



# HOMESTEAD LAND AND WATER ALLIANCE

10210A 10th St  
P.O. Box 40214  
Oakland, CA 94614  
(209) 835-7974  
(209) 838-4048

RECEIVED

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

December 20, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

The contents of this packet briefly identify our major concerns regarding a proposal of Old River Committee to obtain a grant for \$2,419,000 from CALFED to establish a park. Old River Committee has made serious errors in their application; they have made several misrepresentations in their application and to the public. There is absolutely no support for this application from property owners in or about the proposed site. This proposal is an unnecessary duplication of two parks already under construction near to this site without the inherent contention.

Sincerely,

# HOMESTEAD LAND AND WATER ALLIANCE

BETTY GALLI, PRESIDENT ~ ~ ~ SHARON VOTAW, CHAIR

12750 PLAIN ROAD  
TRACY, CA 95304  
909-855-7274  
FAX: 855-1046

[www.hometreys.com/alliance/aboutus.html](http://www.hometreys.com/alliance/aboutus.html)

December 20, 2001

PATRICK WRIGHT, DIRECTOR  
CalFed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wright:

The Homestead Land and Water Alliance represents a large group of property owners that would be negatively impacted by the Old River Park Project. There is not a supporter among the collective owners of approximately 40,000 acres surrounding the proposed site. Well over one hundred stakeholders met with the Tracy Farm Bureau to discuss the Old River Project. Not one stakeholder favored the project. Concerns aired following your format were.

#### PROJECT KEYWORDS

- None of the riparian habitat has been changed within the last 65+ years so the word "restoration" is inapplicable. This Great Valley Riparian Oak Forest exists due to the current management.
- The act of changing title will not affect nor increase any "neotropical migratory birds" nor increase the nesting sites of Swainson's Hawks.
- Wildlife-friendly agriculture, as explained by the committee, worried neighboring farms in two areas; first, the park could infest nearby crops, and second, the park setting could impede standard, accepted farming practices such as chemical applications, re-entry restrictions, planting and harvesting methods thereby triggering existing Right-To-Farm regulations, laws and resulting in endless litigation

#### TYPE OF PROJECT

- ORC has plans and an application for funds for the first year only but they claim to need 8-12 years more to plan this park. ORC cannot answer questions about the source of funds for those other planning years.

#### LAND ACQUISITION IN FEE

- The land in question is an island of 138 acres with no public access. Mary Walker, President of ORC, states she has a public easement through a dairy owned by Mario and Ann Silva. The Silva's are cited as supporters of the proposal in the grant application. Both statements are untrue. Mr. and Mrs. Mario Silva have sent CALFED a letter of correction. Attached is a community petition against the proposal, signed by the Silva's and virtually all stakeholders south of the project, dated June 8, 2001. There never was any support for this project.
- Arnaudo Brothers Farms stated in a public meeting held December 6, 2001, by the Tracy Farm Bureau that they were not supporters of this project. The ORC stated

- that they had amended the grant application in this regard though they chose not to amend other serious discrepancies and misrepresentations included in the grant to CALFED as identified by Alex Hildebrand in his attached letter.
- ORC never obtained California Fish and Game permission or input for the project
  - ORC has obtained no permits for any changes to the island from San Joaquin County that would be required in order to establish a park. This island is subject to flooding and is designated to flood in high-water years as a safety valve for the area. Designated flood zones cannot get permits to build anything that will impede the flow of floodwaters over it. This includes park structures.
  - How will ORC study levees on an island that is designated to flood, where there are no levees and no levees may be built?
  - There is a bridge to the island of questionable legality as well as lacking structural integrity. The bridge has collapsed once already.
  - The acquisition of this property was supposed to be fair market value as determined by appraisal. ORC appears to be paying a total project price of \$17,528.99/acre for land similar to that purchased recently by TNC with a CALFED grant for \$3804.35/acre (Staten Island is the property referenced). This represents an overpayment of \$13,724.63/acre. What would account for this discrepancy?
  - No restoration plan is required--the area has been untouched for over 65 years except for farming of the interior.

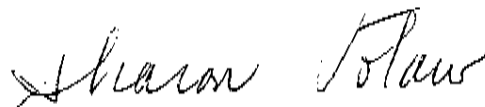
The following items are of serious concern to HLWA.

