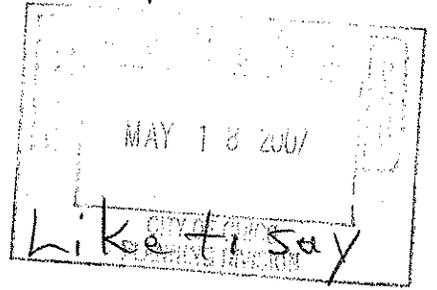


# INDIVIDUALS



5/17/07

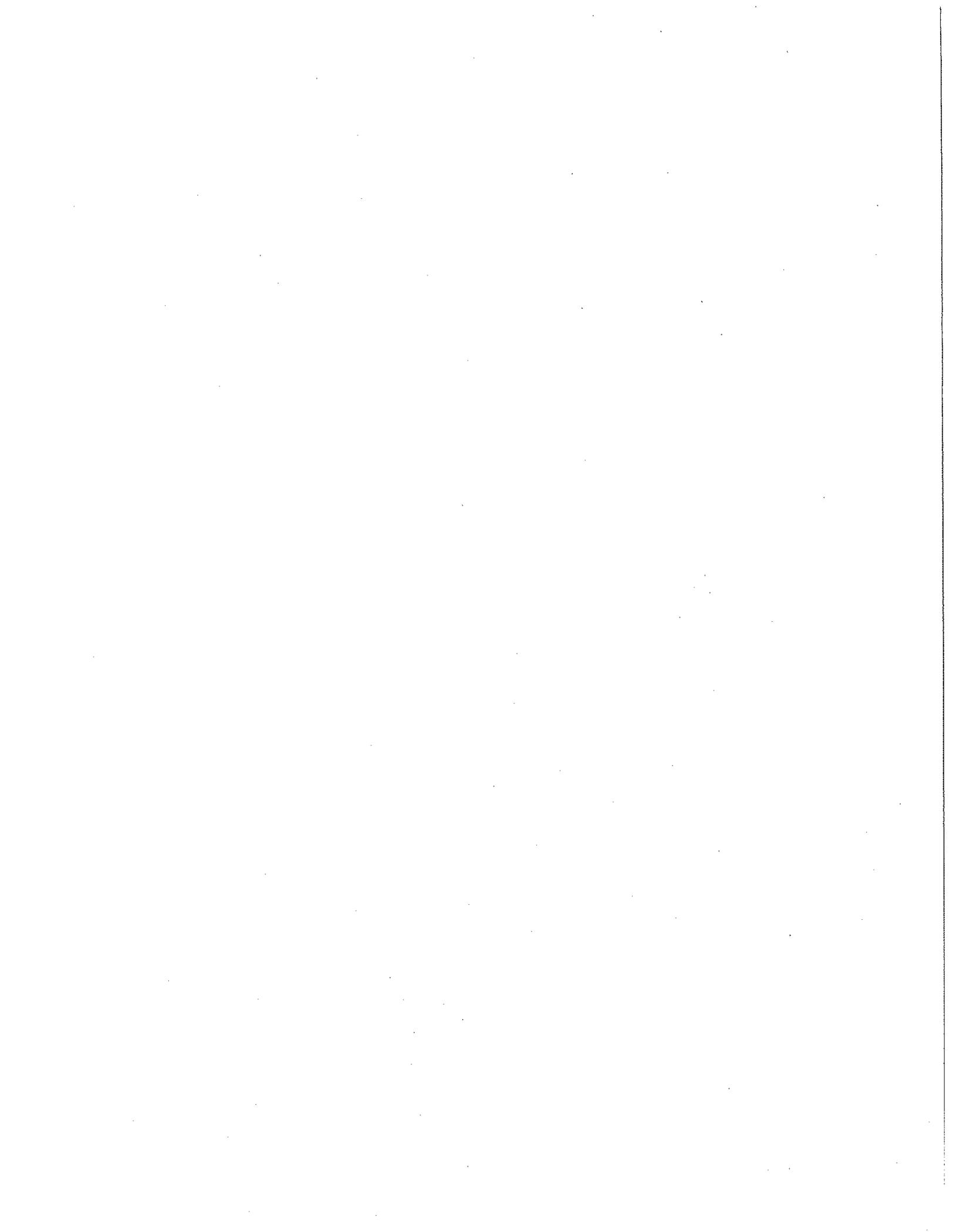
Dear Sirs,



My family & I would like to say that we are in favor of the disc golf course as layed out in the EIR & General Plan. It's present location is GREAT & it need to stay there for years to come & be enjoyed by all! It is a wonderful way for kids, teen, young adults & adults to get exercise & enjoy the beautiful park that the Bidwell's left us. Thanks for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Dennis, Jeff, Justin  
& Sarah Rolfs



**Brendan Vieg - Disc Golf**

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**From:** Mark <mark@cretedesign.com>  
**To:** <bvieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/12/2007 12:17 PM  
**Subject:** Disc Golf

---

I am writing about the newly released Bidwell Park EIR and the future of disc golf in upper Bidwell Park.

To offer you a bit of background, my 16 year old son and I have been playing disc golf for the past eight years, and have been playing amateur tournament disc golf together for the past three years through the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). My son and I enjoy the competition and the time we get to spend together playing and camping while attending disc golf tournaments. I want to assure you that my son and I have the best intentions and that we always respect the park rules, the land, and the facilities surrounding a disc golf course, as it is an integral part of the rules of life, disc golf play and personal conduct.

One of the problems we have locally is that the City of Chico has no tournament class courses for practice and events. I know that recently C.A.R.D approved a small course for the Hooker Oak Park Area. This small course will help redirect traffic from the current upper park site, and will be a excellent place for beginners to play disc golf, but is by no means a tournament class course. With the release of the EIR, the city council will be faced with the decision to either allow a disc golf course in upper park or remove the existing ones. Please keep these coursee where they are, and a give Chico the chance to become a world renowned place to play disc golf. Just to let you know, many top professionals, both locally, and from other states, and even the creator of the sport, Steady Ed Headrick, have visited and played golf in upper park. The reaction is always the same, one of elation and amazement (except for the archaic targets, and dirt tees). These players always say that if only we had the approved equipment installed, that the course would instantly on of the top courses of the world, and could potentially bring top professional and amateur players from around the world for major competitions. The presence of thousands of disc golfer annually traveling to Chico would more than likely help the community socially and economically.

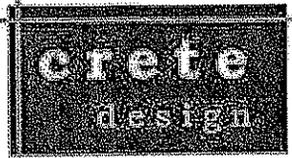
I realize that the EIR has many conditions to be met along with hard work and money in order to make our current home course a reality. We are ready, willing and able to step up to this challenge and I can assure you that when the course is installed my son and I will be the first people in line to volunteer our time, effort, and dollars to keep this course and the surrounding environment protected, clean and in shape. I have read through the EIR and I can see that the all the park improvements and the disc golf course improvements would be a great asset for the park and the environment as well. I am sure you will receive letters from a few citizens who feel this report has not hit all the issues, and will express the need for yet another more specific EIR. It is my opinion the only reason you will hear these arguments, is because the EIR did not turn out like they thought it should. Their expected result would have made it clear that any improvements and a disc golf course would have no place in Bidwell park. As it turned out, the EIR recommendations were clearly in favor of all the mitigation plans, and even went as far as showing how these plans would make things more protected and much better than if not implemented.

Please let me know how I can be of service in making a permanent course in upper park a reality. I have talked to hundreds of people that have expressed interest in keeping Disc Golf at the upper Park location, and would be willing to volunteer their time and effort.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Bohn  
POB 763  
Forest Ranch CA, 95942

530-828-6475



Architectural Design  
Structural Engineering  
ADA Consulting  
Interior Design

Architecture & Planning

**Mark Bohn**



**PROJECT MANAGER**  
PH: (530) 345-6676

2540 Esplanade # 12  
Chico, CA 95973  
www.cretedesign.com  
Timothy J. Crete  
Architect Lic. #C24094

**Brendan Vieg - Disc Golf in Chico**

---

**From:** Keith McCurry <k\_s\_mccurry@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <bviég@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/12/2007 1:10 PM  
**Subject:** Disc Golf in Chico

---

Dear Brendan,

As you are full aware, a large number of Chico residents have a thriving support for the sport of disc golf. We are so optimistic that the City of Chico will recognize all the positives that this sport has to offer to our community. As a student of CSUC I wish to pledge my support for the course in Bidwell Park, though I will be unable to attend the upcoming meeting.

Disc golfers respect and love the outdoors and have a great reverence for Bidwell Park. We feel that a permanent disc golf course in Bidwell would positively effect the City of Chico and Bidwell Park, and would, in its current location be considered one of the best courses in the State of California if made permanent.

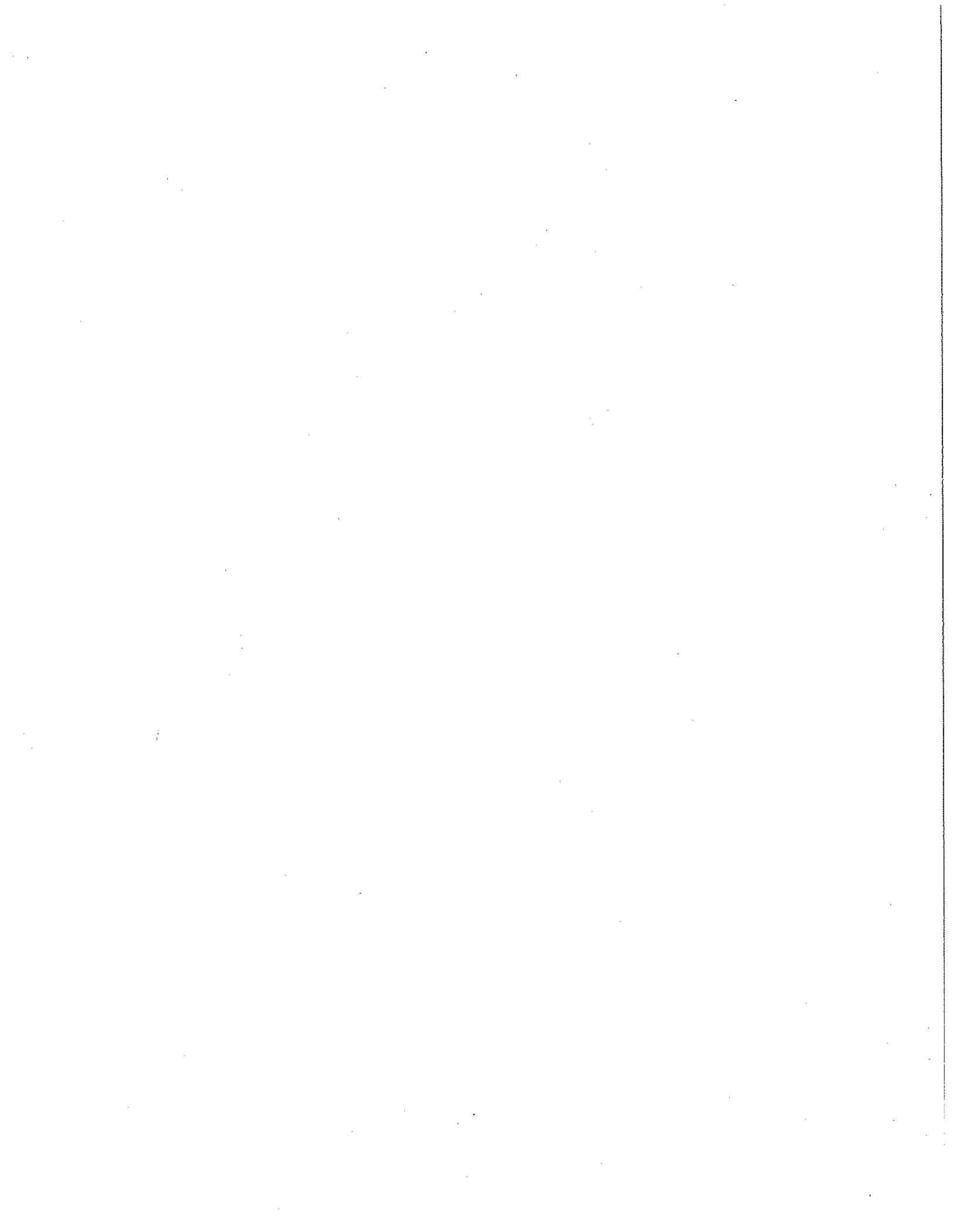
I concede that the current course does have its faults that can and should be mitigated, however, the current site has much to offer and I believe it should remain in place. I believe that Bidwell Park should provide for as many activities as possible and a permanent disc golf course would be a welcome addition.

Thank you for considering this issue and for reading my response.

Keith

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Don't get soaked. Take a [quick peak at the forecast](#)  
with the [Yahoo! Search weather shortcut](#).



**Brendan Vieg - disc golf**

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**From:** "Cori Gifford" <yahifarm@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <bviieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/13/2007 4:04 PM  
**Subject:** disc golf

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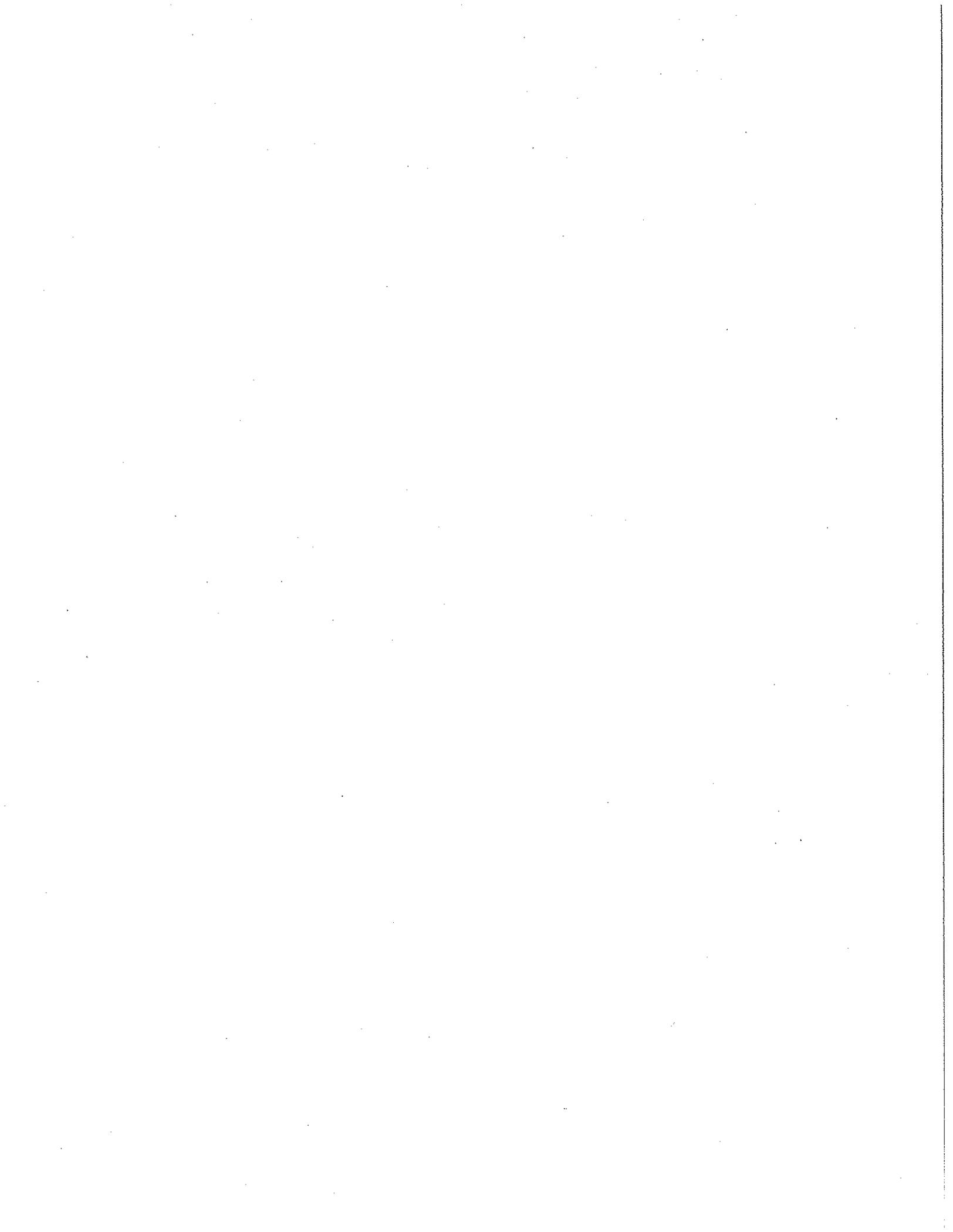
I'd like to weigh in with a few public concerns regarding the disc-golf issue with the new master management plan:

Would choosing the modified project of moving the short course to Comanche Creek ,or leaving the course as it is be subject to mandated ADA Accessibility Guidelines? There are surely some wheelchair athletes out there who would love access to a good game of disc golf.

