

From: [Matt Maguire](#)
To: ["cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org"@c.mail.sonic.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org)
Cc: [Will Stapp](#); [Jane Hamilton](#); [Bruce Hagen](#); [David Keller](#); [Larry Modell](#); [Sheri Cardo](#); [Matt Maguire](#); [Neal Fishman](#)
Subject: Letter to General Plan Committee and others
Date: Friday, September 13, 2024 3:54:56 PM
Attachments: [GP Update LaffPolicy.9.12.24.pdf](#)
[Ord 2022 Preserve & Access Laff \(Signed\).08.05.96.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from crcnetworks@sonic.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear Caitlin-

Please find attached a letter from Friends of Lafferty Park to the City's General Plan Update Committee, staff member Heather Hines and the City's consultant, Raimi + Associates. Would you kindly forward the letter and associated Ordinance 2022 NCS to all those individuals?

Please also forward the letter to the Mayor and Councilmembers and Assistant City Manager Patrick Carter. I am cc'ing the Friends of Lafferty Park Board of Directors with this email.

We, the Friends, are planning on attending the next GP Update committee meeting on the 19th and would appreciate them having this in hand in time to review it before that meeting.

Thanks so much for your assistance! If you have any questions, please call me at 707-280-9305.

- Matt Maguire
President, Friends of Lafferty Park

Friends of Lafferty Park
c/o 1705 Brompton St.
Petaluma, CA 94954

September 12, 2024

Attn: General Plan Advisory Committee

Dave Alden
Stephanie Blake
Phil Boyle
Mary Dooley
Ali Gaylord
Yensi Jacobo
Sharon Kirk
Roger Leventhal
Iliana Inzunza Madriga
Roberto Rosila Mares
Kris Rebillot
Bill Rinehart
Joshua Riley Simmons
Lizzie Wallack
Bill Wolpert

Heather Hines, Special Projects Manager
Raimi + Associates, Consultant

Re: General Plan Update, Parks and Recreation Policy Framework, **Lafferty Ranch Open Space Preserve**

Dear Committee Members, Staff and Consultant:

In the current Draft Parks and Recreation Policy Framework, Lafferty Ranch is mentioned under Guiding Principles on page 7, item 2.i ("Open Lafferty Ranch!"), and on page 15, item Action P-2.2.1 ("Develop a management plan to expand access to Lafferty Ranch for public use and develop and map the final network.").

As you consider and direct the General Plan update, we believe Action P-2.2.1 is in the wrong place in the document. It is currently under "Policy 2.2: Collaboration with local agencies." Such collaboration (e.g., with Regional Parks) is a possibility in the future for Lafferty, but that is not the City's current plan. The current plan is for the City to develop a park plan for full public access. (See Ordinance 2022 NCS, appended below.)

Therefore, "Lafferty Ranch Open Space Preserve" should appear in the list of Proposed Parks on page 14. This might entail a need to create a new parks category, for instance, "Open Space Preserve with Public Access" or something similar, since Lafferty doesn't fit into any of the current park categories

(Community, Neighborhood, and Pocket Parks). Otherwise, a redefining of Community Park may be necessary.

Once Lafferty is properly placed in the list of proposed parks, it will also need to be added to the Map of Existing and Proposed Parks and Open Space (Figure 1, page 12 in the Parks and Recreation Policy Framework document).

This same map of existing and proposed parks is repeated in the Draft Land Use Policy Framework document (Figure 7, page 36, Existing and Proposed Parks and Open Space).

Per the City Council's direction earlier this year to the Park and Recreation committee to agendize a park development plan this year, and the attached ordinance, we need to see at a minimum that Lafferty Ranch Open Space Preserve is included in the GP as a proposed park. It needs to be added to the proposed park list and map in the draft Parks document, and the repeated map in the Land Use document, so as to be consistent with the GP update and the City Council's direction.

We should also note that the city has invested significant time and resources to date in moving the Lafferty project forward. They include purchase of the property in 1959, an extensive Environmental Impact Report from the late 1990s, almost all of which is still valid, and contracts with LandPaths since 2020, which has trained almost two dozen docents and led hikes introducing hundreds of enthusiastic local residents to this Sonoma Mountain treasure. We would argue that being so far along, this should be a top priority for completion by the city.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please contact me immediately if there are any questions or concerns that would prevent this from happening. We look forward to Lafferty Park being another fine resource available to the residents of Petaluma and Sonoma County!