- ORC petition of support for this park is based on promised ball fields, hiking, biking, oar-boat facilities, picnic areas and an agriculture museum farm. ORC admits that they have no plans for any boating or water activities of any sort. They have no public access thereby compromising other promised activities. This seems to eliminate the validity of support for the project.
- Their stated solution to trespass issues is a six-foot cyclone fence or whatever it takes to keep people in the park. This is not conducive to a wildlife corridor and will serve to eliminate much of the wildlife ORC proposes to 'save'.
- Many petition signatures were obtained under dubious authority. Some people have asked to be removed from her list of supporters and this request has been denied.
- Most signatures were obtained miles away from the project location. There is no local support.
- The Committee states that they will fund the island project by farming alfalfa. The statistics quoted in the grant application show alfalfa losing \$161/acre/year as a reason for removing prime agricultural land in the area from production. Now the committee states that the figures quoted in their grant are not their figures though they made no effort to correct these figures. Refer to Alex Hildebrand's letter for more details as well as the actual chart in the grant application found on page 2.
- At one time ORC was involving 14,000 acres in this project. Now ORC claims that 138 acres is "big enough".
- California Parks and Recreation proposed a similar park here in 1973 and decided the habitat was too fragile to support human intrusion and wisely left it under its current stewardship.
- HLWA position against this proposal is shared with Delta Water Users, Pescadero Reclamation District, Reclamation District #1007, Sisters of the River, Independent Mutual Water District (this is the District adjacent to the southern boundaries of the proposed park), Fremont Irrigation District and the Naglee Burk Irrigation District.

- There are similar parks along the same rivers and sloughs established at no taxpayer cost by developers in the area. One park is within 500 feet of the ORC proposed site and the other park is 3-4 miles away. Both of the other parks have access and are not subject to flooding. One park is under development now thus saving eleven years of planning for ORC.
- The Durham Ferry Recreation Area, a nearby and similar facility, was closed due to lack of attendance. If need existed, this facility could be reopened.
- There exist 57 parks in the city of Tracy alone. There are two more sites under discussion for development totaling over 310 acres proposed for ball fields. The county has over 30 parks. There are two nearby State Parks.

Please read the included letter of Alex Hildebrand, a renowned authority on the Delta and its waters, attached petitions against the proposal, published letters to the editor from concerned citizens against the proposal and the list of available parks in the area.

Sincerely,

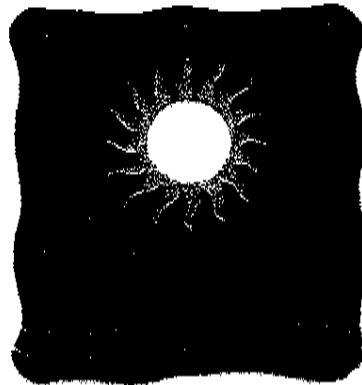


- ENCLOSURES
- 1) Alex Hildebrand's Letter regarding errors in the grant.
  - 2) Petition to Mary Walker from property owners against the park and her misrepresentations.
  - 3) Petitions from local property owners.
  - 4) Gary Reeve's letter to San Joaquin Board of Supervisors
  - 5) Letters of concern to various politicians.
  - 6) Packet of Letters to the Editor
  - 7) Existing Parks

cc: Terry Mills, ERP  
 Dept. of Interior, Gale Norton  
 Rep Richard Pombo  
 Rep Gary Condit  
 Sen. Diane Feinstein  
 Sen Barbara Boxer  
 Rep John Doolittle  
 Rep Ken Calvert  
 Gov Gray Davis  
 Sen Mike Machado  
 Sen. Dick Monteith  
 Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti  
 Assemblywoman Barbara Matthews  
 Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza  
 San Joaquin County Farm Bureau  
 San Joaquin County Planner, Ben Hulse  
 San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors  
 Tracy Mayor Dan Bilbrey  
 Tracy City Council  
 Sarah Foster, WorldNet News  
 Manteca Mayor Carlton Perry

Dennis Hay, Esq.  
 Rec. Dist. #1007  
 Naglee Burk Irrigation Dist.  
 Independent Mutual Irrig. Dist.  
 Fremont Irrigation Dist.  
 Pescadero Rec. Dist.  
 Delta Water Users  
 Dan Nomellini, Esq.  
 Tom Knudson, Sacramento Bee  
 Modesto Bee  
 TriValley Herald

# ARNAUDO LETTER OF OPPOSITION



THIS NEARBY FARM NEVER  
SUPPORTED THE OLD RIVER  
COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL

**ARNAUDO BROS., INC.  
16505 S. TRACY BLVD.  
TRACY, CA 95304  
(209) 835-0406**

December 14, 2001

Homestead Land & Water Alliance  
12650 Platti Road  
Tracy, CA 95304  
Attn: Cal-Fed

To Whom It May Concern:

We, Arnaudo Brothers, met with Mary Walker early this fall, regarding the proposal of a new park to the south of Old River. At this meeting she never mentioned the Dell Aringa property. After hearing her explanation, our answer, at that time, because she hit us "cold", was we were not opposed to anything until we heard more about this huge project.

After further study and finally hearing where this project is proposed, across the river from us to the south, and hearing many comments regarding this project, we now feel it would have a major impact on our property to the north because of trespassing on the levees on our side of the river, by people on motor and row boats. Our crops of tomatoes, alfalfa and asparagus require aerial spraying almost weekly for 6 to 8 months of the year. The proposed park is directly down wind from our 600 acre farm, that lies directly north and only a few hundred feet, across the river from the proposed site. These toxic sprays drift for hundreds of yards, they are very dangerous to people and children that they may come in contact with and this site is in the path of prevailing winds from the north and north west.

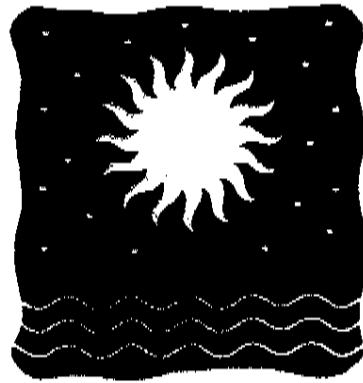
We therefore go on record that we oppose the site for this park for the reasons stated above

Sincerely,



Steve Arnaudo, President  
Arnaudo Brothers, Inc.

# ALEX HILDEBRAND LETTER



Alexander Hildebrand  
23443 S. Hays Road  
Manteca, CA 95337-8882

November 1, 2001

Mary Walker  
PO Box 1181  
Tracy, CA 95378-1181

Dear Mary:

Thank you for giving me an advance copy of the ORC application for a \$2,419,000 grant from CALFED to be used to purchase an island within the sloughs that connect Old River, Paradise Cut, and Tom Paine Slough. This is to become a part of your proposed Old River Parkway. I assume that you are soliciting my candid comments on the proposal.

I do not doubt that this portion of the proposed parkway would be a nice amenity for urbans in Tracy, and I respect your good intentions. However, I believe that the merits of your proposal are overstated and not all valid. It may not be in the broad social interest to give taxpayer funds to a limited and possibly transient group to buy land in fee to manage as they see fit in perpetuity.

- 1) You suggest that farming in this area by private parties is not economic and will not be sustained, and that it, therefore, need not be considered as a continued use of lands in this area. This disregards the transient nature of depressed prices, and the need for more food as the population grows.
- 2) You assert that growing alfalfa is uneconomic. However, alfalfa prices were substantially improved this year. Furthermore, you state that alfalfa is an uneconomic crop yet you expect to continue to grow it after you buy the land.
- 3) You state that "pesticides are perceived as a necessary part of the growth of alfalfa", yet you propose that you will grow alfalfa without pesticides. Do you assume that farmers are stupid when they spend money to apply pesticide to an infection of "army worms"?
- 4) You assert that the permanent tidal flow control barriers will decrease circulation and exacerbate water quality problems in some channels. This is not true! The permanent barriers will substantially improve circulation and quality.
- 5) You cite and show pictures of many valley oaks in the vicinity and on the proposed property to be acquired. How can you claim that the acquisition will provide needed Swainson Hawk nesting trees?



- 6) You claim that although the perimeter of the proposed acquisition is rimmed with oak forest, the change of ownership will somehow increase shade and cause a significant reduction of water temperature in adjacent channels. How can this be true?
- 7) You assert that there will be an improvement in dissolved oxygen in adjacent channels. The use of barriers to restore circulation will be the dominant effect on dissolved oxygen. Again in your effort to justify your proposal you are "grasping at straws". The same is true when you claim that the acquisition will help to restore pond turtles.
- 8) You assert that the proposed acquisition will "aid in flood control". You offer no plausible support for this claim.
- 9) You propose to use "biotechnical methods to control erosion". You do not say whether there is an erosion problem at the site or whether you refer to land erosion or bank erosion from flood flows or from wave action. Nor do you indicate what methods you will examine that are not in study elsewhere.
- 10) You propose to study methods of erosion control on levees. There are no levees on the island that is to be acquired, and you do not state how or where you would make tests that are not contemplated elsewhere.

These and other assertions seem to imply that benefits claimed other than urban amenity are associated with a belief that the ORC is more competent than farmers, and more competent than other investigators of everything from erosion control, to determining and correcting whatever has caused a drastic reduction in pond turtles.

Lastly, there will be very serious consequences if we continue to convert private farm land and water to other uses no matter how worthy those uses may be. CALFED is taking very large quantities of land (and associated water) from the production of food for other uses. CALFED's plan plus the CVPLA and other reallocations of farm land and water will very substantially reduce our ability to feed the population by year 2025. This will be the cumulative impact of many small increments of reallocation. CALFED should not be encouraged to spend taxpayer money to foster these reallocations.

I am sorry to be so brutally candid, but want to be honest with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Hildebrand

# PETITIONS

TO MARY WALKER



June 8, 2001

Mary Walker  
Tracy, California

Re Old River Parkway Proposal

Dear Ms. Walker

Several landowners adjacent to or in the area of the proposed Old River Parkway deemed it necessary to send you this letter to express their concerns regarding your group's undertaking in establishing a park along the southern bank of Old River from Wicklund Cut east to Sugar Cut.

First, the landowners represented by this letter believe that the petition for the park was misrepresented to several of them and others, either directly or by innuendo, that by signing the petition you and your group were circulating, the "Green Belt" proposal that is the subject of a specific plan study by the County of San Joaquin, could be avoided. In fact, there appears to be no position by the County of San Joaquin that the "Green Belt" proposal would be dropped or withdrawn in lieu of the park.

Other misrepresentations believed to have been made were promises of sports facilities (little league baseball diamonds and soccer fields), horse trails, walking trails, picnic areas and access to the water from area levees. Additionally, claims of having the support of many of the landowners in the area are believed to be false and reliance upon signatures on petitions obtained by the above-mentioned misrepresentations to back up such claims is dubious. In fact, the landowners represented by this letter believe that the majority of landowners adjacent to Old River ARE NOT in favor of a park.

Secondly, the landowners represented by this letter have concerns regarding the impact to their agricultural practices and their land values by locating a park along the southern bank of the Old River. Concerns regarding increased exposure to liability from chemical applications used in farming practices, clashes between commuter traffic and agricultural equipment, exposure of water diversion and drainage facilities to increased vandalism and traffic related damage, degradation to flood control structures from exposure to public access and activities, and increased pollution from trash dumping and increased accumulation of motor vehicle related fumes and leaks are just some of the problems foreseen by the landowners.

The landowners represented by this letter are dissatisfied with surrounding urban areas targeting their geographical area for facilities that benefit the urban populous at the expense of their land, their livelihoods and their quiet enjoyment. The urban areas and

the associated development agencies responsible for their development need to seek to make wastewater treatment plants, storm drainage facilities, roadways and parks part of their developments rather than putting the burden on the backs of the outlying landowners who established their residences and businesses in the rural areas for esthetic and practical reasons, none of which included the degradation caused by encroaching facilities benefiting urban areas

In short, the landowners represented by this letter are not in favor of the park and want to protect their land and businesses from further attacks from individuals, groups or entities that threaten their way of life

Very truly yours,

Dennis L. Hay

Cc San Joaquin County Planning Commission  
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors  
Tracy Press  
Tri-Valley Herald  
The Record  
South Delta Water Agency c/o John Herrick, Esq  
Delta Protection Commission  
Dante Nomellini, Esq  
Ron Leachman, Esq

Mario Silva, Elizabeth & Silva Dairy  
Amy Galli  
Angela Galli  
Ed. Herrera Kachan  
Mervyn Young  
Louise Galli  
Keith Galli  
Betty Galli  
Vitalbe P. P. P.  
Joseph Galli

Angie Keene  
Patricia Keene  
Sharon Votaw  
King & King  
Lousie Hall  
Ann Grady Campbell  
Emily Brown  
Assunta Garcia  
Diane Messina  
Eileen V. Hall  
Robert F. F. F.  
Wendy K. K.  
Kathy K.  
C. C. C. C.  
Lillian M.  
John C. C.

# PETITIONS



# HOMESTEAD LAND AND WATER ALLIANCE

12752 PLATT ROAD  
TRACY, CA 95304  
(209) 835-7974  
www.gemeye.com/alliance/alliance.html

## A PETITION

TO THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

We the undersigned are petitioning the Board to withdraw our property along Old River, Sugar Cut, Paradise Cut and Tom Paine Slough from consideration as Open Space or for the development of any park as proposed in the Old River/NW Tracy Specific Plan (Alternative 5). We feel that such a land designation will severely impact our ability to manage our lands and result in the taking of our property rights. We believe we should have the same opportunities to manage in a manner that benefits our needs as those developers who funded this planning effort.