I think the ADA passed sometime in 1990 and I'm not sure what exact date Chico is using as the beginning of the disc-golf course--would the date affect whether there should be ADA access?

Keeping Upper Park wild seems like a good idea to me, although I admit it has been personally challenging to weigh the different effects of other recreational activities such as regular golf, biking, hiking, swimming, etc. and their environmental effects when compared to disc golf. The fervor with which the two camps (for/against) have lobbied local press has been an interesting unfolding education on how we talk about resource management. As humans, it seems we often (unfortunately) need to be compelled by various agencies to protect our shared resources from/for ourselves.

The thing that troubles me about the pro disc-camp is the sense of entitlement reported in local media. Comparing the damage to oaks made by woodpeckers, wind, lightning, old age and disease as akin or worse to the damage made by flying disks. ?. The 'survival of the fittest" attitude toward conservation? Disc golf is a wonderful family activity--it can be played in many locations. The value of the viewshed of the current location is irreplaceable.



**Brendan Vieg - Disc Golf | support Option A**

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**From:** "Tony Chapman" <mail@tonychapman.com>  
**To:** <dpresson@ci.chico.ca.us>, <lcameron@ci.chico.ca.us>, <nkelly@ci.chico.ca.us>, <bvieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/13/2007 10:34 PM  
**Subject:** Disc Golf | support Option A  
**CC:** <chicodiscgolf@solutionscubed.com>

---

To whom it may concern,

I am a 30 year old professional that moved to Chico a little over a year ago from Portland, OR to take a job with a local company. In Portland I worked across from a Disc Golf course that was installed by the Intel Corporation as a recreational opportunity for it's employees and the surrounding community.

I would like to voice my support for and applaud the efforts that have been put into creating a nice recreational Disc Golf course in Chico.

One of the things that I really enjoyed about living in Portland was the abundance of nice parks where one could play disc golf. It is a great, low impact sport that people of all ages can play and enjoy.

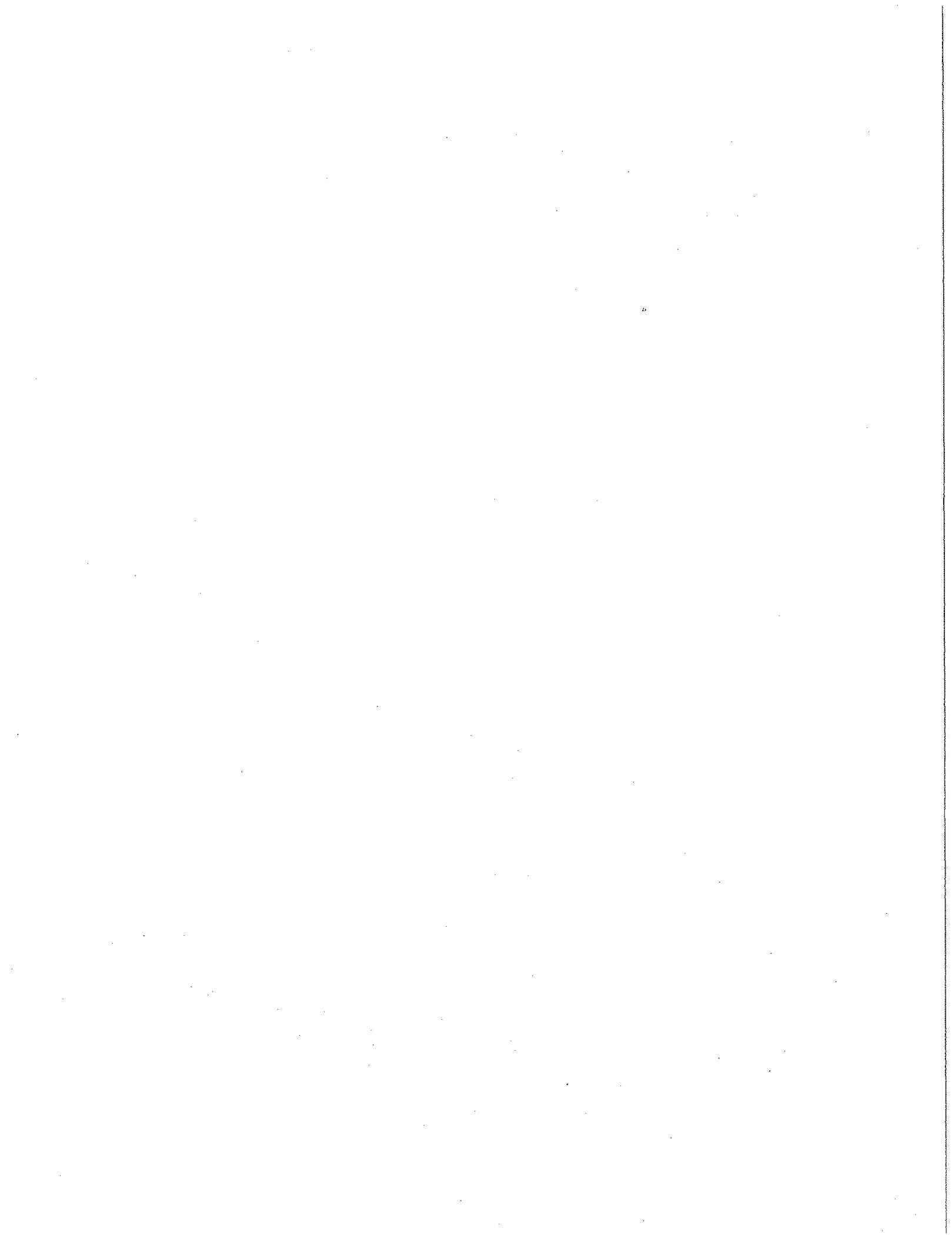
Chico has some nice parks but to my dismay the nearest decent Disc Golf course is in the new park in Oroville. Adding one to Chico would be a very nice addition to our outdoor recreation opportunities!

Please support the Option A (18 hole beginner course and 18 hole advanced) plan for a Chico Disc Golf course at the upcoming Council meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Tony Chapman  
[mail@tonychapman.com](mailto:mail@tonychapman.com)

P.S. Avid Disc Golfers have been know to plan entire vacations on hoping from one course to the next across the country. There are several websites that list courses different states.



**Brendan Vieg - Comments on the B.P.M.Plan update.**

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**From:** <The3Gairs@aol.com>  
**To:** <bviieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/14/2007 3:15 PM  
**Subject:** Comments on the B.P.M.Plan update.

---

Dear Brendon;

I am amazed at the thoughtfulness and professionalism exemplified in the B.P.M.Plan Update and associated documents. Congratulations to all the hundreds of people whose input created it.

I note that an audit of the park's trees and natural resources is called for but not elaborated on. You may already know that the Sustainability Task Force is planning a city audit and that I have suggested to CSUC and the Task Force that in conjunction with that work they could include the trees and natural flora and fauna of the park and the city.

The University of California at Davis and the American Forestry Commission and others have produced the **i-Tree** software on a free CD which manages such an operation. This has been used and piloted in cities, locally in San Francisco, and **provides a financial justification for the work of tree management and care; quantifying the benefits of CO 2 absorption, oxygen generation, particulate matter reduction, cooling, habitat etc.**

We are proposing extensions and amendments to the Chico Tree Ordinance at an upcoming Internal Affairs Commission meeting which will include a request to extend the ordinance to cover the trees in the upper and lower Bidwell Park.(see details on our website [www.treeaction.org](http://www.treeaction.org) ). This will bring to the public's attention how well, and thoughtfully those spaces are managed and bring the same level of care to the trees in the city; adding the advantage of transparency and the promotion of these activities to, and the education of ,citizens who at present have little idea about what goes on.

I live on the edge of the Lindo Channel and Bidwell Park and have had a close up view of what fire can do in this area. The Musty Buck fire is still fresh in my mind. It raced down into the upper Park and took 1100 acres of forest and a 'controlled burn' of grassland almost took out our new Fire Station with it .

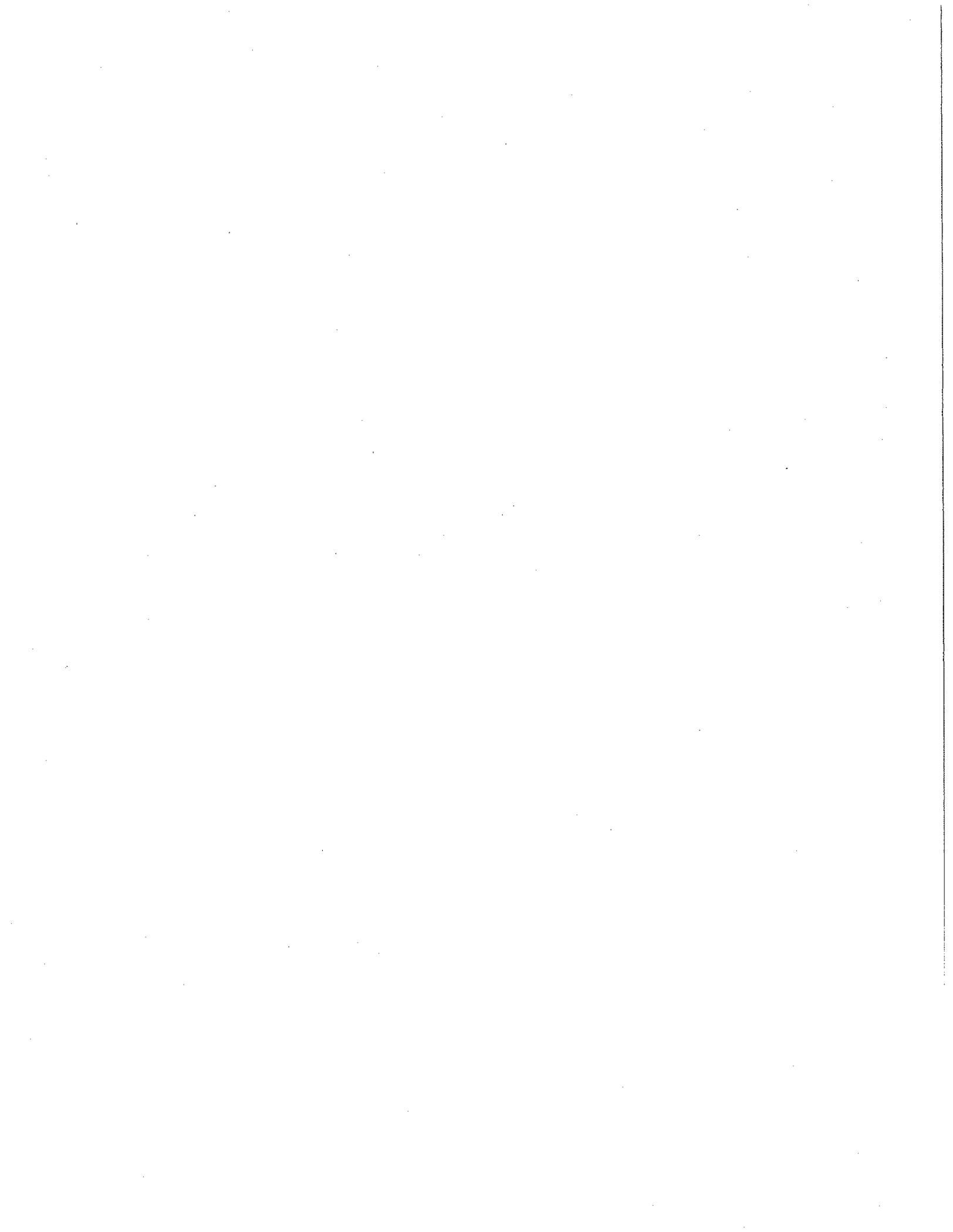
As Lindo Channel is still full of ladder fuels it reminded me to ask you to **give some urgency to the designation and creation of fire breaks in the upper park areas and create better access for large equipment.** Last time extensive emergency tree cutting failed to limit the fire as it raced over roads, levies and around playing fields. Anyone can see that we are on the verge of another bad fire prone period and the downed partly consumed trees are still on the ground.

Kind regards:

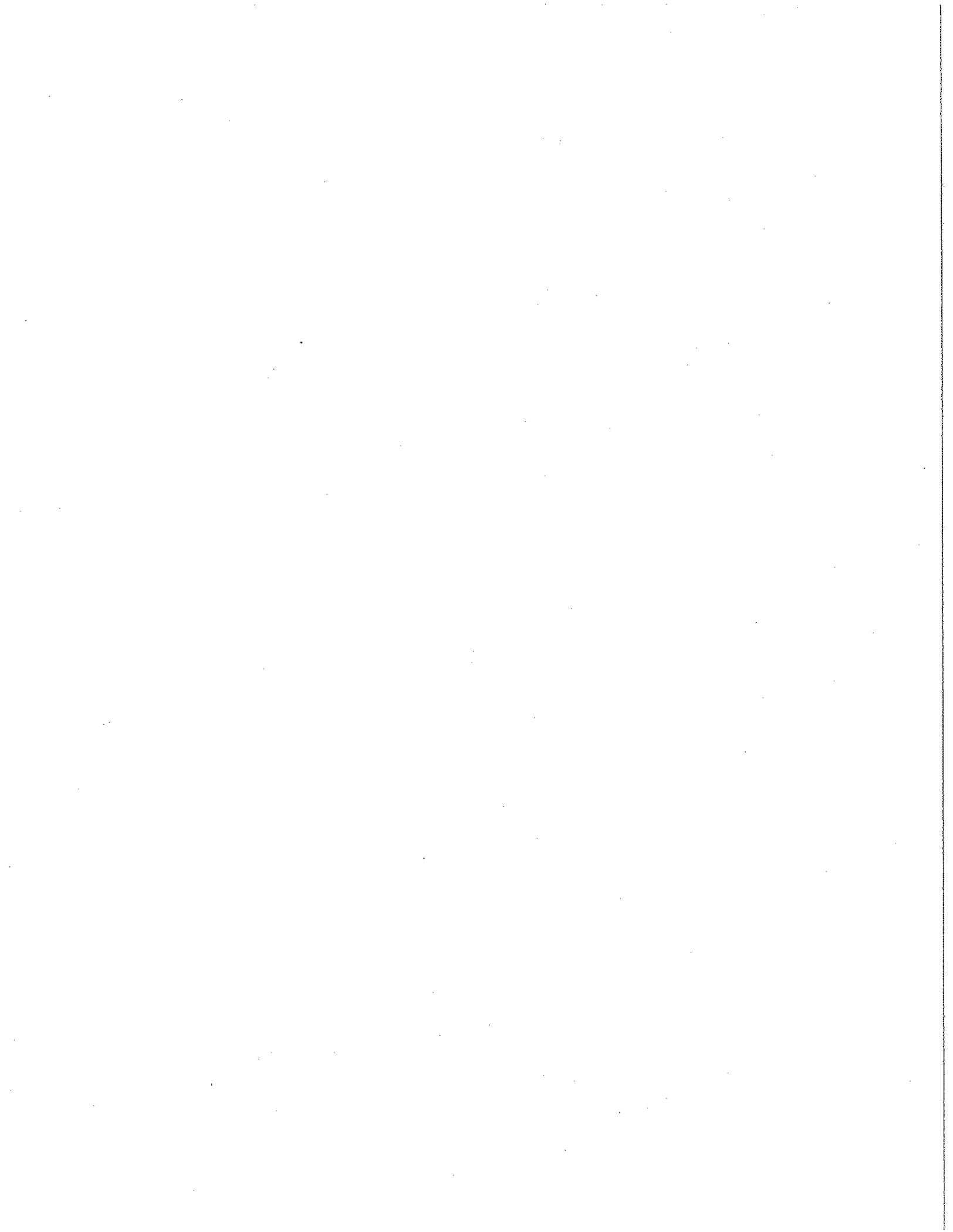
Alan G. Gair for TreeAction (see [www.treeaction.org](http://www.treeaction.org))

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See what's free at [AOL.com](http://AOL.com).



The attached letter from Andrew Conlin, a soil scientist with the NRCS, was submitted by Josephine Guardino at the July 13, 2007, Draft EIR Public Comment Meeting with a request that it be addressed as a comment in the Final EIR.





Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Chico Soil Survey Office  
P.O. Box 3300 717 Wall St.  
Chico, CA 95927  
530 343-2731

Dennis Beardsley, Park Director  
Bidwell Park and Playground Commissioners  
P.O. Box 3420  
Chico, CA, 95927

12/8/04

Re: Comments from the site visit to the disc golf course site on November 13, 2004

Dear Dennis and Park Commissioners,

There are two general soil conditions on the site of the existing disc golf course:

- The treeless grassy areas and the grassy areas with scattered blue oaks are usually on shallow soils that are 4 to 20 inches deep over very hard volcanic mudflow bedrock. The soil textures are loam with some clay loams and the topsoil is 1 to 2 inches thick.
- The areas with denser stands of blue oak, foothill pine and shrubs are generally on soils that are 20 to 40 inches deep, often over volcanic sandstone or volcanic conglomerate. The soil textures are loams over clay loams and the topsoil is 1 to 3 inches thick.

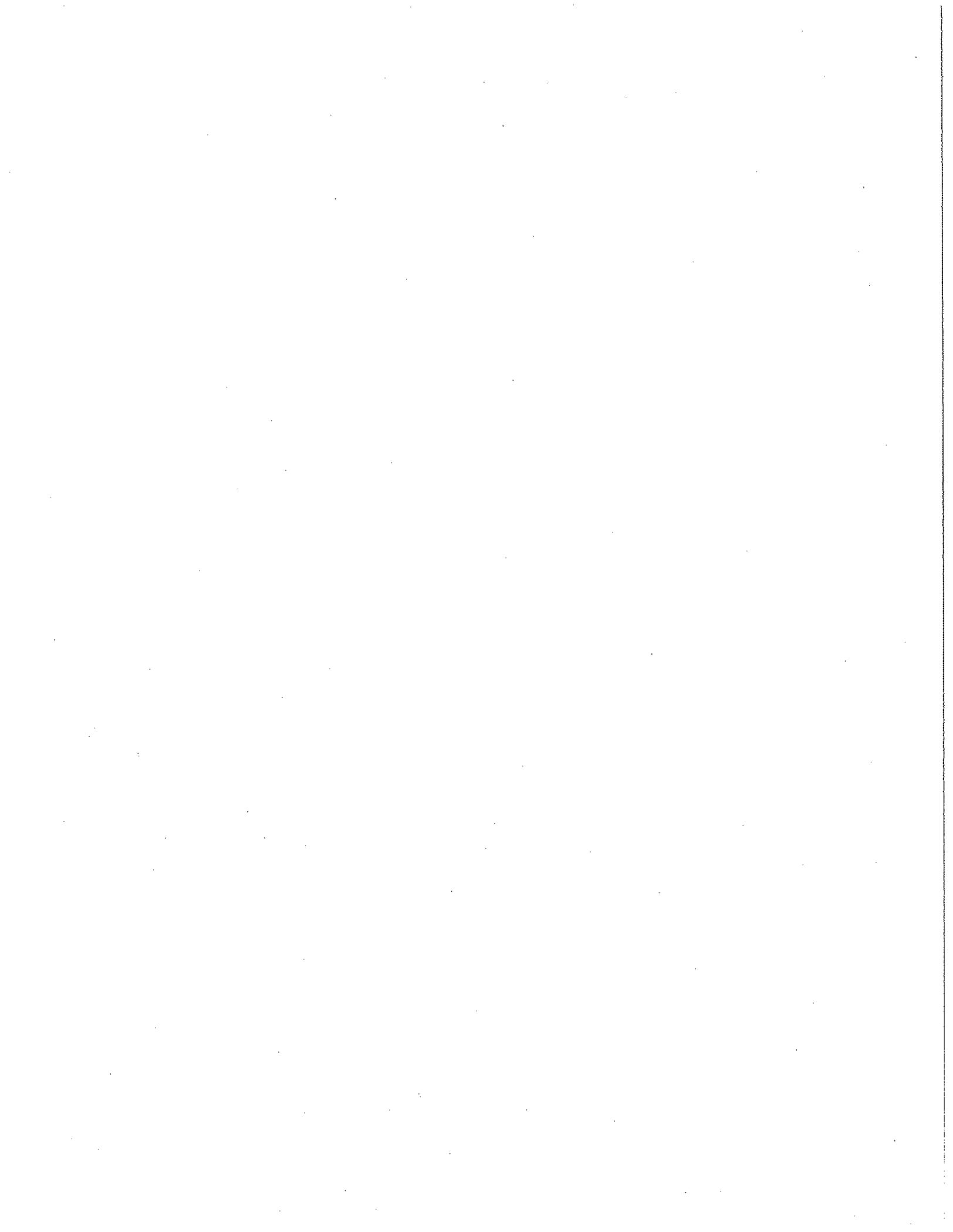
The morphological characteristics of a soil profile are identified by soil horizons A, B and C. The A horizon, or topsoil, is very important for the soil to function as a medium for biological and hydrological processes. In the topsoil, organic matter, microbial activity, and roots are concentrated. The soil structure and strength produced by the biological interactions in the topsoil are important for dissipating raindrop impact and allowing precipitation to infiltrate into the soil.

The horizons below the A horizon are generally called subsoil. These horizons have less organic matter and the associated biological activity, and are more critical for anchorage, water retention and root aeration. Soil quality, or the ability of soils to perform their biological and hydrological functions is dependent on the soil profile existing intact and in a sustainable condition.

What I observed at the site is widespread erosion of the thin topsoil and the compaction of the remaining subsoil. The resulting increased runoff is becoming more of a problem as the concentrated surface flow scours the soil as it flows down slope. These shallow soils have a very limited capacity to withstand intense use over a large proportion of a site.

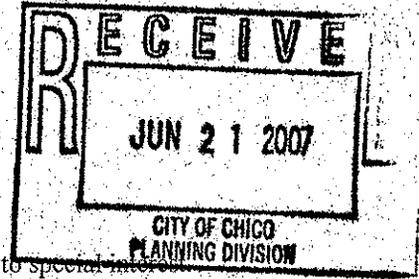
I have not observed this much surface area being degraded on similar land used for hiking, biking, or cattle grazing. The inevitable degradation that occurs on hiking and biking trails occurs in narrow corridors and does not usually impact the soil's functions across a site. Trail corridors can be designed and managed more readily than the wide fairways that I observed at this site.

Andrew Conlin, Soil Scientist, NRCS



June 21, 07

Brendon Vieg  
411 Main St.  
P.O. 3420  
City of Chico



Dear Mr. Vigg:

I am writing regarding the draft master management plan for Bidwell Park.

Upper Park is losing its charm and character. Wild and natural is giving way to special interest.

I'll pick on Disc golf first. Twenty-five acres is **Huge!** Damage gets done even with good intentions. Find a less fragile area and preferably on private land.

The night sky observatory is an eye sore. Everytime I enter the park this white building stands out in such an unnatural way. It is incredibly ugly shack in a beautiful spot. Too bad this happened. Let's make sure any further expansion is not an eyesore during the day for the other park users.

At least the gun club is brown and hidden in the trees. But then we know what it cost the city to clean up the lead from the horseshoe lake area. I'm sure at the time many people thought trap shooting was a good use for the park and would cause no harm.

And then there is the equestrian center. Again another special interest group having a piece of the park.

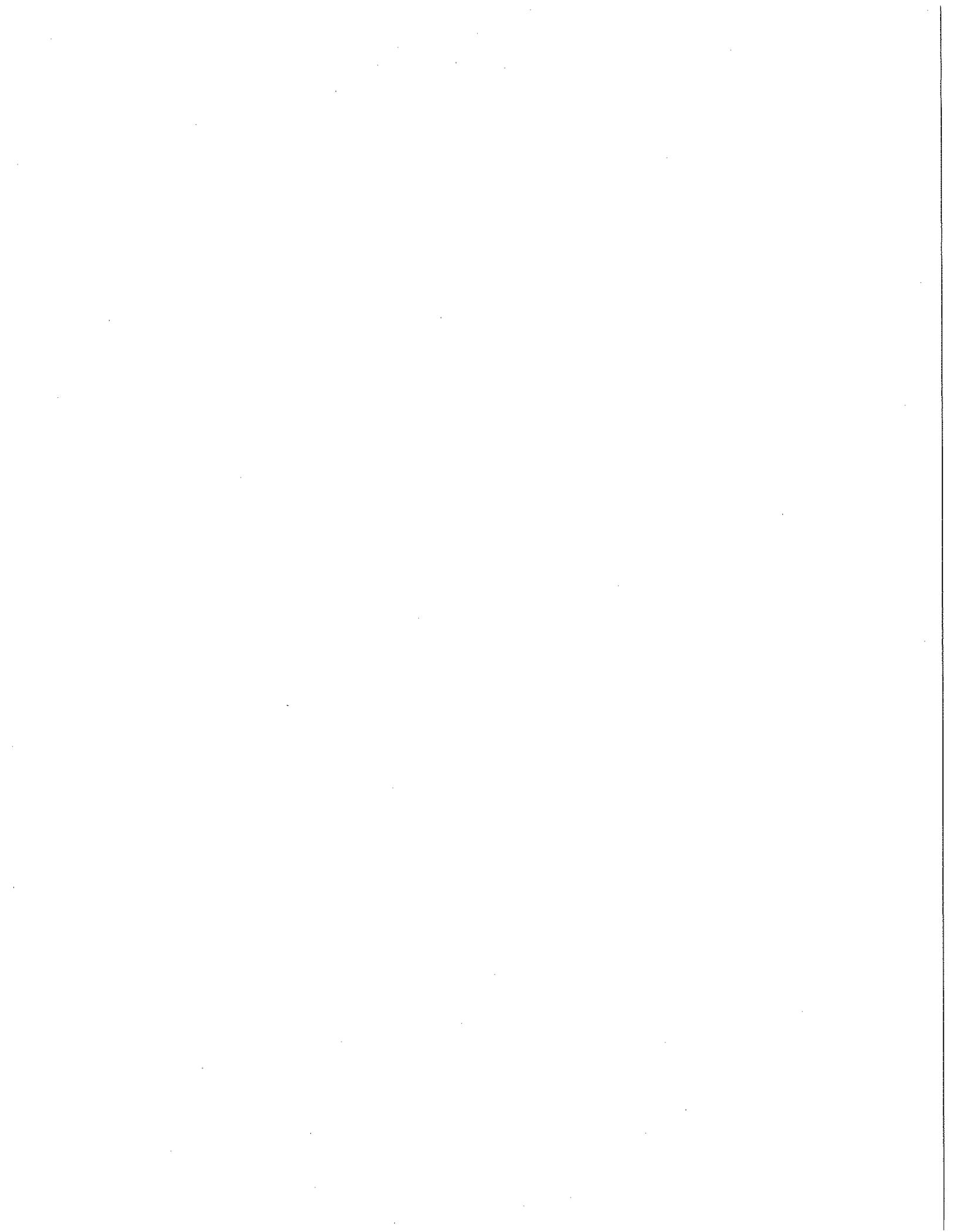
I sew with a group of 300 women who would like to take solar panels and hang them in the trees in upper park to power our sewing machines. Then we can enjoy the great light, commune with nature, and have models of flowers and trees for our quilts. I think we need 10 acres.

See the point? Lets stay with Annie Bidwell's intent and preserve our resource of a wild and scenic park for all of Chico.

No more piecing it out. It usually ends up in the deterioration of the area.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,  
*Betty Volker*  
Betty Volker  
Chico



## Brendan Vieg - Park Master Plan

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**From:** "Andy Tomaselli" <andytoma@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <bvieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/24/2007 5:14 PM  
**Subject:** Park Master Plan

---

Dear Brendan Vieg,

From houses being built in Upper Bidwell Park's view shed, to "improvements" made to the unofficial but de facto public disc golf course, aesthetics and natural ecosystems are being systematically weakened and deteriorated.

We've made concessions to an expansion of the public golf course, and allowed a planetarium/observatory built on once wild lands.

The pressure to develop the Bidwell Ranch property to the northwest of Upper Park continues to this day.

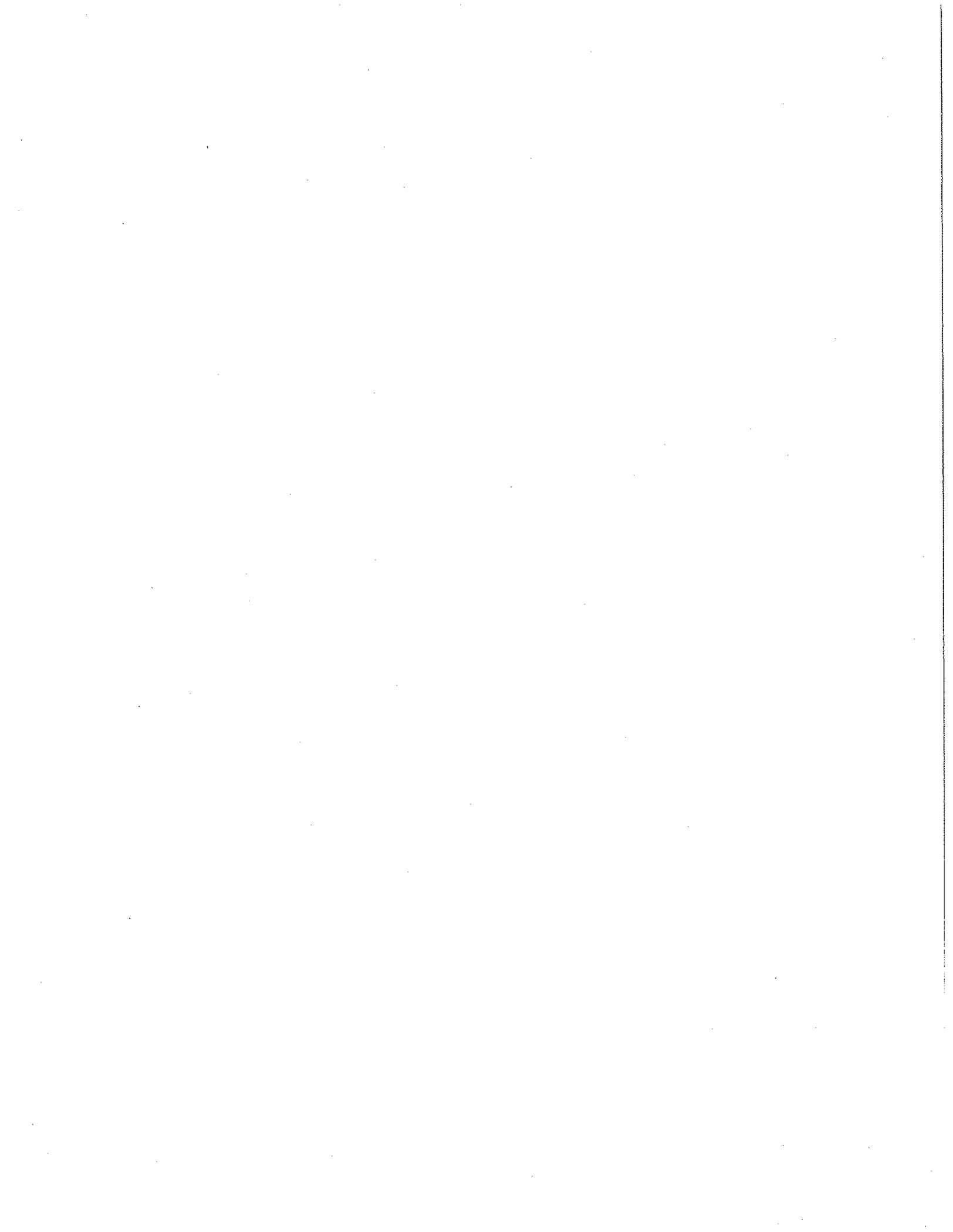
Mountain bike use and the pressure to build more trails continues to increase with an increase in population and off-road recreation.

Please consider the above when planning for our beloved Park's future. Please choose to keep it wild and natural.

Respectfully,

Andy Tomaselli 510 Alder St Chico CA 95928 530-899-3766

Andrew Tomaselli  
[andytoma@earthlink.net](mailto:andytoma@earthlink.net)  
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.



**From:** "Michael P. Candela" <michaelpcandela@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Brendan Vieg <bviieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/24/2007 7:02:46 AM  
**Subject:** Comments for the Draft BPMMP and EIR - Volume 1.

I respectfully suggest the following changes be incorporated into Volume 1:

Section 1.1.2. Delete the word "Expanded" and replace it with the word "Esplanade".

Section 3.3.1. The sentence should read "...the meaning or applicability....", rather than "...the meaning of applicability....".

Section 3.4.2. The last sentence appears to be incorrect. I believe the last sentence should be changed as follows:

"The BPPC determines policy interpretation, priorities and funding requests. The Chico City Council retains final authority to approve, overrule or modify the BPPC's actions and/or requests".

Section 3.4.4. In the last sentence of the first paragraph, delete the word "area" and replace it with the word "are".

Section 3.5.1. I respectfully suggest that the elderly and the disabled and/or physically challenged be included in I.DMM-11. (That it not be solely limited to "Youth").

Section 3.5.2.1. I suggest the following changes:

O.SLU-7: Insert the words "where feasible" in place of the words "when possible and or necessary".

I.SLU-3: Delete the word "should" in the second sentence and replace it with the word "shall".

I.SLU-4: Delete each "should" and replace them with the word "shall".

I.SLU-5: Delete the word "structural". Delete the word "should" and replace it with "shall".

I.SLU-6: Delete the word "should" and replace it with the word "shall".

I.SLU-7: Delete the word "should" and replace it with the word "shall".

I.SLU-17: Delete the words "only if" and replace them with the word "where". Delete the word "clear".

Section 3.5.2.3. I suggest the following changes:

O.RC-1: I suggest the sentence read as follows:  
"Provide recreational opportunities for Chico residents and others in the Park that currently are not provided for in other local settings, while balancing the need to protect the Park's natural resources".

O.RC-4: I suggest the sentence be modified as follows: "Provide for public access and recreation along Creekside Greenways, Park lands, and other public open space".

O.RC-5: Delete the word "resource" from the sentence.

I.RC-1: Insert the word "intensive" between the words "Developed" and "recreation".

I.RC-3: Insert the word "intensive" immediately before the word "recreational".

Section 3.5.2.5. I suggest the following:

O.AQU-2: Insert the word "inappropriate" immediately before the word "development".

I.AQU-4: There are two places in this sentence that refer to the "park". I believe the "p" should be capitalized in both places.

Section 3.5.3: There are several places in this section which refer to the "park". I believe the "p" should be capitalized.

Section 3.5.3.1: I suggest the following changes:

I.G/S-3: Delete the word "should" and replace it with the word "shall".

I.G/S-4: Delete the word "should" and replace it with the word "shall".

O.H/WQ-7: Modify the last sentence to read as follows: "Additional stormwater outlets into Big Chico Creek shall not be permitted.

I.H/WQ-3: The last part of this sentence should read as follows: "...pumping of Big Chico Creek water for irrigation and other purposes shall be phased out, except for use by the Bidwell Golf Course and to fill and/or maintain Horseshoe Lake".

Section 3.5.3.2: I suggest the following:

O.NC-2: The last part of the sentence should read as follows: "...and require mitigation of negative effects on resources".

O.NC-6: Delete the words "or tends".

I.NC-3: Delete the word "should" and replace it with the word "shall".

O.P-1: Delete the word "possible" and replace it with the word "feasible".

I.P-3: Delete the word "possible" and replace it with the word "feasible".

Section 3.5.3.6: I suggest the following change:

O.RA-3: Capitalize the "p" in the word "park".

I.PRU-7: Delete the word "should" and replace it with the word "shall".

I.PRU-8: Delete the word "should" and replace it with the word "shall".

Section 3.5.4.3:

I. Rstrm-1: Delete the words "should" and replace them with the word "shall".

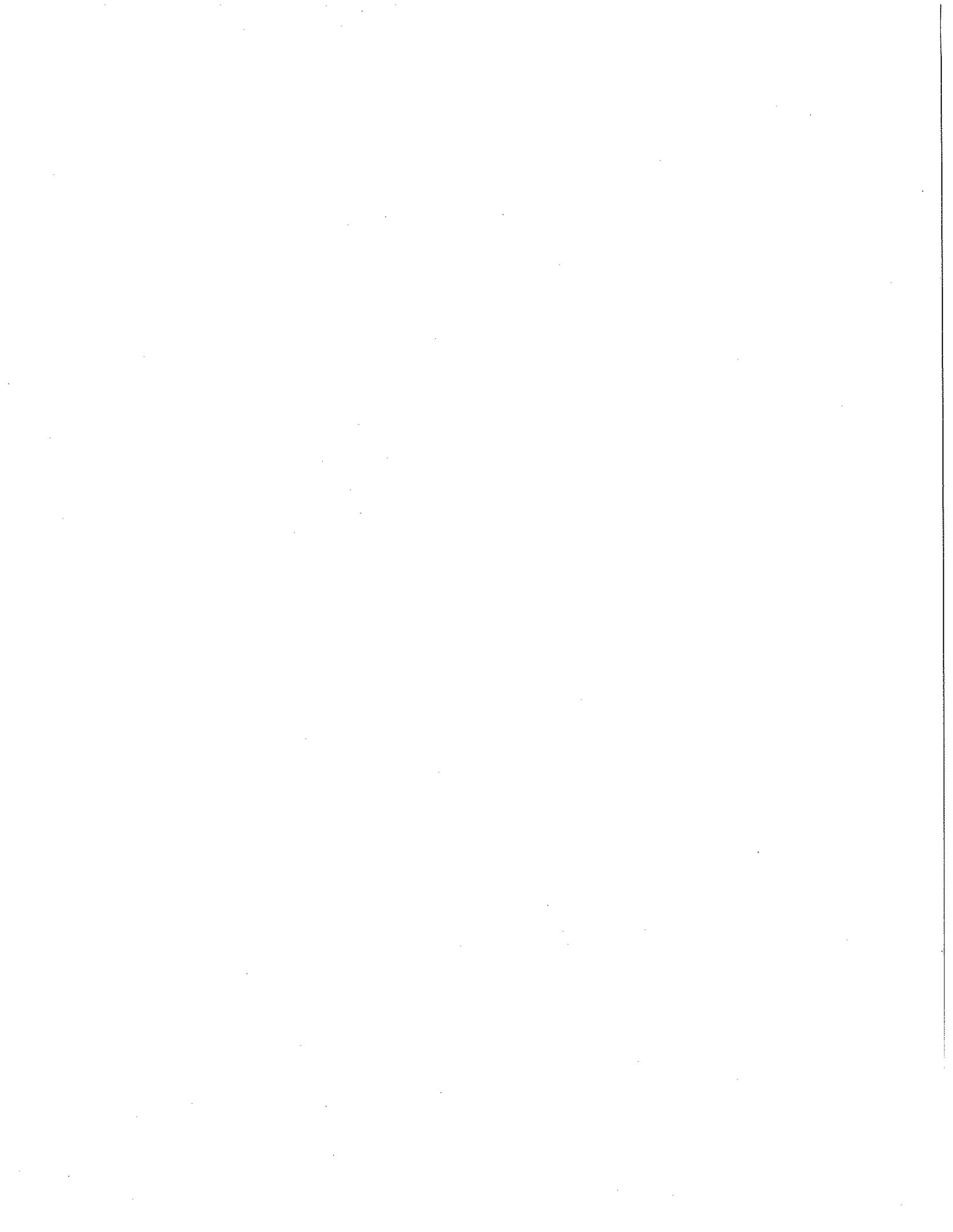
Sections 3.6.3.1: I am somewhat confused as driving is listed as a "more intensive use" in this section. However, driving is listed as a "non-intensive recreational activity" in sections 3.6.1.1 and section 3.6.2.1. I would suggest deleting the word "driving" from section 3.6.3.1 altogether to avoid any confusion.

#### APPENDIX G CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN:

Page G-1: The fourth paragraph states that 49 parking spots will be created. But then it goes on to list 45 standard spots and only 2 ADA spots. Exhibit 1 shows 45 standard spots and 4 ADA spots. Thus, I believe, page G-1 needs to be corrected to state there will be 45 standard spots and 4 ADA spots.

Thanks Brendan!(I'll send my comments regarding Volume 2 later today in a seperate e-mail).

Mike Candela



**From:** Tom Nickell  
**To:** DBEARDSL@ci.chico.ca.us  
**Date:** 6/25/2007 9:16:53 PM  
**Subject:** Bidwell Park Master Plan

Dennis, Thank you for the time to read my suggestions to the BPMP.

Remove Upper Park Disc Golf at sr-32  
Close all Upper Park to vehicle traffic, starting at HorseShoe Lake, and only allow ADA Visitors, and School Program  
Hire Law Enforcement Retired Police to supplement the Park Rangers  
Keep Bidwell Park rustic in all improvements  
Strengthen the "Tree Ordinance"  
Protect all native plants, vernal pools, eco systems, wildlife, and natural habitat  
Protect all Visual Resources, and Scenic Characteristics, and no development on the ridge or involving Upper Park.  
Keep the Volunteer Coordinator position to promote the BPMP Plan

There is more to come...TOM NICKELL

**CC:** GJones@ci.chico.ca.us,dpreson@ci.chico.ca.us

**From:** Tom Nickell  
**To:** DBEARDSL@ci.chico.ca.us  
**Date:** 6/25/2007 9:31:38 PM  
**Subject:** Part two of my BPMP

THERE IS NO TEETH TO THIS PLAN!!! IT IS KNOWN THAT IF THERE IS NO TEETH, DON'T SEND IT TO ME!!

THESE ARE THE FOLLOWING AREAS WHERE; "SHALL" WILL BE!!!  
DMM.3,I.MC1,2;O.SLU2,3;I.SU3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,16,17,18;I.RC4;I.AQU1,2,3,4;I.PR2,4;I.G/S1,2,3,;  
I.G/S5 (REMOVE SPECIAL REC. PROGS FROM  
AREA;O.H/WQ6,7;I.H/WQ1,2,3;IAQ1,2,3;O.NC1.2(BMMP  
SHALL);O.NC3,4,5,6,7,8,;I.P2,3,4,5,6,7,11;I.P-9(DENY ALL VEHICLE TRAFFIC);  
I.IP1,2,3,4,5,6,7,;I.TW1,2,3,;I.AR1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,;I.PF3;I.EB1;I.I/E1;  
I.F3;I-SE2;I.RR3;I.VR1,2,3,4,5,;O.VS1(ALL  
VIEWSHEDS);I-VS1;I-NS1;I-RA1,2,3,4,5,;I-T3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,;I-PRV2,3,4,5,9;I-F1,2,3,4  
,5,6;I.C/A7,8,13;  
1PARKING1,2;O U/S-1 1,2;PS/ES1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,; I-R1,2,3,4,5,6,;  
I-V1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,;I.D/S1,2,3;  
WILL SEND YOU EMAIL NUMBER 3.....3 TOM

**CC:** GJones@ci.chico.ca.us

**From:** Tom Nickell  
**To:** DBEARDSL@ci.chico.ca.us  
**Date:** 6/25/2007 9:46:05 PM  
**Subject:** THIS IS PART THREE OF THE EMAIL

Dennis, you are a true camper in my book!  
Here is somemore for the consultation.

PLANT OBJECTIVES

O.P.3 ecosystems, habitat, environment shall be added  
O.P.6 All traffic  
O.P.7 Close to all recreational activities

OTW-2 ISOLATE AREAS WHERE ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIIES NEST  
OTW-4 ALL (OF)

O.C/A2- ELIMINATE, NO VEHICLES  
O.PARKING2/3 ADD ELIMINATE'  
I-L1 ADD ELIMINATE (MINIMIZE)  
I-OU1 ROENT PROOF BINS  
I-M14,15,16--NO ELIMINATE  
O-UPPER5- REMOVE  
I-UPPER NO ON ALL 3,4,5,6,12,13,14,15

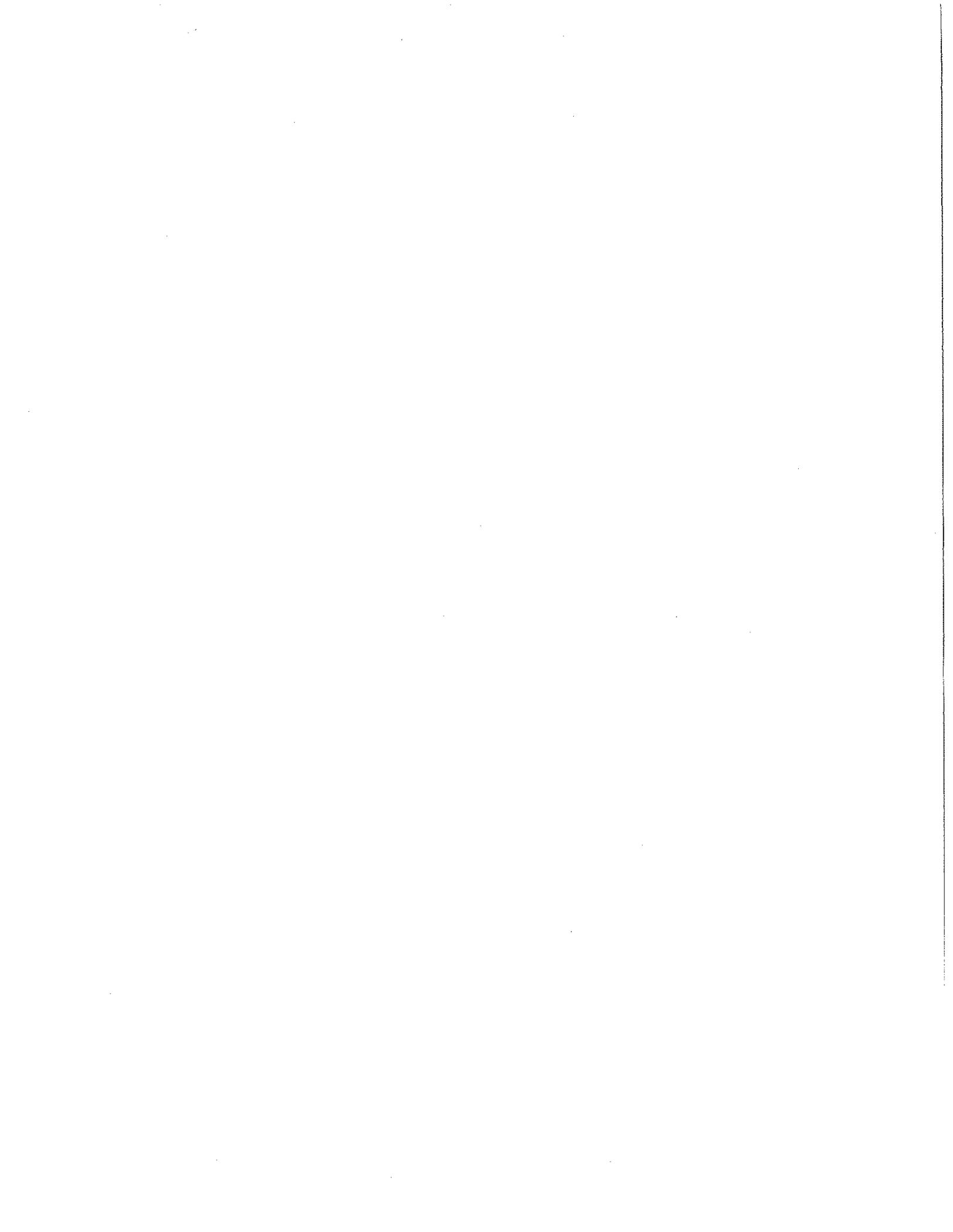
IN REFLECTION OF THE E.I.R. TH ERE IS NO "TEETH". AGAIN I SUGGESTED THAT THE SHALL  
BE, AND WILL BE "SHALLS" IN THE BPMP, AND THE EIR.