Sincerely,



Matt Maguire
President, Friends of Lafferty Park
707-280-9305
mmaguire@crcnetworks.com

Cc: Friends of Lafferty Park Board of Directors
Mayor and City Council
Patrick Carter, Assistant City Manager

Attachments: 2022 NCS

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4 **EFFECTIVE DATE**
5 **OF ORDINANCE**
6 **SEP - 4 1996**
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9

10 **ORDINANCE NO. 2022 N.C.S.**

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15 Introduced by

Seconded by

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18 Councilmember Matt Maguire

Councilmember Lori Shea

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24 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PETALUMA**
25 **AMENDING TITLE 13 (STREETS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES) OF**
26 **THE PETALUMA MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 13.45**
27 **(PRESERVATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO LAFFERTY RANCH)**
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33 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PETALUMA AS
34 FOLLOWS:
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36 Section 1. Chapter 13.45 (Preservation and Public Access of Lafferty Ranch) is added to
37 Title 13 of the Petaluma Municipal Code to read as follows:
38

39 **13.45.010 Public Ownership.**

40 Lafferty Ranch, a mountain and watershed property owned by the City of
41 Petaluma (the "City"), shall remain in public ownership for passive public

1 recreational use in perpetuity, subject to the provisions contained herein.
2 The Lafferty Ranch, located on Sonoma Mountain, in the unincorporated
3 area of Sonoma County, California, is more particularly described as:

4 Being a part of the Petaluma Rancho, and which is known,
5 designated and described upon Rowe's Map of said Rancho, as Lot
6 Number 361, containing 269.75 acres, and being the same premises
7 which were formerly known as the Lafferty Ranch, and which were
8 deeded by William Hill to the Sonoma County Water Company, a
9 corporation, by deed dated the 25th day of May 1888, and recorded
10 in Vol. 113 of Deeds, as page 282, Sonoma County Records.
11

12 A.P. No. 136-17-001
13
14

15 **13.45.020 Restriction on Disposition.**

16 The City shall not sell, trade or otherwise dispose of any interest in or right
17 associated with Lafferty Ranch, including any and all water rights to any
18 party without prior approval by the voters of the City.
19

20 **13.45.030 Public Use.**

21 The Lafferty Ranch shall be made available for passive recreational use by
22 the public in accord with the provisions of this section.

23 Use of Lafferty Ranch by the public shall be pursuant to a public use
24 management plan to be prepared and implemented by the City (the "Plan"),
25 in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
26 The Plan shall be consistent with the protection, restoration and
27 enhancement of the natural wildlands of Lafferty Ranch and shall be based
28 on best management practices for public open space and recreational lands
29 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Preparation of the Plan shall commence no
30 later than sixty (60) days following the adoption of this ordinance.
31

32 Pending adoption of the Plan, Lafferty Ranch shall be made available for
33 passive recreational use by the public pursuant to an interim plan which
34

1 shall be adopted by the City Council in accordance with all applicable state
2 and federal laws and regulations.

3
4 The City shall not enter into any contract or agreement with any private
5 party or public agency if the contract or agreement would restrict or limit
6 public use of Lafferty Ranch as permitted by this section, unless the
7 restrictions or limitations are consistent with the Plan.

8
9 **13.45.040 Severability.**

10 If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this ordinance is found to be
11 unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, then such unconstitutionality, illegality,
12 or invalidity shall affect only that sentence, clause, section, or part, and
13 shall not effect or impair any of the remaining sentences, clauses, sections,
14 or parts of this ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the
15 People of the City that this ordinance would have been adopted had such
16 unconstitutional, illegal, or otherwise invalid sentence, clause, section, or
17 part of this ordinance not been included herein. To this end, the provisions
18 of this ordinance are severable.

19
20 Section 2. This ordinance is found to be consistent with the General Plan and Charter of
21 the City of Petaluma.

22
23 Section 3. This ordinance has been found to be exempt from California Environmental
24 Quality Act pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15316 of the CEQA Guidelines.

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26 Section 4. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase or word of this ordinance
27 is for any reason held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision
28 shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council of the
29 City of Petaluma hereby declares that it would have passed and adopted this ordinance and each
30 and all provisions thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more of said provisions be
31 declared unconstitutional.

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Section 5. The City Clerk is hereby directed to post this ordinance if required for the period and in the manner required by the City Charter.

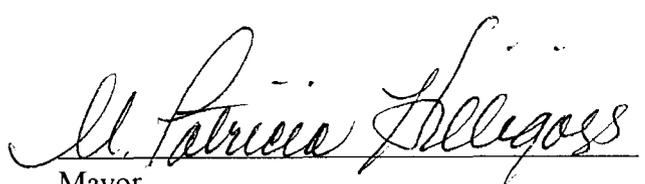
INTRODUCED this 29th day of July, 1996.