NAME

ADDRESS

Teri MacLuga-Koren	5923 W. Delta Ave Tracy, CA 95304-9423
Grant Theis	7793 Delta Ave
ALAN OSHIER	18061 S. PLATT RD TRACY CA 95304
Pete Belavich	16333 W. Bethany Rd Tracy, CA 95304
PAT BOKAR	16333 W. BETHANY RD TRACY 95304
Janice & Ed Kishon	2580 Colony Dr. Tracy CA 95376
Ch. C. Vining	14200 S. LAMMERS RD TRACY, CA 95304
Wendy Magowan	18750 W. LAMMERS RD TRACY, CA 95304
Ch. S. Johnson	7830 W. DELTA AVE TRACY, CA 95304
Robert A. Hoffman	6555 W. Canal Blvd Tracy, CA 95304
William D. Alexander	6357 W. Canal Blvd TRACY 95304
James Galle	17398 W. Canal Blvd Tracy CA 95304
Patricia Rezac	416 E. Grand Ave Tracy 95376
Steve & Cindy Orlandof	18881 So Lantana Road Tracy, CA 95304
Pauli Hall	12401 LAMMERS RD TRACY
Georgina & Hariton	1337 W. BEVERLY PLACE TRACY 95376 - 3355
Betty Hall	12650 Platt Rd, Tracy 95304
James Galle	12650 W Platt Rd Tracy CA 95304

# PETITION OPPOSING "GREEN BELT" PROPOSAL

To: The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

We, the undersigned, are submitting this petition to the Board of Supervisors for San Joaquin County in opposition to the proposal seeking the creation of a specific plan, "Green Belt" area and industrial park in the area northwest of the City of Tracy and any incidental changes in zoning and other potentially detrimental effects such a specific plan, creation of a "Green Belt" area and industrial park may cause. The undersigned maintain that each of them are landowners within San Joaquin County and believe each landowner should have the opportunity to manage those matters affecting their property to respond to his/her own needs and desires in the same manner as the developers from the specific plan study.

We, the undersigned, adamantly advocate that the Board of Supervisors withdraw the proposal of the specific plan study, the creation of the "Green Belt" area and the industrial park and allow the status quo to exist in regard to the real property northwest of Tracy.

NAME	ADDRESS
<u>Patricia Jensen</u>	<u>5923 W. Delta Ave Tracy, CA 95304-1423</u>
<u>FRAN GONIGZ</u>	<u>18001 S. PLATT RD Tracy CA 95304</u>
<u>Steve Borkovich</u>	<u>16333 W. Beckman Rd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Pat Downick</u>	<u>16393 W. Bethany Rd. Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>John C. Dumas</u>	<u>19700 S. Hammer Rd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Robert Mackey</u>	<u>13720 W. Hammer Rd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>John G. Taylor</u>	<u>7890 W. Delta Ave Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Louise Gallo</u>	<u>12650 W. Platt Rd Tracy 95304</u>
<u>Shirley Ann Jensen</u>	<u>12722 S. Platt Rd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Ashwanta Singh</u>	<u>9318 W. Delta Ave Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Juliana Frey</u>	<u>9368 W. Delta Ave Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Mark Bennett</u>	<u>10876 TRACY Blvd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Maia Simon</u>	<u>18700 S. Beckman Rd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Betty Sherrill</u>	<u>12650 Platt Rd Tracy 95304</u>
<u>Lee Lindley Oberley</u>	<u>18881 S. Hammer Rd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Larry Lindley</u>	<u>13199 S. Hammer Rd Tracy, CA 95304</u>
<u>Peter Gray</u>	<u>12772 W. Delta Ave Tracy, CA 95304</u>



# GARY REEVE LETTER





**GARY REEVE**  
35 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St  
Suite E-3  
Tracy, Ca. 95376

05/15/2002

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors  
Attention: Lynn Bedford  
222 E. Weber St  
Courthouse Room 701  
Stockton, Ca 95202

Regarding West Tracy/ Old River Plan

Dear Lynn

This morning I discovered that the West Tracy/Old River plan was discussed at the Board of Supervisors' meeting yesterday. My family **owns** property in this affected area. Myself and many of my neighbors believe that we should **have been** properly notified by the Board of your meeting yesterday. The decisions that the Board **will make** regarding the county's tentative proposals for future uses of the area may have a drastic **impact** on future land values and the collective land owners' enjoyment of their properties.

I respectfully wish to make the following **brief points to the Board members**

I believe that a greenbelt area between two **urban** areas is a poor use of land. The property owners in this greenbelt area will neither **be able** to viably farm their land or develop it. The property values will then erode to a point **where** the only buyer will be a government agency. Because of this buyer's monopoly, the low **land values** will be then dictated by the government agency.

On the other hand, if development were to **eventually occur** next to other developed properties for instance the area between Tracy and **Mountain House**, the infrastructure costs would be moderated because of location, and the **pressure** to develop areas east and south of Tracy would be relieved, where farming is more viable.

I do not believe that it is fair or constitutional to designate certain areas for development and attempt to mitigate the environmental effects of the development by designating other areas for greenbelt. This would be a taking of property rights without choice and without compensation. If the developers or if a government agency wishes to use our area as a greenbelt they then should negotiate with each property owner to obtain these greenbelt rights, either by the purchase of an easement, or by outright purchase of properties from willing sellers. The rights purchased, if any, should not interfere with the historical uses of the neighboring properties.

