



STAFF REPORT

Resolution Supporting the Redwood City Plan and Proposal to Supplement the US Fish and Wildlife Restoration Plan for Bair Island

Honorable Mayor and Council Members

The City of Redwood City has requested the City of Belmont to formally endorse its proposed plan to supplement the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) restoration plan for Bail Island. According to the staff at Redwood City, their supplemental recommendations would make a good plan better by improving access to certain areas, restricting access in other areas, reducing pet access, and promoting educational outreach.

Staff has not conducted a detailed review of either the FWS plan or that of the City of Redwood City. However, based on the summary information attached to this memo, it appears that the intent of the City of Redwood City is to fine-tune the FWS plan, rather than offer a significant alternative or wholesale change. It does appear that with both the underlying plan and the Redwood City supplement, Bair Island will receive improved environmental protection and more appropriately designed access for people.

Recommendation: If the Council wishes to support the Redwood City plan, a draft resolution has been prepared for that purpose and is attached to this memo.

Attachment:

1. Draft Resolution Establishing Supporting the Redwood City Plan and Proposal to Supplement the US Fish and Wildlife Plan for Bair Island
2. Summary information, Bair Island Restoration Plan

Respectfully submitted,

Craig A. Ewing
Planning and Community Dev't Dir., AICP

Daniel Rich
Interim City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELMONT SUPPORTING THE REDWOOD CITY PLAN AND PROPOSAL TO SUPPLEMENT THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION PLAN FOR BAIR ISLAND

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont desires to improve the regional environment through restoration and enhancement of sensitive habitats in the San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared and released a restoration plan for Bair Island – a portion of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, The City of Redwood City has proposed a plan to supplement the US Fish & Wildlife restoration plan for Bair Island, and which seeks to achieve the following goals:

1. Protect species first
2. Provide access and opportunity for handicapped and other sensitive sub-populations consistent with the refuge mission
3. Create a unique educational tool for Bay Area students
4. Educate citizens and visitors to refuges and conservations values
5. Form a working partnership for the long-term security of the refuge and habitat for endangered species, and
6. Fulfill long-standing local and regional goals for open public access.

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont City Council supports the above objectives and believes that locally-based efforts to protect sensitive habitats, improve access and increase educational understanding of the environment should be supported.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Belmont hereby supports the City of Redwood City Plan and Proposal to supplement the US Fish & Wildlife Restoration Plan for Bair Island.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a meeting thereof held on October 12, 2004 by the following vote:

AYES, CITY COUNCIL: _____

NOES, CITY COUNCIL: _____

ABSTAINS, CITY COUNCIL: _____

ABSENT, CITY COUNCIL: _____

Clerk of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont