

To: Andrew Thomas
Planning Services Manager

Our 300 acre golf course is covered with hundreds of trees, shrubs, ponds, wetlands and slews. It is home to a large variety of wildlife. Birds are so abundant, that this area is prime counting for the Audubon Christmas bird count. Audubon has identified 112 species of birds at the golf course. In the Winter, warblers by the thousands can be found living there in the Blue Gum eucalyptus trees which provide nectar for them to eat. This is the only spot in Alameda where warblers can be found in such great numbers. Burrowing owls may still be nesting on the South course. Look, and you will see the endangered snowy egret, and the great egret feeding on fish and frogs living in the ponds, and slews. Raptors, such as the coopers hawk and red tailed hawk can be found nesting in the trees. In addition, there are reports of the rare California Pond turtle living in ponds. Also, there are raccoons, skunks, opossums, squirrels and even a grey fox or two.

We don't know if a biological study of the wild life has ever been done. However, given the importance of this area, we residents are requesting that the City contract with its own biologist to do a thorough, independent assessment, which is paid for by the developer. This area is a real wild life treasure, in urban Alameda and as such it deserves an independent study. Additionally, the South Course, may be the site of an old garbage dump. A local resident recalls going to the dump at night and setting methane fires. There may have been a battery company that used to dump their batteries there. Because of this history, it may be quite expensive to clean the nearly 100 acres of soil comprising the South and the Mif courses. How will bulldozing affect the wildlife and its habitation?

We should not destroy this large part of Bay Farm's "Urban Forest" and wetlands area. And we should not disturb and destroy our wildlife and it's habitation. Instead, let us value, enjoy and protect it, now and into the future.

We the undersigned residents of Alameda oppose the proposed Land Swap.

Sincerely,

Timothy Molter
Reyla Graber
Patricia Gannon
Harv Wilson

Bay Farm Nature Connection, a group of 40 residents concerned with our local Bay Farm wildlife and habitation