Dennis, you and your staff are working your tails off and it is greatly appreciated dealing with a new pup on  
the City Council. You and your staff have my greatest respect for the jobs that you do!!

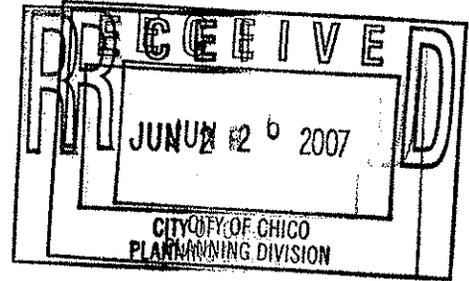
Thank you so much,  
TOM NICKELL

O

CC: GJones@ci.chico.ca.us



John B. Copeland  
374 Brookside Drive  
Chico California 95928  
June 25, 2007



Brendan Vieg,  
City of Chico Planning Services Department  
P. O. Box 3420,  
Chico, CA 95927

Comments related to environmental concerns and the Draft EIR for the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan update

It difficult to comment on parts of the Draft RIR where items in the EIR are referenced to the BPMMP update. In the case of Park Improvement Projects (E2.2.2)( page 19 of 597) alternatives considered refer to appendix H of BPMMP to explain what alternatives are offered. I hope the reader of these comments will understand that the Draft EIR seems incomplete and hard to follow by an unsophisticated reader.

BPMMP Appendix H (p 335 of 382) notes that Disk Golf degrades wild flower fields growing on shallow Tuscan soil. Bare soil is progressively eroding and compacting. Trees are suffering from the compacted soil and being struck by discs. Professional Disc Golf Course consultant Michael Belchik (BPMMP 335 of 382) recommended three alternate course layouts: Alt A: Redesign short and long holes, each 18 holes. Alt B Redesign short course to 12 holes and redesigned long course. Alt C: Redesign single long 18 hole course for advanced players. Alt C is designed to reduce but not eliminate the impact on special interest plants checker-bloom and Bidwell's knotweed by moving fairways and paths to generally avoid them

Professional Consulting Arborist John Lichter (DEIR 337 of 547) was contracted to provide expert advice on managing and preserving blue oaks. He reported that disc golf is impacting the health of the trees due to soil compaction and branch tip loss He noted that the proposed courses, (of Belchik), will affect additional trees (342 of 547) which were not previously affected. Two of his recommendations were: 1) Install and maintain at least 6" of coarse woodchip mulch within the protection zone (twice the drip line area) of all blue oaks which are currently undisturbed and within the tee, fairway or pin of proposed course. 2) For trees with existing soil disturbance, during the winter, when soils are moist (and not wet), utilize a pneumatic excavator to pulverize the soil within the tree's root zone, and then apply woodchip mulch as recommended above. He also recommends cement tees. Lichter's recommendation to place 6" of mulch around each affected tree indicates no awareness or concern that this action would prevent the growth of forbs and thus destroy the fields. of annual flowers.

The wildflower fields in the Disc Golf Trailhead Area are very unique (84 of 547). These fields are considered to be "sensitive natural communities" by DFG and CNDDB It is

suitable habitat for Bidwell's knotweed with a high priority for protection. There is no way to mitigate this situation

The DEIR conclusion for the Disc Golf Trailhead Area recommends the Restoration Alternative as the best choice. Second choice would be concept "C" with an added new course developed on the Comanche Creek property currently owned by the city. I would suggest that other city owned property be considered for a future site for the advanced disc golf course. One possibility would be on either or both sides of Lindo Channel between Longfellow Bridge and Manzanita Bridge. Another would be Bidwell Ranch-above the vernal pools

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith B. Copeland".

June 25, 2007

To: Brendan Vieg  
Chico Planning Department

From: Scott Chamberlain

Re: Comment on Draft Bidwell Park Master Management Plan

1. General comments on Disc Golf/Trailhead Area Concept Plan:

- a. I fully support and agree with implementing the environmentally superior Restoration Alternative. The Modified Disc Golf Plan and the No Project Alternative options do little to improve the poor environmental state of the Disc Golf area.
- b. I would however, be in support of developing a disc golf course at the Comanche Creek site in Chico. A course at the Comanche Creek site would be much more accessible to a wide variety of people, rather than to people only owning cars. A course at the Comanche Creek site would allow people to easily ride bicycles to the course, creating a very low impact sport overall.
- c. Environmental integrity of sites within the city (e.g., Comanche Creek) are generally lower than that of sites outside of city limits, where chemical, noise and light pollution are at their most extreme. Thus, a course within Chico would have less environmental impact than a course within Bidwell Park.
- d. To offset the loss of environmental integrity of Upper Bidwell Park, there should be a fee for playing at the course. Integrity involves things that will never be surveyed by a mere consulting firm, such as below ground insect fauna that are extremely important for litter breakdown and ecosystem nutrient processing. These fees (even very minimal) could be used for restoration at the Disc Golf Course or elsewhere in the park. If the course was in a place like Comanche Creek fees would not be required, as the environmental integrity there is likely already compromised due to water, noise and light pollution.
- e. Animals are much more likely to be deterred from using the Disc Golf Course area if it continues to be used, especially if a parking lot is put in.
- f. Other large and magnificent city parks (e.g., Forest Park, Portland, OR) do not have disc golf courses in their parks. Neither should Bidwell Park.

2. Comments on Park Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Implementing Strategies and Guidelines:

- a. Page 3-1, second paragraph from the bottom: The sentence "*The outstanding viewshed of Bidwell Park is protected*" should be taken out of the "Bidwell Park Vision", given the development project south of the park that the City of Chico Planning Commission allowed to happen. Some of those houses are enormous, and were built on purpose that way with the city of Chico's permission. At least be honest and remove this sentence from the Bidwell Park Vision, or state that the viewshed was nice in the past, but has recently been severely degraded. Hopefully no more development projects will be allowed that compromise the viewshed of the Park.

- b. Page 3-10 & 3-19: I strongly support SLU-5, to protect the park from invasive plant encroachment. I further suggest that the city of Chico attempt to prevent properties that border the park from having known invasive plants that will no doubt invade the park (which is suggested in IP-7 on page 3-19).
- c. Page 3-20, TW-5: Although I applaud this attempt to control invasive bullfrogs, I would suggest making sure that no sensitive species would be harmed by draining the pond at Ten Mile House.
- d. Page 3-51 to 3-52: I don't see how Upper-1 and Upper-7 are compatible with Upper-4 and Upper-5. I strongly encourage a resource inventory as proposed in Upper-6.

Sincerely,

Scott Chamberlain  
2018 ½ Bissonnet St.  
Houston, TX 77005  
(former Chico resident of 6 years)

TO: Mr. Brendan Vieg  
City of Chico Planning Services Department

FROM: Suellen Rowilson, R.N.,  
P.O. Box 3212 Chico, CA 95927-3212

RE: DEIR for the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update (BPMMP)  
Comments, June 26, 2007

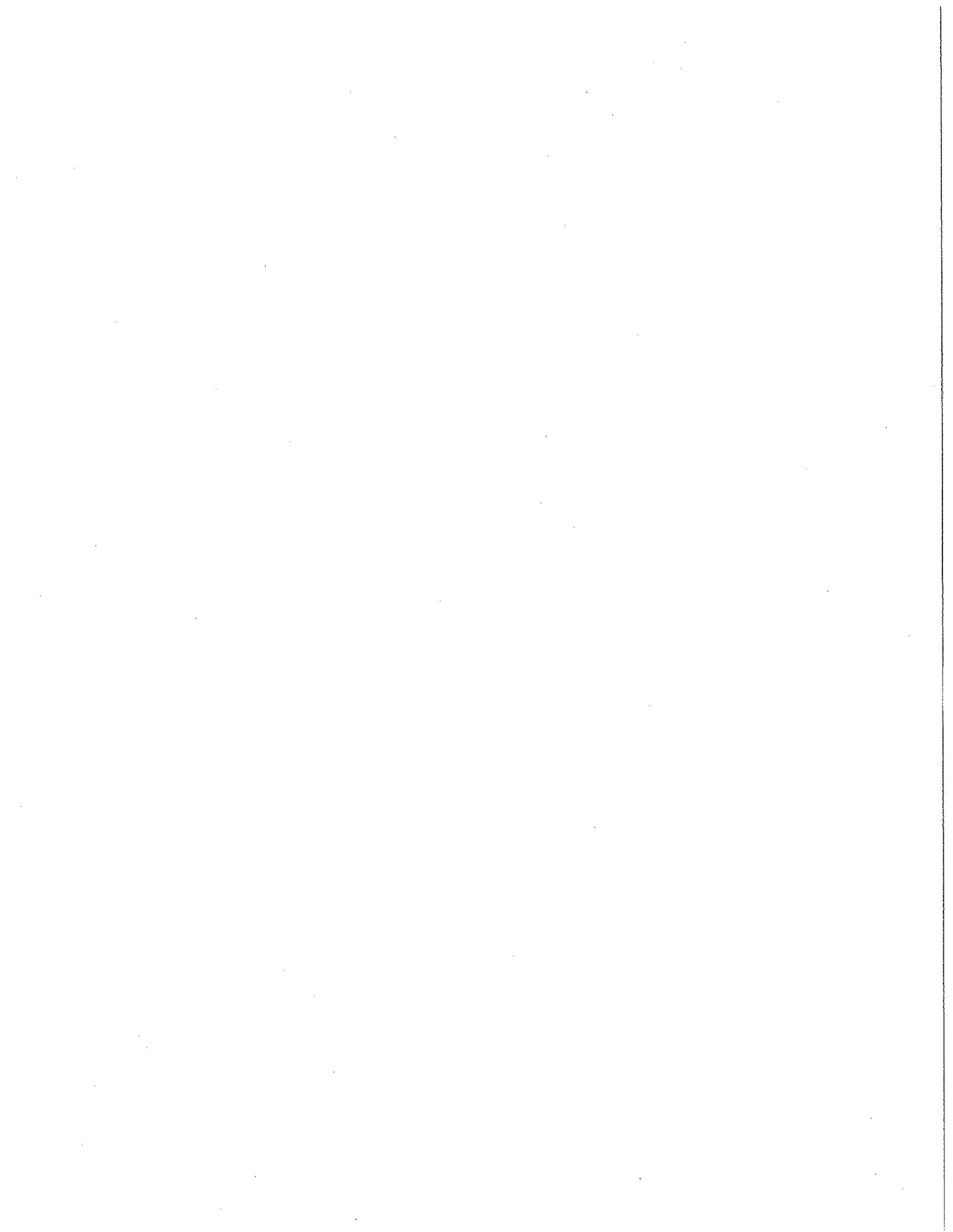
My comments reflect a concern for California native plants and their habitat. The BPMMP seeks to reach balance between care of the native landscape and public use. Upper Park is in a more natural state, but further development and lack of sensitivity to biological resources will erode this treasure for future generations. Consider Yosemite National Park which is now reverting to a more natural state after years of infrastructure development and its effect on wildlife and landscape, air and water quality.

1.) Disc Golf alternatives A, B, C in Upper Park all have significant impacts that cannot be truly mitigated to insignificance. Soils will be compacted, whether it is concrete pads or woodchips, which inhibit plant growth. Blue Oaks will continue to be sliced by spinning discs and eventually die and not regenerate. How will Blue Oak Woodlands truly be mitigated beyond insignificance?

2.)E5.2.5.2, the Restoration Alternative is the best compromise, but how are we assured that even this will not cause significant impacts? How will cultural resources be protected, ie. old Humboldt Road and the rock wall?

3.) A Special Status Plant Survey was done in the Disc Golf area, but what about the areas for proposed Trails? Spring surveys need to be done to avoid trampling Butte County Checkerbloom, Bidwell's Knotweed and many other gorgeous displays of wildflowers and vernal pools and wetlands.

4.) Table E5.3.1.1-1, Traffic 1- NI- No impact, 4bCirculation, PS- Potentially significant. If the Disc Golf area off of Hwy 32 becomes official, won't traffic be increased, especially if regional tournaments are held? Wouldn't a turn lanes and acceleration lanes be needed for highway safety?



**Brendan Vieg - BPMMP Draft EIR**

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**From:** "John Merz" <jbmerz@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** <bvieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 6/26/2007 4:36 PM  
**Subject:** BPMMP Draft EIR

---

Dear Brendan,

At this time, I am limiting my comments to the discussion of alternatives in the disc golf section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that is currently open for public review as part of the Draft Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (DBPMMP). My comments are as follows:

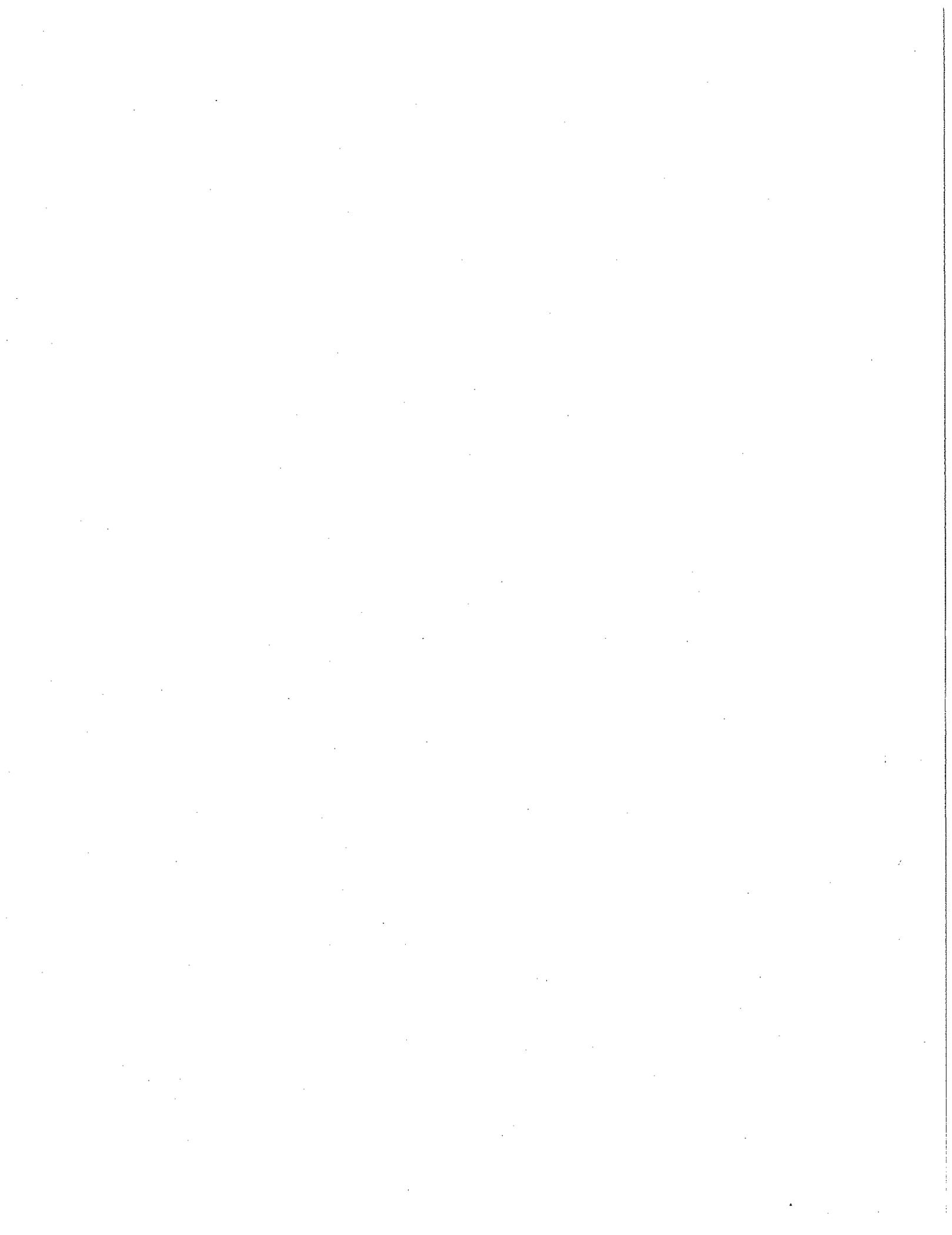
1. The discussion of alternatives is inadequate. There are a number of additional sites that should have been analyzed. A partial list includes (a) the proposed short course at the Hooker Oak Recreation Area in Bidwell Park that is currently managed by the Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD); (b) the currently undeveloped neighborhood park and adjacent elementary school site on Henshaw Avenue in North Chico; (c) the 1st Avenue and Verbena neighborhood park site and adjacent Lindo Channel greenway, extending upstream to at least the Madrone Avenue bike path/bridge and perhaps as far as the Manzanita Avenue bridge. In addition to these sites, there has also been prior discussion about a disc golf facility at DeGarmo Park, with Community Park at 20th Street another likely location for at least some type of disc golf activity.
2. The current "unofficial" site off of Highway 32 has a long list of public health and safety impacts that are much more significant than a potential facility(ies) located within the urban core of Chico. Most prominent of these public health and safety issues are significant traffic impacts and wildland fire concerns. Additional issues include policing, access to medical care, generation of waste, and associated maintenance costs.
3. The current site, due to its location, scores very low in terms of sustainability.
4. The current site is not easily accessible to a good portion of the population, especially young children on bikes and others without private transportation.

