



June 25, 2021

From: Laura Lee Lienk, Director, Watershed Institute, CSU Monterey Bay

To: Mr. Thomas Wiles

RE: Comments regarding GPA2020-001, RZ2020-001, SPR2020-006-Carr Lake Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

This letter is in very enthusiastic support of the three separate applications of the Big Sur Land Trust in regard to their proposal to establish and construct a new park and recreational facility on 73 acres owned by the BSLT, at 618 Sherwood Drive in Salinas.

1. General Plan Amendment 2020-001 (GPA 2020-001); Request to amend the General Plan Land Use and Circulation Policy Map by modifying the Bernal Street and Kern Street future extensions;
1. Rezone 2020-001 (RZ 2020-001); Request to rezone six (6) parcels consisting of 73 acres from "Agricultural – Flood Overlay (A-F)" to "Parks – Flood Overlay (P-F)"; and
1. Site Plan Review 2020-006 (SPR 2020-006); Request to construct a new park and recreational facility.

The Watershed Institute of CSUMB has been involved in habitat restoration and park and open space creation in the creeks of Salinas since 1994. Our restoration projects include creating natural habitats in Natividad Creek Park, Upper Carr Lake, Veterans Memorial Park, and Cesar Chavez Community Park. In those years of work, we have been impressed by how Salinas residents value parks and open spaces, as well as, contacts with nature. One only has to visit Natividad Creek Park early in the morning to see early morning visitors jogging and walking, and then to watch as waves of other residents come to the Park throughout the day. Parks are indeed a vital piece of the health and welfare infrastructure of a city.

Still, the Salinas lags far behind the national standard of 10 acres of parks for every 1,000 residents, with only 2.18 acres for every 1,000 residents. The Big Sur Land Trust proposal is to create 73 additional acres for city residents while at the same time bringing to reality a long held (since the 1960's) dream of the City to create a park in Carr Lake.

The three applications mentioned above represent major milestones in the process in the creation of the new Carr Lake Park. I encourage you, your office, your commissions, and the entire City process to approve these applications.

Please feel free to reach out to me for further comments or clarifications. llienk@csumb.edu
831-601-0588.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Lee Lienk". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Laura Lee Lienk