Private property rights are an extremely important component of the American style of liberty. The U.S. Constitution pays great attention to private property rights. Please respect these rights when making your decisions.

My final point is that Mary Walker is not a spokesperson for my family's property. I wish to be informed the next time that the Old River/West Tracy plan is a point of discussion, as I'm sure my neighbors do also. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter. I am also sending this letter to the other Board members.

Respectfully,

Gary Reeve

cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]

cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]

cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]  
cc: [illegible]

cc: Patricia Reeve  
Homestead Land and Water Alliance ✓



# LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

## HOMESTEAD LAND AND WATER ALLIANCE SHARON VOTAW

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December 10, 2001

Dear Friend,

Twenty years ago residents along a one-lane road adjacent to the New River in West Virginia were promised a much-needed "upgrade" to that neglected road. Enter a "parkway" plan with all the promises that land would be taken only from "willing sellers", and to protect the natural resources, bring tourism dollars to the now defunct railroad/coal industry town of Hinton (WV). Sounds great, doesn't it? (It did, thus all the property owners supported the plan!)

Those same private property owners were then invited into AN ARMED, GUARDED room to be told the agencies were not only going to build a parkway but were taking EVERYTHING in the view-shed and giving it to the National Park Service, a parkway whose "preferred route " would completely by-pass the town of Hinton and destroy the natural resources of the New River in the Parkway's path!!

Can't happen in America, you say? Well, it IS HAPPENING and happening ALL OVER AMERICA! American citizens are losing their lands/homes/farms/fishing camps/livelihoods/historical and cultural traditions in agendas meant solely to strip them of each!

Wake up, Tracy, CA.....they want your land and how they get it has beautiful titles: "resource protection", "parkways", "parks", "refuges", biosphere diversity", "wild life protection", etc.--and all just to dupe an unsuspecting public into supporting just a private property land grab scheme. If you believe anything else, call me, I've got a bridge in Brooklyn I'd like to sell you!

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Roach, Charter Member: Sisters of the River  
3422 New River Road  
Hinton, WV 25951  
Phone: 304-466-2202  
["http://www.newriverfriends.org"](http://www.newriverfriends.org)

NOTE: This was sent to me from New River Parkway--note the name--the situation is quite similar to Old River Park. Just note the terminology. This taking of private property has got to stop. Please go to her website and read what happened there and join us in our fight for your rights and your children's rights here! When property rights and water rights fall under government control, you abdicate your free republic rights and become a feudal state, lacking any rights.

*Old River Ranch*  
*Jay and Sharon Nelson*

11th Road  
Stockton, CA 95204  
535-7974

July 9, 2001

*San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors*  
*222 E Weber Avenue*  
*Courthouse Room 701*  
*Stockton, CA 95202*

*Dear Supervisors,*

*We have lived on our ranch for thirty-five years. We've worked hard for it and we've worked hard on it for all of those years. Our roots are here. The first time I saw this place I said to my husband, "I could live here until I die". My friends are here. My husband built a house for us after living in the existing shack--which was the only home we could afford-- for twenty-five years. We are comfortable and happy working our ranch even though we are now retired from our other jobs and are on a limited income. Yes, we always worked two jobs each in order to build our ranch!*

*I have seen The American Dream change from "you can be whatever you chose to be" to "you deserve to own a home". I have seen the "Melting Pot" turn into the "Salad Bowl". These were not changes I welcomed. I still do not believe in them. My America is "the land of opportunity", not "the land of opportunists".*

*I never once thought that some person across town could gather signatures on a petition to turn my hard earned home into a park. I never thought I could be called selfish in the press for wanting to live out my life in my home. Please do not tell me about a long time-frame for this to occur. Please don't tell me how this will improve my lifestyle or my property values. You know it won't and we do not need to cover that ground again and again. There are ways to improve property values by rezoning and*

*designating us as a park is not one of those ways. I do not want to be rezoned. The majority of property owners along Old River do not want to be rezoned. We simply want to be left alone. I do not want my private property rights infringed upon for the benefit of others*

*I am not speaking for anyone but myself now. If the socialization of America has reached the point that anyone can come along and see your business or your home and petition to take it from you for what they consider just compensation over and against your protests, then it is time for me to consider giving up my citizenship and seeking out a place that values hard work and individualism. One that does not believe that the public deserves what the individual has strived to establish for thirty-five years. This is establishing an enormously dangerous precedent for everyone in the United States. No one would be safe from government or public seizure. This would remove all incentive to achieve. I hope that you five men will prove to me that the America I believe in still exists. If I have more land than the people who signed the petition to take my property do, perhaps I worked harder for it, perhaps I gave up more for it. Perhaps I deserve what I worked for--doesn't everyone?*