I would request that the alternatives analysis be revisited in terms of disc golf and that the DEIR be recirculated once a more complete representation of likely alternatives has been identified.

I appreciate having the opportunity to comment and ask to be kept informed of any and all actions concerning the DEIR and the DBPMMP.

Sincerely,

John Merz  
P.O. Box 4759  
Chico, CA 95927  
(530) 345-4050



## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

Submitted by: Tom Barrett  
915 Karen Dr.  
Chico, CA 95926  
June 26, 2007

### **Format and layout of document**

The words "EDAW" appear on every page of both documents in the footer. This advertisement should be removed as distracts from the purpose of the document and this is a City of Chico document, not an EDAW document.

### **Trail Plan Maps Exhibits E3.2.1.1 and .2**

There are two trail plan maps of Bidwell Park, both use different colors and line widths for trail and road designations making it difficult to read when moving from one map to the other without having to review and relearn each legend each time you change maps. Actually all of the maps are different, using different colors, line weights, and stippling for the same thing in different plans/maps. Trail designations should be consistent between maps and within the document for clarity. For example the primary road through Lower Park is colored yellow or orange with a heavy line weight depending on whether or not it is a "paved road". The primary unpaved road through Upper Park is colored red and had a light line weight, whereas the dirt trails are colored black to really stand out and are a heavy line weight making the paths seem to be a bigger feature than the primary road. The paved road in the Middle and Upper Park Trail Plan map is yellow and not consistent the Lower Park Trail Plan map.

In addition, the Creek designation (a thin blue line) is missing from the legend in the Middle and Upper Park Trail Plan. On the Lower Park Trail Plan Big Chico Creek is nicely designated as a thick blue line, but on the Upper Park Trail Plan map is it a thin blue line with less weight than the much smaller trails.

### **Annie Bidwell Trail**

One of the purposes of the Trail plan in the Master Management Plan and the DEIR was to address issues with the Annie Bidwell Trail. The DEIR does not address the Annie Bidwell Trail in whole or in part. The MMP dedicated a part of a paragraph to it and the Trail Plan for Middle and Upper Park have shown it on that map but not on the Lower Park Trail Plan map. The Annie Bidwell Trail was approved by the Park Commission, pending environmental review, but is absent from discussion.

Critical areas of concern of the Annie Bidwell Trail include the section of trail South Park Drive from Cedar Grove to Centennial Avenue. This is the only area in the Park in which access is shared on the same roadway by pedestrians, bikers, equestrians, and motorized vehicles. Because of the narrowness of this section with the creek on one side

## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

and fences on the other there are no alternative locations for the movement of pedestrians, bikes, wheel chairs, or other non-motorized methods of transportation in this area; thereby placing pedestrians and motor vehicles in the same space, a very unsafe condition.

In addition, in a public hearing on the issue, parents expressed concern of their children using this roadway to provide access to school and operating their bicycles counter to the flow of traffic. The Park Commission voted to close this section of roadway to motorized vehicles once the bike trail from Marsh Junior High on El Monte Avenue was established. Without so much as a public hearing, or an agenda item in the Park Commission meeting, the Park Commission voted to eliminate the closure of this section of roadway. The Annie Bidwell Trail/South Park Drive in this section does not meet the City's and probably State standards for public pedestrian access by mixing motorized vehicles with pedestrians, bikes, wheelchairs, and other non-motorized vehicles. This section should be closed to motorized vehicles and access including parking be provided to the picnic sites from 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. The only picnic site which could be easily accessed by this closure needs to be removed as the dirt has washed out from around the base of the table and it is now perched and in an inappropriate site for a picnic spot because of the erosion from the Creek.

Other areas of concern that don't seem to be addressed adequately in the MMP and DEIR are the location and designation of the Annie Bidwell Trail from the Bidwell Mansion to Annie's Glenn, the under road access from Annie's Glenn to Lower Park, and along Centennial Ave from Five Mile to the access point at Chico Canyon Road.

### Disc Golf

There are a number of issues with the DEIR sections on the Disc Golf options.

#### 1. Aesthetics

Sources of light and glare (Impact AES-5): The development of a parking lot and bathroom for the disc golf area is likely to result in the area being lit at night for public safety purposes. As there is no light sources currently in the area this will result in a significant impact to the area in terms of light and glare and is not addressed.

Impact AES-1b: The DEIR states that the implementation of the Disc Golf Concept plan "is expected to enhance the scenic quality of the project" site is not adequately discussed for the Disc Golf area, it is not discussed at all. Because the length of time of the development of the Concept Plan and DEIR from the time of the original conceptual approval by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission for the environmental review and subsequent approval/disproval of this use at this site, significant damage has been done to the scenic quality of this site that is neither discussed nor remedy offered by the Concept Plan or DEIR.

## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

The construction of concrete pads or tees, formal trails lined or otherwise marked, trunk protection devices, a parking lot, bathroom, and other facilities at this site along with more damaged trees, shrubs, and wildflower fields does not enhance the scenic quality of this site. If the disc golf course is installed, remediating the destruction of the scenic value of the area during the development period of the Concept Plan and DEIR from the unauthorized use is also not addressed.

Impact AES-1b: This section states that “environmental criteria were included in the design of the proposed Disc Golf/Trailhead Area Concept Plan that included areas for avoidance and protection.” While the design of the different course alternatives did take environmental criteria into consideration it did not and does not avoid or protect all areas of concern at this site as the DEIR alludes to. The authors of the DEIR do not distinguish between design and implementation. The design makes a number of assumptions that are not borne out by experience, i.e. disc will only land on “fairways” that are demarked as straight lines on a map. Discs land all over the place and players walk all over the place including sensitive areas, which are then trampled and destroyed.

The document also states that these natural resources contribute to the attractive visual character of the project site and they would be protected of the proposed course design, including the protection of oak species, wildflower fields, and the Humboldt wagon road which under the Concept Plan a significant portion of it on this site would be covered over by a parking lot. Again the statements in the DEIR are not proven valid simply by stating that this will occur. Personal experience and observations with this site and others indicates otherwise.

2. Air Quality: The document states that implementation of the Concept Plan would not result in a significant adverse impact on local and regional air quality yet it does not provide a trip and air pollution analysis. The Disc Golf course is located out of town without public transportation to reach it, and it is not an easy bike ride or walk to get to thereby requiring disc golfers to drive. The improvements to this area are likely to increase the trips generated to the site in a significant way yet there is no mitigation provided that would reduce trips or provide public transportation and therefore contributes to reducing air quality of the area.
3. Biological Resources: The degradation of the flora and soils is not adequately addressed by the “formalization” of trails between the tees and pins. As shown by current usage, during frequent visits to the site, discs and disc golfers fan out in every direction from the “tee” to recover their discs, more so on the “beginner” courses where inexperienced players throw their discs everywhere. This has led to widespread degradation of flora and compaction and erosion of soils throughout the site. The proposal is to provide a “trail” to channel and restrict walking on sensitive soils and plants. While this may be the “plan”, the reality is likely very different. The idea that disc golfer will keep to a built trail to recover their disc and not take the shortest possible path is not addressed as a possible outcome for any of the course designations. The DEIR does not address this very

## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

reasonable “what if”. What if golfers don’t stay on the path, what will happen to the flora and soils in sensitive areas?

The Disc Golf Course Conceptual Plan does not provide a disc dispersion analysis to determine the distribution pattern and coverage of discs thrown from the tees and fairways down the fairways and targets. The document seems to state that discs will maintain the location within a narrow area and not be dispersed throughout the site and therefore does not analyze the impact of the distribution of thrown discs and is inadequate in its analysis and wrong in its assumptions. The area of distribution must be taken into account because the DEIR states that the design mitigates the problems caused by the impacts of disc golfers but does not show any analysis which would back their assertions that the design would result in a reduced impact on sensitive species.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3c states that where possible trails, improvements and facilities shall be constructed outside of oak woodlands. The Disc Golf course design utilizes “oak woodlands” as obstacles which improve the quality of play making it more difficult having to get through or around trees; therefore the course design is directly counter to the statement of the mitigation measure and the design needs to be changed to mitigate for this problem. This mitigation measure then calls for the installation of shielding pole structures to protect groves of oaks in which the “pins” have been placed.

Baskets located in oak trees. The arborist’s report says that a great deal of damage is done to oak trees by the discs hitting growth parts of the trees (apical meristems) in addition to bark and limb damage by the hard edge discs. Yet the DEIR states that damage to the trees can be mitigated by protecting the trunks of the trees in the stands with the targets. What about the growth areas? This wasn’t addressed. There should be no targets within tree clumps or at or near bases of trees, nor should there be tees located within the drip line of trees. The compaction of the soil around the base of the trees can severely damage the trees by damaging root structures and compacting the soil forcing the water to run off away from the base of the tree, especially where thin soils occur as in this whole area. Oak trees and other trees in these savannah settings gain their nourishment from the decomposition of leaf and tree materials that drop from the tree and surround the base. If you notice the build up of organic materials in the leaf fall zones you will also notice that these areas stay greener longer due to the water retention property of the organic soil. By trampling these root zones around the base of the trees the ability of the soil to hold and retain moisture is severely compromised as the organic material is pulverized and tracked or blown away.

Mitigating this effect around the base of the oak trees by placing “woodchip mulch” can lead to introducing harmful organisms to the area and may have adverse impacts to the health of the oak trees. If “woodchip mulch” is to be used it must be woodchips from the type of oak trees it will be placed around and not other species of oaks or other trees. Many trees produce allelopathic compounds which prevent growth of competing species which can inhibit oak growth.

## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

One of the mitigations is to replant with oak plantings from seeds with a replacement ratio of 5:1 for trees that are lost that are greater than 5 inches at breast height. Blue Oaks are very slow growing trees that do not regenerate well, especially on sites with shallow soils like the disc golf site. This mitigation has not worked on the golf course at Bidwell Park. None of the oaks planted to mitigate for the destruction of oaks from the expansion of the golf course have survived, even after numerous plantings and this site has watering and better soils than the disc golf site.

Impact BIO CUM-1: States that "Park Improvement Projects would reduce impacts to sensitive biological resources when compared to current conditions." What it does not address is that during the course of the development of the Disc Golf Concept Plan and the DEIR a considerable amount of destruction has occurred from the City's refusal to control the site until the impacts could be assessed and a Plan developed and approved. This destruction is the baseline from which the statement says that conditions will be approved and the baseline should have been from the beginning of the process and not the end of the process.

### Hazards

The discussion of the Fire Management Plan does not state that this Plan was produced in 1991 prior to the purchase of the new acquisition on the south side and the Musty Buck Preserve a.k.a. Disc Golf area, and is out of date. In addition, some fire suppression work has been done in Bidwell Park and the whole Fire Management Plan needs to be revisited.

There is no discussion of hazards on the Disc Golf site. From the littering of cigarette butts around the course there is a high likelihood of continual wildland fires on the Disc Golf site in the future as there has been in the past. Simply banning smoking from the site does nothing unless it is enforced. If the Golf Course is allowed it will an intensive use area that does not have any protection from fire.

Another hazard on the Disc Golf site is the high cliffs. There have been a number of incidents of disc golfers falling while attempting to recover their discs. The remote location of the site increases the hazard potential by a delayed emergency response time to get to victims. While the Disc Golf plan is to move the course away from the edges of the cliffs the disc golfers requested these dramatic hazards and the fairways still skirt the cliffs, creating a hazard.

### Public Services

This section states that the Hazards section (Section 4.3.6.4 Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of the BPMMP addresses wild fires, and shows that all potential hazards and hazardous material impacts, based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, would be

## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

less than significant, but it does nothing of the sort. It refers to the outdated 1991 Fire Management Plan but does not address fire issues in a high intensity use area like the proposed Disc Golf course that was historically been a low-intensity, low-impact use area.

Fires at the Disc Golf site and other remote areas of the Park will have a significant impact on the City's fire resources and fire impact on the Park and surrounding lands. Overland fire vehicles will have to be purchased by the City's fire department to access remote areas of the Park or fire suppression will have to wait for CDF vehicles that can access rough terrain.

### **Police Protection**

The development of the Disc Golf courses will result in a significant restructuring of Park Rangers and City Police duties. If the reactions of disc golfers to the current rules imposed on the area is indication, the police and ranger force will be busy managing behaviors in this area. During the winter months when the course was "closed" because of wet muddy conditions, the "closed" signs were torn down and the closure blatantly ignored. Disc Golfers walk around publicly displaying their beer bottles and cans even though it is posted that no alcohol is allowed. The same with dogs and the list could go on. The City will have to step up protection of the course (i.e. enforcement of the rules and regulations that are currently routinely ignored) to preserve what is left that hasn't been destroyed by the players over the past four or five years while waiting for these plans and environmental review to be conducted.

Bidwell Park is currently marginally staffed with Park Rangers. There are times when there are no Park Rangers patrolling anywhere in the Park during the day and they don't patrol at night anywhere. Opening an intensive use area with an activity in which illegal drinking and other activities have been the norm (as indicated by the numerous can and bottles, and in one case a person was seen dragging a pony keg of beer around the course by me) and rules and regulations are routinely ignored will only increase the work load on the existing rangers and police force. If not consistently enforced any regulation will be routinely ignored and the facility will degrade. Stretching a limited ranger force with an addition intensive use facility will diminish ranger services in other areas of the park. This is a significant impact.

In addition the proposed parking lot and bathroom complex at the Disc Golf/Trail Head site will result in additional requirement for policing of the area. The parking lot is located away from Highway 32 and won't be seen from the Highway making it a prime spot for nighttime activities for high school kids and others (i.e. it will make a great "parking" and partying spot). Currently this activity is happening near the site on Humboldt Road but as development is built in that area and this parking facility becomes available, it will become the new parking site and will be trashed out in short order and policing will be problematic. The current "party" site on Humboldt is on County property making it a county problem, as this land is City property, police officers will have to add this to their routine patrol schedule and focus on it to keep problems down.

### **Maintenance of Public Facilities**

The use of the Disc Golf area by hundreds of people has caused serious deterioration of the natural habitat which made the Disc Golf area attractive in the first place. If one of the options gets approved there is a lot of remediation which will have to happen to the trampled and destroyed areas in the area at a significant cost to the citizens of Chico. If the no option is selected the whole area will have to be "fixed" and with no direct causal agent no one can be assessed for the damage.

## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

As an intensively used public facility, the Disc Golf course will have to be maintained to a higher level than the rest of the Park left in its "natural" state. This cost will have to be borne by users of the facility, but Disc Golfers in every public meeting said that the course had to be "free" and they would refuse to play if they had to pay. Given this condition I don't see how the Disc Golf facility will be adequately maintained to ensure a safe facility and to manage and maintain the sensitive areas adjacent to play areas.