ADOPTED this 5th day of August, 1996 by the following vote:

AYES: Maguire, Hamilton, Read, Shea, Vice Mayor Stompe, Mayor Hilligoss

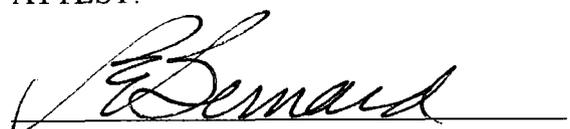
NOES: None

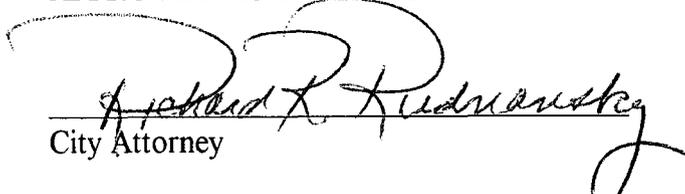
ABSENT: Barlas


Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Clerk


City Attorney

ord
7/30/96 (fmk)

Petaluma City Council Meeting – September 19, 2024

Public General Comments

Jesse Bradman, B.A, J.D.

415-898-4375

Topic – Protecting Our Environment and Our Health

Good Evening Mayor and Council Members:

My name is Jesse Bradman and my wife and I have lived in Petaluma since 2005. Over the last three weeks, I have submitted oral and written general public comments at a City Council meeting and a Climate Action Commission meeting. I have communicated with several members of the CAC, and other city officials including Vice-Mayor John Schibbs, and Patrick Carter in the City Manager’s office. We all share the same optimism that we can improve Petaluma’s systems with respect to improving Zero-Waste objectives. As such, I will continue to advocate and assist in any way I can (on a volunteer basis) to further those objectives.

I desire to assist City of Petaluma with reducing single-use plastic and waste associated with food carry-out containers and utensils, and improving recycling and compost diversion. I am impressed with Carbon Neutrality Blueprint and the 2019 Zero-Waste Resolution, but I am advocating for specific action plans for reduction and diversion including the expansion of reuse programs for bulk food service programs and City of Petaluma events.

Concerns:

My concerns come from seeing so much waste with respect to food service carry-out containers and utensils. Other than polystyrene, I am not aware of any City policies that control the composition of these containers and utensils, or standardized policies that regulate local food service business practices.

Generally: Plastics disposal and degradation adversely affects the environment **and** our health. Greenhouse gases are emitted during the entire life cycle of plastics – from manufacturing to disposal. Roughly only 9% of plastic is recycled. Those GHG’s affect all of us with respect to climate change. Furthermore and importantly, studies show that 80% of us currently have **micro-plastics** in our blood. In fact we ingest them daily through the paper coffee cups lined with plastic coatings every day (approx 25,000 micro plastic particles per Starbucks cup). And these particles are linked to serious illnesses. Thus, the harm from plastic is not merely an “abstract issue” as some people might consider climate change to be – It is an important “health issue” as well – **right here right now!**

So - We are all are at risk - We are all stakeholders. Moreover, due to the GHG emissions, micro plastics in our bodies, and the continued growth of the plastic industry, I suggest that **any** conversation about Climate Change, which does **NOT** include an action plan to reduce single-use plastic and improve diversion, **is patently incomplete**. So let's expand the current conversation!

My Questions

Q1: Petaluma is a member of Sonoma Zero-Waste Joint Powers Authority. Can we adopt the model ordinance?

Q2: Can Petaluma at the least restricted PFAS which are a proven health hazard?

Q3: What specific policies and controls can be developed and implemented to further the objectives of the 2019 Zero Waste Resolution?

Q4: Currently, recycling bins in the city are often useless due to inadequate signage and contamination – Most of the items go to landfill! Can we improve public awareness?

Q5: Can we utilize reusable (Ex: Sparkl) for bulk food-service programs (Ex: seniors & school lunches) and City of Petaluma events?

I am glad to share other suggestions for restaurants & coffee shops – please reach out to me!

Closing: I understand these issues are complex, but I strongly believe we have an individual and collective duty to protect the health of our families, our neighbors, our community and the environment. I believe we can engage our community members, the business community, and our elected officials and together develop strategies and action plans to achieve positive change. And I suggest we should **not** avoid working on Zero Waste objectives because the issues have been classified as “complex”. We simply need to start with what we “**CAN DO**” and expand those boundaries - which is exactly the essence of the human spirit!

I desire to see Petaluma become a policy leader in this area via its policies, controls, and implementation of effective community and business outreach programs. It is my hope that our city leaders will prioritize this important issue such that the understanding of the urgency is developed and the waste from food carry-out containers and associated utensils is significantly reduced or even eliminated.

Thank you,

Jesse Bradman

Jesse Bradman

415 898 4375

1073 Crinella Drive, Petaluma