

# Marin Audubon Society

May 18, 2006 P.O. BOX 599 MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599 MARINAUDUBON.ORG,

VIA FACSIMILE 5-18-06

Parks and Recreation Commission  
City of San Rafael  
City Hall  
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: LOCH LOMOND MARINA RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

ATT: CARLENE MC CART

Dear Commissioners:

The Marin Audubon Society appreciates the Commission's consideration of our comments on the recreation proposals for the waterfront area of the Loch Lomond project. Unfortunately, we have been unable to comment on the proposed recreation improvements until now except during the DEIR review. We are concerned about locating active recreational uses on and adjacent, to the Bay.

We have the following specific recommendations:

- 1) NO uses should be approved that would require the placement of any fill in the Bay. Any material that may be needed to repair either of the spits should be placed within the existing footprint.
- 2) High intensity activities should not be located on the spits. We are particularly concerned about a basketball court. The noise of play and balls going into the water would be disturbance impacts to any wildlife that may use the adjacent waters. Balls would inevitably get into the water which would either impact the bay habitat by floating around or depositing on the Bay bottom or necessitate people going into the water to fetch them. People entering the bay waters would impact the interfacial habitats and be a safety risk, and consequently liability risk for the city. Similarly, children's play grounds are noisy and children have been known to climb fences.

We recommend that both the East and West Spits as well as the breakwater be reserved for passive quiet activities such as walking, bird watching, and fishing. Lands on and near the bay should be reserved for water dependent, or at least water related, uses. Neither children's playgrounds or active sports activities, such as basketball courts, are water related uses. These, therefore, should be located elsewhere within the project site.

We support the establishment of a special district to ensure adequate maintenance and enforcement at the parks.

Sincerely,

Barbara Salzman, Co-chair  
Conservation Committee

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*