### Trails – Maintenance

Currently trail maintenance is conducted through the use of volunteers. The City has never identified the costs associated with the full development of an adequate trail system in the Park. With over 80 miles of trails the cost to construct, maintain, and enhance them will be significant. So in light of the new facilities being proposed in the BMMP, the following statement in the DEIR does not make any sense:

*Implementation of the BPMMP would not result in an increased need for the maintenance of public facilities. The four Park Improvement Projects, once implemented, will provide additional public facilities such as trails, parking areas, a play structure, restrooms, picnic tables, interpretive kiosks, benches, trash receptacles etc. which will need to be maintained in order to function properly. However, implementation of any of the four Park Improvement Projects would not move forward until adequate funding for construction and maintenance of the projects has been secured. This would include adequate funding for staff to maintain the upgraded and new facilities.*

How will it not result in an increased need for maintenance of public facilities? First sentence states, but the second sentence says they will need more maintenance to function properly. Most of the trails are existing and in need of maintenance, hence, they are established and no funding mechanism has been identified to provide maintenance to maintain and enhance.

Implementing the BPMMP will result in a significant need for additional funds to add, enhance, and maintain existing and new facilities.

### Increased Use of the Facilities

The DEIR stated that the improvements made to the Disc Golf course would not result in an increase use of the facility. How does EDAW come up with that conclusion?

The reason for the Disc Golf improvements is for an increased use of the facility. Disc Golfers have plans for major tournaments and activities once the facilities are improved which will result in a multiple increase (3 to 10 times) in usage. This will have additional impacts on traffic on entering and exiting off of Highway 32, additional impacts on the resources at the facility, require more maintenance and monitoring by Park Rangers and staff and a whole host of other problems associated with the cumulative impacts of an intensive use like this.

## COMMENTS ON THE BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DRAFT EIR

The same can be said for the trails and other improvements to facilities in the Park. Improvements will have the cumulative effect of increasing usage of the resources and the degradation of the natural values of the Park.

Francis Farley

CEQA 15064.5 "Substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired."

The above are the regulations that guide the consultant in his analyses of impacts (both direct and indirect) to the cultural resource, in our case, a section of the old wagon road. It's very important that you have a complete understanding of these regulations. Staff tends to withhold certain pieces of information that prevents you from coming to a correct decision.

The regulation says you can't pave over the road if such paving impairs the historical significance of the feature. It also says the resource's "immediate surroundings", the setting, must be kept free of impacts if such impacts impair the historical significance of the feature. Impacts to the setting are called "indirect impacts" and they have an effect on the cultural resource. Presently, the main impact to the setting is the activities involved with playing with Frisbees. There is some physical damage to the setting but mainly it's a visual impact. And that kind of damage has been going on since the first Frisbee was thrown and continues to this day. These impacts have never been analyzed or addressed.

An impact that compromises the roadway, impairs the integrity and historical significance of the road must be mitigated, mitigated to a "less than significant impact." A loss of significance will result in a loss of eligibility for entry in the CRHR. A less than significant impact means just that. For example, if paving over a section of road has to be reduced to a lesser impact, then the parking lot has to be placed elsewhere, away from the resource and the resource's immediate surroundings. (signage will not do)

It takes a qualified archeologist/historian to determine if an impact is harmful to the resource's historical integrity. It also falls to that same consultant to determine proper mitigation measures - how far away from the resource and its setting must this parking lot be moved?

A cultural resources assessment should be scheduled at once. The consultant should be asked to analyze direct and indirect impacts caused by the present day golfing activities. Those impacts would include: cars on the road presently used for parking, any tees placed in the old roadway or the setting, the activity itself, people moving, tossing discs in the old road or in the setting. At the same time, the consultant can analyze the impacts caused by the BPMM Plan, direct impacts - paving over a section of the road, anticipated impacts - vehicles moving, parking, exiting. Will there be additional impacts to the setting? Toilets, snackstand, viewing stands, a clubhouse?

The cumulative effect of all these impacts, direct and indirect, will be found to be devastating. Reducing them to less than significant impacts, will very likely result in the golfing activity being moved elsewhere.

The benefit to a few golfing participants must be weighed against the benefit to the people of California should the roadway be preserved and protected. I would like to see the City begin the process of getting the old road officially registered with state and national historical registers. I would then like to see the two segments of old road, the wagon ruts and the section we're dealing with now, be formed into a historic park, Humboldt Road Historic Park.

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700 feet of the old wagon road will be destroyed, buried under a parking lot to accommodate the BPMM Plan. Left improperly mitigated, this "substantial adverse change" will seriously impair the historical significance of the entire resource and cause a loss of eligibility for entry in the California Register of Historic Resources. This is a clear violation of CEQA regulations, 15064.5.

The roadway has already suffered considerable damage to its integrity from the time the first Frisbee was tossed years ago through all the changes added since then. The potential initial impacts and the subsequent additional impacts were never analyzed, addressed or mitigated. A cultural resources assessment was never authorized and it should have been.

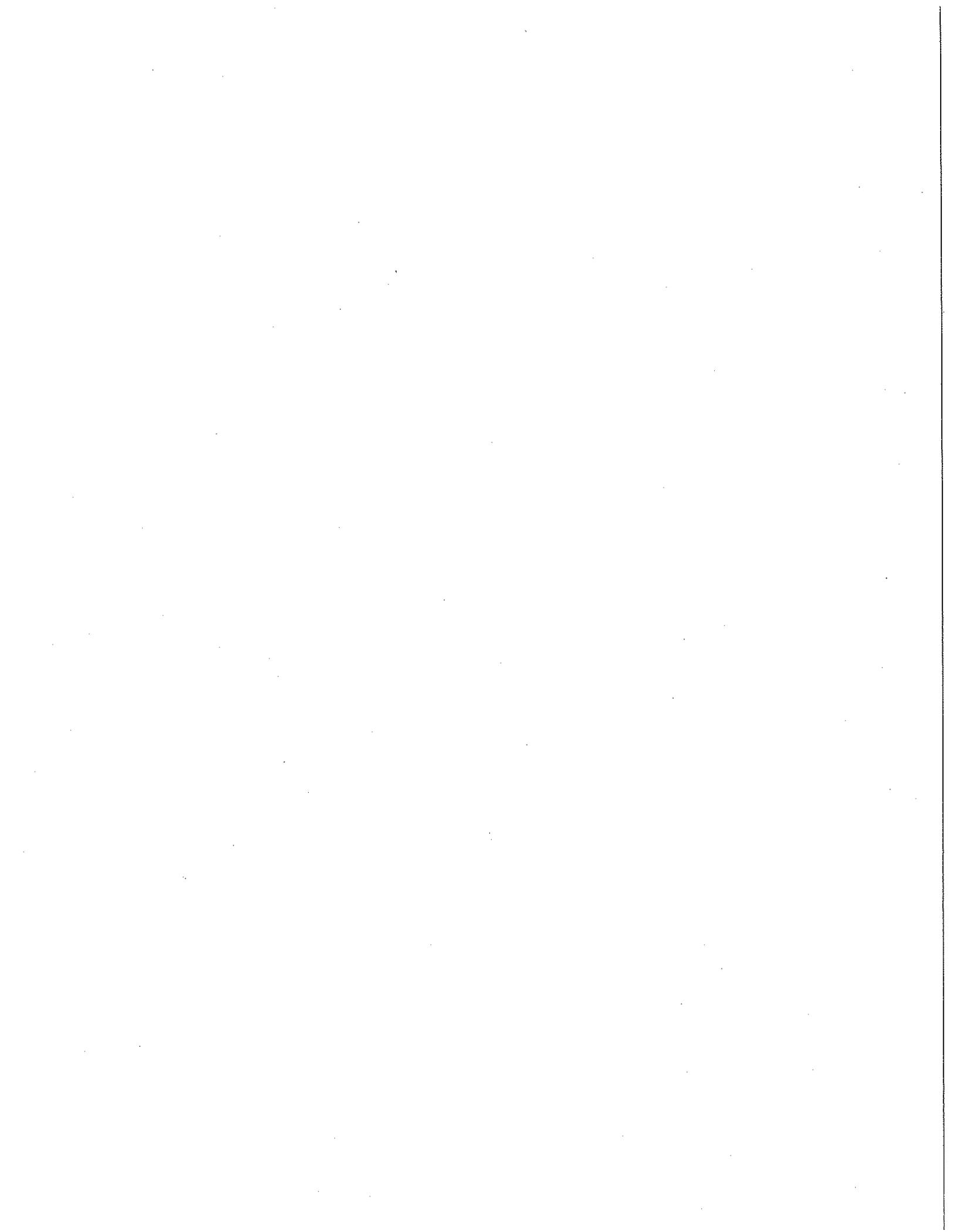
I don't think the road is totally lost. I was up there a week ago after a thunder storm. It was during the week - no activity, no people or cars. The sense of history I experienced was profound. That part of the road was exactly like it was before the first Frisbee was thrown. Very likely, it was probably like it was when the last wagon passed on that road a hundred years ago.

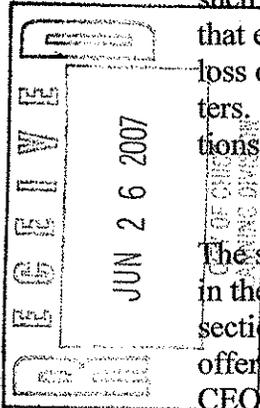
We should have a cultural resources assessment at once before any further damage is done. It's possible the consultant will recommend the golfing activity be removed from the area if CEQA regulations are followed. It's time to restore the area to its former natural state and historical significance.

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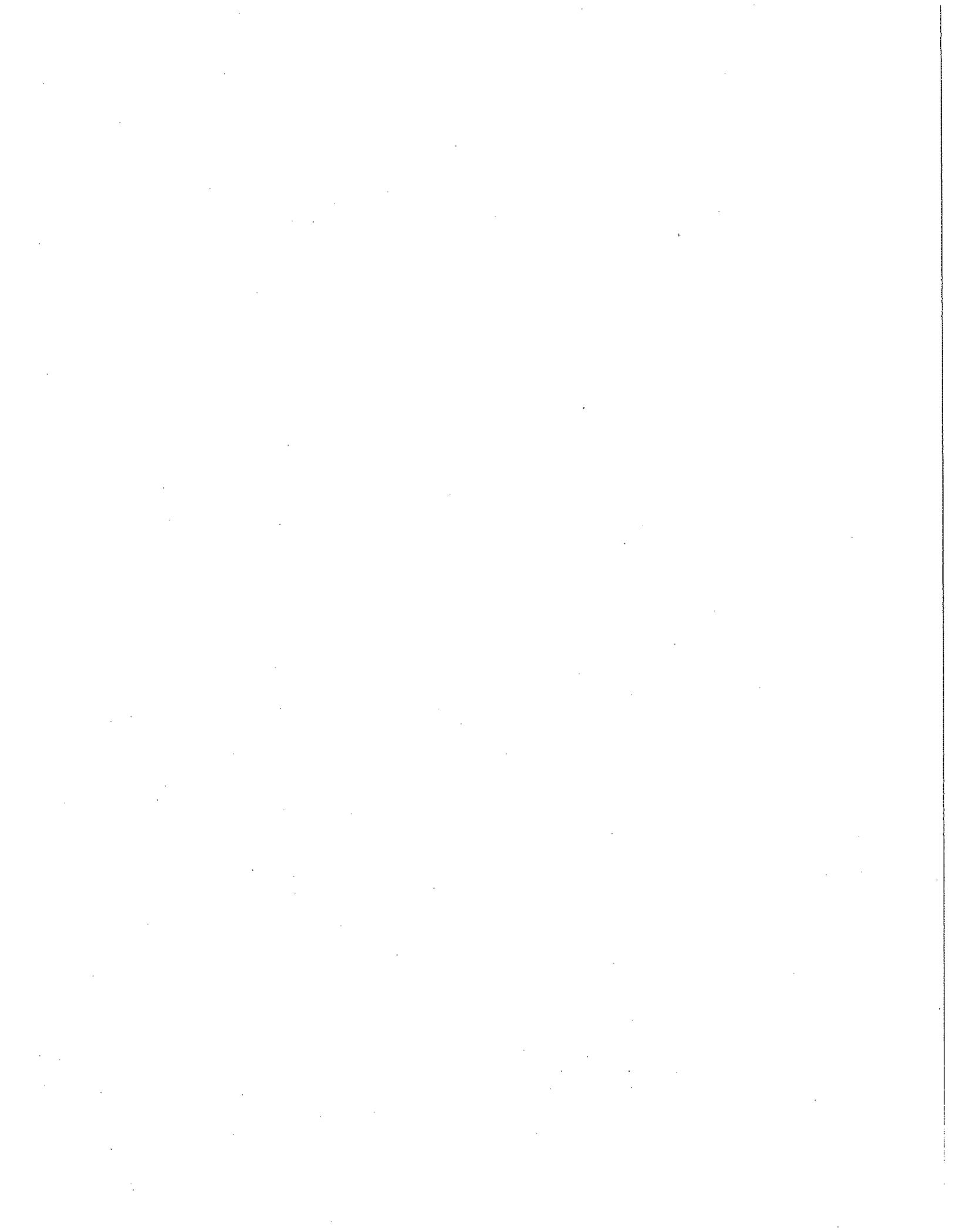
CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act is very straightforward in the protection it affords our natural and cultural resources. CEQA regulations 15064.5, prohibit the demolition, destruction, relocation or alteration of a resource or the resource's setting if such demolition, destruction, etc., impairs the historical significance of the resource. In that event, the impacts must be mitigated – reduced to a less-than-significant degree. A loss of significance will cause the resource to lose eligibility in state and national registers. However, the City seems to have developed a pattern to circumvent these regulations when dealing with John Bidwell's Old Wagon Road.

The segments of the old road, the wagon ruts on Humboldt Road and the section of road in the vicinity of the disc golf course have been treated in the same fashion. Both have sections of the resource or the setting paved over and improper mitigation measures offered. The General Plan has Humboldt Road designated as a collector road but pesky CEQA guidelines prevent that from happening. The City gets around that problem by declaring the setting (Humboldt Road) for the wagon ruts to be badly compromised with steel towers, transmission lines, power poles and a road, SR 47, built in the vicinity. The EIR concludes that the Project will have no direct physical impact on Old Humboldt Road." There is no mention of any mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of a widened, paved road covered with traffic and bracketed by a pair of bike paths. Implementation of these indirect changes will seriously impair the historic significance of the resource. The segment will lose eligibility for entry in CRHR. CEQA is trumped by the General Plan.

The BPM Plan has a 700 foot area of the old wagon road and its setting designated as a parking lot but again, CEQA regulations 15064.5 stand in the way of that happening. Mitigation would likely require the parking lot to be constructed elsewhere, away from the resource and its setting. Far enough away as to no longer impair the historical integrity of the resource. The City sidesteps that problem by declaring the setting for the resource to be badly compromised with the construction of a dirt road in the immediate surroundings of the resource. The EIR concludes, "The resource, having lost all its significance can't be hurt by putting in a parking lot." The parking lot, (a substantial-adverse change) would result in a less-than-substantial adverse change in the significance of this resource." The inadequate mitigation of a sign hardly reduces the impact of the parking lot to a less-than-significant impact. Implementation of the alternatives, A and B, will certainly impair the significance of the resource to the point where the segment will lose eligibility in historical registers. The consultant should have cleared up his confusion concerning the impact of the dirt road by speaking to Amy Huberland, OHP and assistant coordinator of CHRIS, the California Historic Resources Information System here in Chico. CEQA is trumped by the BPM plan.

All activities at the golf course should be suspended and a proper assessment of cultural resources scheduled. The impact of the golf activities should be analyzed as well as the parking lots. The segment of old road should be treated as a viable, recorded resource that will one day be part of Chico's historic park, Humboldt Road Historic Park.

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Comments on Bidwell Park Draft Environmental Impact Report  
June 2007

These comments are limited to the Blue Oak Assessment and Disc Golf Courses

The damage sustained by the blue oaks in regard to foliage and branch tip loss is not mitigated. The arborist states that he knows no means of reducing the damage, but does state that the oaks are suffering from this and the damage can contribute to disease and subsequent death.

For trunk and limb damage to oaks, the suggested mitigation is protection of trunks with measures “such as” installation of shielding pole structures (p. E7–16). This is not specific language, and is possibly inadequate to protect trees. It would also be a blight on the scenic view, as it would introduce yet more man-made metal features to the landscape. Also, on pg.7 of the blue oak study, the wrapping of trunk or limbs with a protective material is suggested. Have there been any previous studies on this method, or any specific material identified that would be effective, yet maintain the health of the tree and the scenic beauty, or will this end up looking like a Kotex course?