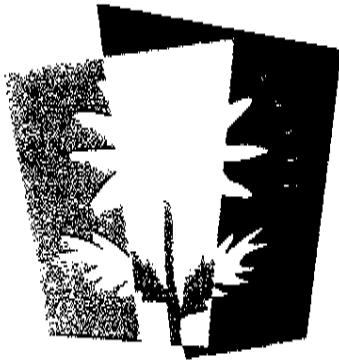
*Sincerely,*

*Guy Votaw*

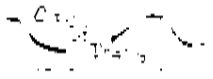
*Sharon Votaw*

*cc. Richard Pombo  
Diane Feinstein  
Barbara Mathews  
Ed Bradley*

# EXISTING PARKS



# COMMUNITY SERVICES



**Facility Rentals** - For more information, visit [www.ci.tracy.ca.us](http://www.ci.tracy.ca.us) or call (209) 938-2200. Facility rentals are available for community centers available for rental. These facilities are available for use for meetings, conferences and special events.

Continuity Center - 150 E. 10th St.  
 Tolly Hansen Senior Center - 175 E. 9th St.  
 The Mix - 1410 E. 5th St.  
 Tracy Public Library - 201 E. 10th Ave.

Restroom	Softball	Basketball	Soccer Field	Tennis Courts	Shade Structures	Grills	Fitness Path	Special
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Facility Information...

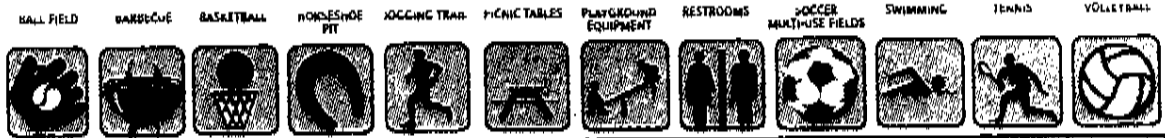


# Parks-Local

"May I Help?"



Continued From Previous Page



	BALL FIELD	BARBECUE	BASKETBALL	HORSESHOE PIT	JOGGING TRAIL	PICNIC TABLES	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	RESTROOMS	SOCCER MULTUSE FIELDS	SWIMMING	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL
<b>Ceciliani Park</b> Cypress & Hickory		•	•	•		•	•	•			•	
<b>Dr. Powers Park</b> Tracy & Lowell		•				•	•	•		•	•	
<b>Host Park</b> 3rd & Dale / Oak		•				•	•	•			•	•
<b>Kelly Park</b> Kelly & Jean Lane			•			•	•	•				
<b>Kemper Park</b> Kavanaugh & Golden Spr		•	•			•	•	•			•	•
<b>Larsen Park</b> Central & Ferdinand		•			•	•	•	•			•	
<b>Lincoln Park</b> East & Edison	•	•				•	•	•	•			
<b>McDonald Park</b> Central & 1st	•	•	•			•	•	•				
<b>Stevens Park</b> Tassalana & Alum Rock			•			•	•					
<b>Thomson Park</b> Sycamore & Cambridge		•	•		•	•	•	•	•			
<b>Tracy Ball Park</b> Tracy Bl & 23rd	•							•			•	
<b>Valley Oak Park</b> Lansdown & Honeycuckle			•			•	•					
<b>Zemke Park</b> Promenade Cir		•				•	•	•				

**Parks-Local**

"May I Help?"



	BALL FIELD	BARBECUE	BASKETBALL	HORSHOES PIT	JOGGING TRAIL	PICNIC TABLES	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	RESTROOMS	SOCCER MULTI-USE FIELDS	SWIMMING	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL
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<b>Address 858-2860</b> <b>Valverde Park</b> 5th St	•	•	•			•	•					•
<b>Address 239-4420</b> <b>Colony Park</b> Redwood Av & Cedar		•	•			•	•					
<b>Crestwood Park</b> Crestwood Av		•	•			•	•					
<b>Greystone Park</b> Union Rd at Louise Av	•		•			•	•					
<b>Hobbsland Park</b> Center St at Fremont Av		•				•	•					
<b>Lincoln Park</b> Powers Av at Yosemite Av	•	•				•	•	•		•		
<b>Meyers Park</b> Union Rd at Louise Av			•			•	•					
<b>Northgate Community Park</b> Northgate Dr	•	•				•		•				•
<b>Seneca Park</b> Waywood St & Locust		•				•	•					
<b>Shasta Park</b> Louise at Cottage		•	•			•	•					
<b>Southside Park</b> Locust Av at Yosemite		•				•	•					
<b>Union Road Park</b> Center St	•	•				•		•				
<b>Union West Park</b> Yosemite Av at Union Rd	•	•	•			•	•					
<b>William Martin Park</b> Northgate Dr			•			•	•					
<b>Yosemite Park</b> Yosemite Av at Locust	•	•				•	•					
<b>Address 599-2108</b> <b>South-Wingery</b> N Acacia Av	•					•	•		•			
<b>Mavis Stauffer</b> Stauffer St at Stanislaus	•				•	•	•		•			•
<b>Vermeulen</b> Azalea St	•		•		•	•	•		•			
<b>Veterans Park</b> Fourth & Locust	•				•	•	•		•		•	
<b>Address 831-4200</b> <b>Sally Herman Park</b> Quailmeadows & Golden Leaf		•	•			•	•					

