



February 8, 2011

Mr. James Benney
P.O. Box 446
Orinda, CA 94563

RE: Proposal for recognition and rehabilitation of the Volvon village, Morgan Territory

Dear Mr. Benney,

I have been asked by the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors to respond to the subject proposal from you that was received by the District on January 31, 2011. Based upon the content of the proposal, you should be happy to learn that the Park District is currently considering a prospectus for the development of a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Morgan Territory area. This will be the first step in a process that will take into consideration many of the ideas that are expressed in your proposal, as well as ideas from other stakeholders and interested members of the public. To allow this process to unfold, the current operations at the site will be maintained until there is an informed decision on any changes that should be considered. It is essential that the process proceed carefully but effectively toward determining the best management strategy for the site. In addition, because the site is on both Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and Park District properties we will need to coordinate with CCWD on implementing the recommendations of the Resource Management Plan and of course, we are also very concerned about the publicizing of the site and the potential impacts of volunteers or others on an area that is of great spiritual importance to the Native American community.

For these reasons, I must thank you, but forego your offer to organize and manage an all volunteer effort to remove fencing, non-native vegetation and monitor the use of the site. In the meantime, please be assured that the security of the resources in this area will continue to be a priority of the staff tasked with the day to day operation of these parklands. As the Resource Management Plan reaches a draft stage we will seek consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives and hold public hearings to assure that the plan is respectful of the people and their history, while providing educational and interpretive opportunities that will reinforce the significance of the site, without offending anyone. Obviously, this is a sensitive and complex issue that will take many years to be fully realized. Your proposed 100 year plan confirms your understanding of the time that should be the measure for this work. I hope that we can have your support and patience during the development of the Resource Management Plan and your participation as the plan becomes firm enough for consideration and critique.

Thank you for taking the time to communicate your thoughts and concerns to us on this matter and feel free to contact me directly should you wish.

Most sincerely,

Mike Anderson
Assistant General Manager, Planning/Stewardship & Development
510-544-2303

mikea@ebparks.org

cc. Clerk of the Board
Robert E. Doyle
Contra Costa Water District

Board of Directors

Beverly Lane President Ward 6	Carol Severin Vice-President Ward 3	John Sutter Treasurer Ward 2	Ayn Wieskamp Secretary Ward 5	Whitney Dotson Ward 1	Doug Siden Ward 4	Ted Radke Ward 7	Robert E. Doyle General Manager
-------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------------------------