



Nisene 2 Sea News

CONCERNING PRESERVATION OF THE NISENE 2 SEA CORRIDOR LINKING THE FOREST OF NISENE MARKS STATE PARK TO NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH

MARCH 10, 2003

DEVELOPMENT ON KOCH PROPERTY COUNTY APPROVAL PENDING IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARING 1pm, FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2003

Developers of Koch Property have obtained pending County approval for the first home in their project: a house on the hill by the water tank and a 2,300 foot long road 30 feet behind all homes on Danube Drive exiting to Vienna Drive via Jennifer Drive. The Developers state that they intend to fence all public access points to the Koch Property when the work begins this spring. This fencing will divert about 100+ people a day that access Nisene Marks from Cabrillo into adjoining neighborhoods in search of alternate park access points. The proposed County action was elevated by Ellen Pirie, Supervisor 2nd District, to the Zoning Administrator in order to have a public hearing on the pending application. She is very concerned about the impact of the proposed actions and the importance of the Koch Property.

The public hearing concerning the Koch Property will be held on Friday, March 21 at 1 PM in the Supervisor's Chambers in County Government Center on Ocean Street in Santa Cruz. This is the last chance for public comment by attending or by submitting written comments concerning the County's proposed approval of the home and road.

TIMING IS A CHALLENGE:

Timing affects Nisene 2 Sea's ability to purchase the Koch Property from the Developers for appraised fair market value. The Developers continue to state they are willing to sell the Koch Property to the public for \$5M but that they will not slow their development to wait for public acquisition funding. The public funding process is slower than the County building and grading approval process and is not coordinated.

JOHN LAIRD AND ELLEN PIRIE SUPPORT PRESERVATION OF NISENE 2SEA CORRIDOR.

State Assembly Representative, John Laird, and Second District County Supervisor, Ellen Pirie support public acquisition of the Koch Property and preservation of the Nisene 2 Sea Corridor as public open space.

STATE PARK'S ACQUISITION ASSESSMENT IS A SUCCESS.

As a result of considerable public interest, State Parks in Sacramento completed their formal acquisition assessment of the Koch Property and has determined that this 142 acre parcel is an appropriate addition to The Forest of Nisene Marks State Parks, but noted that they currently did not have the funding to acquire the property.

State Park's action is a very positive step in that Parks at the State level has now formally confirmed the value of the Koch Property as parkland and acknowledged that they will ultimately accept the property into the park system. The fact that the State is currently without funding is not surprising. This positive assessment is a critical prerequisite in our efforts to obtain alternate funding and to campaign for eventual State funding.

STATE PARK EASEMENT ON KOCH PROPERTY

State Parks supports determination of the State Park owned Porter-Fallon easement that crosses both the Koch Property and Cabrillo land along the old road on the western side of Borregas Gulch. State establishment of this easement/road will assure a public access route from Cabrillo College through the Koch Property into The Forest of Nisene Marks. Its location on the Koch Property inland from the road cut in Borregas Gulch is currently being studied.

NISENE MARKS GENERAL PLAN SUPPORTS PRESERVATION OF NISENE 2 SEA CORRIDOR

The Forest of Nisene Marks General Plan supports preservation of the Nisene 2 Sea Corridor and the collaborative educational activities between State Parks, California Department of Forestry, and Cabrillo College that would be facilitated by preservation of the Nisene 2 Sea Corridor and its connection to Cabrillo College lands. This General Plan should be available in early 2003, for public review and comment.

CABRILLO COLLEGE SUPPORTS ACQUISITION

Cabrillo college remains supportive of public acquisition of the Koch Property and preservation of the Nisene 2 Sea Corridor.

Richard Merrill, the Director of the newly opened Cabrillo Environmental Horticulture Center and Botanic Gardens that sits above Cabrillo College and borders the southern edge of the Koch Property, has offered to structure programs at Cabrillo that support collaborative educational opportunities concerning the native plant habitats on the Koch Property and other areas made accessible by preservation of the Nisene 2 Sea Corridor. They will consider participation in the restoration of the rare Coastal Prairie Terrace Grassland habitat on the Koch Property.

OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE AGREES HELP NISENE 2 SEA WITH THE ACQUISITION OF THE KOCH PROPERTY

The Open Space Alliance, a local organization that is dedicated to the permanent protection of significant open space lands in the Santa Cruz County and the Monterey

Bay Bio-region has formally agreed to assist with Nisene 2 Sea's efforts to preserve the Koch Property. They are working with elected and appointed officials and land trusts to facilitate our efforts. The additional resources and efforts of this organization will provide much needed assistance related to obtaining funding and support for the preservation of the Koch Property.

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
EVALUATION FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
BOARD:**

The Open Space Alliance is currently working with the State Department of Fish and Game with the goal of obtaining a recommendation to the Wildlife Conservation Board related to preservation of the Koch Property's Aptos Creek watershed, Coastal Prairie Terrace grasslands, Shreve Oak woodlands, and potential Ohlone Tiger Beetle habitat and related acquisitions funding.

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND IS CONSIDERING
PARTICIPATION IN ACQUISITION PROCESS.**

The Trust for Public Land (see www.tpl.org) is currently evaluating formal participation in the acquisition of the Koch Property and its annexation to Nisene Marks. This national organization has as significant resources, financial and otherwise, that would be available once they formally become involved. This organization would play a critical role in obtaining acquisition funding.

**ADDITIONAL
NISENE 2 SEA CORRIDOR INFORMATION
AT**

www.nisene2sea.org

For Further Information

Call 688-7724 or

Email info@nisene2sea.org.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO HELP PRESERVE
THE NISENE 2 SEA CORRIDOR**

PLEASE, MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO:

Open Space Alliance

Note that its for Nisene 2 Sea on your check

The Open Space Alliance is an established 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and will assure that donations are applied to its Nisene 2 Sea project.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION AND INFORMATION TO:

**Nisene 2 Sea
1649 Cheryl Way,
Aptos, California 95003**

**PARTICIPATION IN THE HEARING AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HELP
INSURE THAT
THE NISENE 2 SEA CORRIDOR WILL BE PROTECTED AND ACCESSIBLE AS
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**