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# SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES / PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

November 26, 2001

Dan Ray  
CalFed  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Delta Restoration Project, CalFed ERP Proposal  
Old River Committee

Dear Mr Ray:

This letter is to let you know that the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation would like to be added to the notification list for this project.

Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Petersen', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Joe Petersen  
Program Director

*Dan MO**Wendy Halverson,  
for your info.*

*916-654-9180*  
 Alexander Hildebrand.  
 23443 S. Hays Road  
 Manteca, CA 95337-8882

*Alex Hildebrand  
11/12*

November 1, 2001

Mary Walker  
 PO Box 1181  
 Tracy, CA 95378-1181

Dear Mary:

Thank you for giving me an advance copy of the ORC application for a \$2,419,000 grant from CALFED to be used to purchase an island within the sloughs that connect Old River, Paradise Cut, and Tom Paine Slough. This is to become a part of your proposed Old River Parkway. I assume that you are soliciting my candid comments on the proposal.

I do not doubt that this portion of the proposed parkway would be a nice amenity for urbans in Tracy, and I respect your good intentions. However, I believe that the merits of your proposal are overstated and not all valid. It may not be in the broad social interest to give taxpayer funds to a limited and possibly transient group to buy land in fee to manage as they see fit in perpetuity.

- 1) You suggest that farming in this area by private parties is not economic and will not be sustained, and that it, therefore, need not be considered as a continued use of lands in this area. This disregards the transient nature of depressed prices, and the need for more food as the population grows.
- 2) You assert that growing alfalfa is uneconomic. However, alfalfa prices were substantially improved this year. Furthermore, you state that alfalfa is an uneconomic crop yet you expect to continue to grow it after you buy the land.
- 3) You state that "pesticides are perceived as a necessary part of the growth of alfalfa", yet you propose that you will grow alfalfa without pesticides. Do you assume that farmers are stupid when they spend money to apply pesticide to an infection of "army worms"?
- 4) You assert that the permanent tidal flow control barriers will decrease circulation and exacerbate water quality problems in some channels. This is not true! The permanent barriers will substantially improve circulation and quality.
- 5) You cite and show pictures of many valley oaks in the vicinity and on the proposed property to be acquired. How can you claim that the acquisition will provide needed Swainson Hawk nesting trees?

- 6) You claim that although the perimeter of the proposed acquisition is rimmed with oak forest, the change of ownership will somehow increase shade and cause a significant reduction of water temperature in adjacent channels. How can this be true?
- 7) You assert that there will be an improvement in dissolved oxygen in adjacent channels. The use of barriers to restore circulation will be the dominant effect on dissolved oxygen. Again in your effort to justify your proposal you are "grasping at straws". The same is true when you claim that the acquisition will help to restore pond turtles.
- 8) You assert that the proposed acquisition will "aid in flood control". You offer no plausible support for this claim.
- 9) You propose to use "biotechnical methods to control erosion". You do not say whether there is an erosion problem at the site or whether you refer to land erosion or bank erosion from flood flows or from wave action. Nor do you indicate what methods you will examine that are not in study elsewhere.
- 10) You propose to study methods of erosion control on levees. There are no levees on the island that is to be acquired, and you do not state how or where you would make tests that are not contemplated elsewhere.

These and other assertions seem to imply that benefits claimed other than urban amenity are associated with a belief that the ORC is more competent than farmers, and more competent than other investigators of everything from erosion control, to determining and correcting whatever has caused a drastic reduction in pond turtles.

Lastly, there will be very serious consequences if we continue to convert private farm land and water to other uses no matter how worthy those uses may be. CALFED is taking very large quantities of land (and associated water) from the production of food for other uses. CALFED's plan plus the CVPLA and other reallocations of farm land and water will very substantially reduce our ability to feed the population by year 2025. This will be the cumulative impact of many small increments of reallocation. CALFED should not be encouraged to spend taxpayer money to foster these reallocations.

I am sorry to be so brutally candid, but want to be honest with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Hildebrand