tamalpais State Park
3801 Panoramic Highway, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Dear Ms Wong:

The Sierra Club Marin Group, representing its 7,000 Marin County members, wishes to protest the continued use of Kent Canyon in Mt Tamalpais State Park, Marin County, as an outdoor firing range for law enforcement personnel.

We recognize that firing range facilities are needed, but this outdoor range is located in one of the most heavily visited parks in the State Park system. The areas around the firing range are neither signed nor fenced to insure public safety. Furthermore, the outdoor firing range is immediately adjacent to Kent Creek, which contains numerous endangered species.

Kent Creek is itself home to coho salmon as well as being a major tributary to Redwood Creek, breeding site of both steelhead trout and the most genetically diverse coho salmon in the Central California Evolutionary Unit. Kent Creek also provides habitat for the California red-legged frog. The Sierra Club believes that the continuing impacts from the deterioration of slugs as well as the powder residue adjacent to the creek have not been studied and pose unacceptable risks to these species. Kent canyon also contains breeding pairs of endangered northern spotted owls, necessitating a seasonal shut down of the facility to project their breeding opportunities.

The Sierra Club believes that the Kent Canyon outdoor firing range should be shut down permanently and moved to a site where public access is better controlled and impacts to endangered species are eliminated. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bennett, Conservation Co-Chair, Sierra Club Marin Group

Cc: Tamalpais Conservation Club, Marin Conservation League, Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Salmon Protection and Watershed Network, Tomales Bay Association, Golden Gate National Recreational Area, California Department of Fish and Game.