In the table “Tree Health and Soil Disturbance” and the following “Potential Design Layout Modifications”, there are 20 blue oaks on the proposed short course and 91 blue oaks on the proposed long course that have no modification for their survival at all. These trees are at short course holes 4, 10, and 14, and long course holes 3, 7, 9, 10, 15, and 16. Are these 111 trees just considered an acceptable loss?

The recommendation to restrict foot traffic on the course to clearly defined trails and features to protect checkerbloom (p.E7–3, BIO–1b) is inadequate in that it fails to account for the nature of the sport. Discs do not typically land on a path for damage free retrieval. For an adequate mitigation, the study needs to include field study observation of the game in progress, or at least a working understanding of the game.

There was no bird or wildlife study conducted or mentioned in the EIR. The report lacks bird counts and possible nesting sites lost from the continued human and disc activity. Wildlife may have historically used this previously uninterrupted corridor north of Hwy. 32 to migrate and travel.

In the trails plan section, pg.5 of photos, an example of an unsuccessful trail closure is shown. The method used appears to be placing a log in the trail. Trail closure at the disc golf site is proposed to be the placing of boulders in trails. The placement of a large object has already been seen to be ineffective, and would not be a logical plan.

Policies of Open Space (J-7) OS-G-18 "Maintain oak woodlands and habitat for sensitive biological resources as open space for resource conservation and resource management" preclude the appropriateness of an intensive recreational project at the proposed disc golf site.

Law Enforcement Policy (J-9) S-G-10 "Provide rapid and timely response to all emergencies and maintain the capability to have minimum average response times." Is the response time to the remote golf site going to affect these averages? Impact is unknown.

#### Comments on draft BPMMP update document

On page E4-50, impacts on biological resources are mentioned, and no study has been done on the disc golf site to determine if the area is a corridor for the Eastern Tehema Deer Herd.

Municipal Code Title 19.50 Special Purposes Zones indicates that RCA zoned areas are afforded permanent protection as open space (p.J-9). The proposed project site for disc golf is in an RCA zone, and therefore should not be considered as an appropriate site.

It is unfortunate that City of Chico staff have allowed citizen development in an RCA zone over a number of years, and have failed to protect this primary open space as regulated by law.

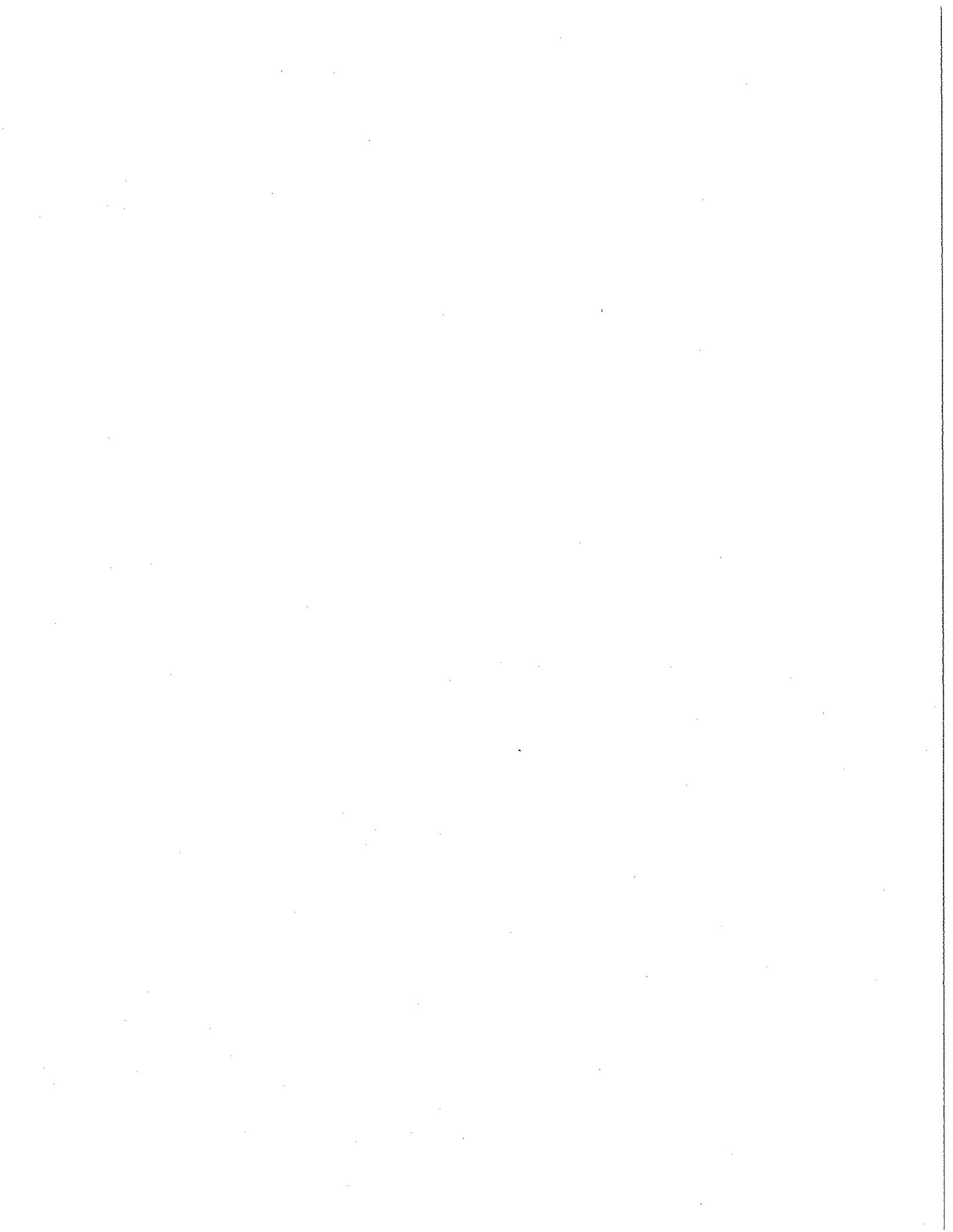
#### Personal Observation comments

The traffic study included in the EIR does not cover the Hwy. 32 location. There is no data on how many cars are at the site. My personal experience is that it is an unsafe location as far as traffic. On Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, while returning from Lake Almanor at about 5:30 pm, I was in a vehicle traveling west, and a pick up truck veered in front of our vehicle from the east bound lane and across our lane in order to reach the disc golf site. We were traveling at the posted speed limit of 55mph, and narrowly missed the truck. I observed approximately 20 vehicles in the dirt area.

I also had a conversation with a park intern at a volunteer event on Thurs. June 7<sup>th</sup>, and the intern stated that she empties the trash cans at the site, and they are typically filled with beer cans and bottles. The remoteness of the site and the location on a highway add to the lack of safety for both players and the general public. I am also concerned about the fire safety danger of adding wood chips at the base of trees in an area where the May to September smoking ban cannot be enforced on a regular basis.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Jane Turney  
Chico, California



**To:** Brendan Vieg  
City of Chico  
Planning Services Department  
P.O. Box 3420  
Chico, CA 95927

**From:** Jackson D. Shedd  
1126 Arbutus Avenue  
Chico, CA 95926

**Re:** Comment on Draft Bidwell Park Master Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report

*As the author of Amphibians and Reptiles of Bidwell Park and a Chico native who has enjoyed the Park since childhood, I feel a personal obligation to offer a contribution to this effort. There are notable inconsistencies regarding the taxonomy of the herpetofauna recognized in the Master Management Plan. Further, I would like to suggest the addition of one more reptile species recognized by the state as declining and known from Bidwell Park.*

## **Corrections and Comments on Terrestrial Wildlife**

### **Section 2.3.2.3: Terrestrial Wildlife: Table 2.3.2-3, page 2-51**

The taxonomy for the amphibian and reptile species listed here are either inconsistent with the species account on pg 2-54, or is out-dated. Please change *Scaphiopus hammondii* to *Spea hammondii* for Western Spadefoot to be consistent with the account on pg. 2-54. The North American whiptail genus *Cnemidophorus* is now *Aspidoscelis*, and the Western Pond Turtle genus *Clemmys* has been changed to *Actinemys*.

### **Section 2.3.2.3: Terrestrial Wildlife: California Whiptail, page 2-59**

The California Whiptail is a subspecies of the Western Whiptail. If continued to be listed in this document as such, the subspecific epithet should be included, along with the change from *Cnemidophorus* to *Aspidoscelis*: *Aspidoscelis tigris munda* (formerly *mundus*).

### **Additional Suggestions**

The inclusion of the American Badger as a part of Bidwell Park's fauna is a highly dubious notion. This species has been extirpated from its historical range from over most, if not all, of Butte County as well as much of the rest of California. There are just too many trails and visitors in the Park and not enough open, undisturbed grassland.

While the badger is highly improbable but listed in the BPMMP, a reptile that is more likely to still occur in Bidwell Park in the vicinity of North Rim Trail is the Coast Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii* [= *coronatum*]). This lizard is recognized by the state as a Species of Special Concern and not listed in the BPMMP. Although off-road vehicle activity probably had a negative impact on the horned lizard population on North Rim in

the 1960's and 70's, I have been told of two observations from that area. One was by Tom Barret in the 1970's and the other was an adult female in 1993 by Gilbert Mayfield and Mike Theide. If this species does still occur in the Park, its populations are of low densities. However, it could be possible they occur toward the upper reaches of North Rim, as they exhibit incredibly cryptic behavior and are active at this latitude during a time of year when less people hike the Park.

**To: Breden Vieg  
Senior Planner  
Community Services Dept.  
City of Chico**

**From: Karen Laslo**

**Subject: BPMMP, DEIR  
Comments**

To: Brenden Vieg  
Senior Planner  
Community Services Dept.  
City of Chico  
411 Main Street  
Chico, CA 95927

From: Karen Laslo

Subject: BPMMP – DEIR, comments

Dear Mr. Vieg,

Please include my comments in the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan DEIR. I will limit my comments to the Disc Golf/Trail Project.

**Impact AES-4b: Degradation of Park's Visual Character with Implementation of Park Improvement Projects**

I want to comment on the aesthetics of the disc golf site, what the DEIR terms "Degradation of Visual Character." On page E4-12 the DEIR states the obvious, namely that the site at present is visually degraded by disc golf activity. But then it goes on to conclude that "Implementation of the Disc Golf/Trailhead Area Concept Plan would enhance this situation by minimizing the disc golf area footprint and providing additional infrastructure designed to avoid sensitive resources. Existing facilities would be upgraded and new facilities constructed in accordance with the Park's updated Design Standards, thus preserving and enhancing the visual character of the Park." Are we expected to swallow the contention that pouring two dozen or more concrete slabs and distributing tons of wood chips all about and encasing the trunks of oaks in some kind of metal or heavy plastic shield and building construction and maintenance roads to service the site is somehow an enhancement to the visual character of the park? The aesthetics of a natural and wild area is one of naturalness and wildness. You can't improve on this by providing infrastructure of so heavy handed a sort.

Further, I would like to point out that if Alternative A (see "Upper Bidwell Park Disc Golf Course" design by Michael Belchik, pg. H-11, and a letter to the City of Chico from Lon Glasner "A Few Ideas on Infrastructure and

- 36 5'x8' concrete slab tees
- 36 targets anchored in concrete blocks, or something
- 36 benches
- 36 directional signs
- 36 par signs
- 1 kiosk
- 1 restroom building, size not determined yet but probably the size of Cedar Grove restrooms
- 1 68-car parking lot
- lights for the parking lot (night sky will be degraded)
- trash cans
- “shields” around tree trunks

I ask, how can all of this development and concrete (reminiscent of the City Plaza) further enhance the beauty of an oak meadow? To me, the only thing that would enhance the beauty of this place is to restore it to some semblance of its former wild and natural state.

Lastly, I want to say that the view from the rim of the canyon in the (illegal) disc golf area is one of the most beautiful in the park, commanding a grand panorama of the canyon and creek below. However, I'm concerned that few people besides the disc golfers will be able to experience the view if the Disc Golf/Trail Project is allowed. Michael Belchik, in his Design Report, (page H-9, “Disc Golf Course Design Playability Criteria,” item g) says, “Site should not have too many other uses as too many people can interfere with the play (i.e., Auburn course has too many people walking through, causing delays in play).”

#### **Oak Assessment, DEIR Appendices E4**

As it stands now the disc golf area is severely degraded with large areas of ground denuded of all foliage and subject to obvious and sometimes severe erosion. To this extent I'm in agreement with the DEIR Oak Assessment, which acknowledges as much. In addition, the tenacious and slow growing Blue Oaks have and are continuing to suffer visible damage from the loss of leaf tips and the impact of discs on limbs and trunks, which if continued is potentially fatal to the trees by weakening the trees' resistance to the introduction of disease. At many present sites the earth around the trunks of these oaks and even out beyond their drip line is trampled down to bare and hardened earth.

Without these negative impacts, the area is one of natural beauty and health. The proposed Disc Golf/Trail Project is intended to mitigate these negative effects, but will certainly fail to do so if “mitigate” is meant to somehow return the area to a natural and healthful state. A single example will suffice to make my point: namely, the plan to put in concrete slabs at the tees and dump loads of wood chips around what are deemed “sensitive” trail areas and apparently around post areas as well. Concrete pads are not a “natural object” and for that matter will only minimally mitigate compaction and erosion. If every golfer were content to stay put on the concrete pad and not budge from there, it would work to a degree, but the instant he/she steps off the pad the protection is lost. (See Table E7-1, pg. E7-72, Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures.)

Also, to get from the concrete pad tee area to the post without having to leave the trail to recover a wayward disc, would require far greater accuracy and control than the most expert disc golfer can be expected to possess. As it stands now, many of the tees and post areas are located under the cover of Blue Oaks. You can’t protect a tree’s roots by pouring concrete on top of them.

The proposed mitigation for an improved disc golf course on the present site calls for girdling the Blue Oak trunks with some kind of protective shield (See Table E7-1, pg. E7-72, Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures and DEIR, E4 Oak Assessment.) But of course, discs don’t necessarily fly only at trunk level, and so damage to limbs and leaf tips goes unaddressed.

The DEIR does not address the environmental impacts of actually building the concrete tee slabs. Exactly how will they be put in place? You either have to have a huge cement mixer truck pour the slabs, or do it “by hand” with a wheelbarrow and heavy sacks of concrete. If it’s done “by hand” you also need a water source – where will this come from? Although the wheelbarrow way would be less of an impact I don’t see how it could be done at this site. That leaves the huge cement mixer truck that would have to be driven across the sensitive and already degraded soils, crushing native rocks and plants in its path. Or perhaps roads would have to be built to accommodate the cement trucks.

Again, the DEIR does not state how the huge amount of wood chips will be delivered and spread around the trees and paths. Since the wood chips will decompose through over time they will have to be spread over and over again. Exactly how will this be done and who will do it?

In his above-mentioned report, Belchik says, “Both courses would be used for tournaments.” (Pg. H-12, Application of Environmental and Course Design Principles to Upper Bidwell Park Disc Golf Courses, #3). In his letter to the City of Chico, Lon Glasner mentions “regional and national tournaments,” (pg.1) and suggests holding “3 tournaments,” per year (pg.4). The idea of “tournaments” brings up a lot of questions that the DEIR did not address: How many people does a “tournament” involve? Will there be spectators at these tournaments as well? If so, how many? What would be their impact to the environment if they didn’t all stay on the concrete tee slabs or wood chip paths? Where are the potential impacts from a large group of people playing all at once to oaks, plants, soil and wildlife? Will hikers, birdwatchers and view watchers be excluded from the area during a “tournament” because they would “cause delays in play?”

### **Geo-2: Potential for Soil Erosion**

On page E7-92 of the Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures, Table E7-1, it’s stated that the potential for soil erosion would be “Less than Significant.” However, the DEIR did not address the possibility of “differential erosion” that could occur in the soil surrounding the concrete tee slab when it rains, especially if the tee were on an incline. “Differential erosion” occurs naturally in nature, such as when the soil around a boulder is washed away by rain or snow. This erosion could cause the boulder to move, especially if it’s on a mountainside. While I don’t think the concrete tee slabs would slide off the site and down the hillside (at least not for many years) I do think differential erosion at the tee slabs has the potential to leave the slabs perched on top of otherwise eroded soil. Such a condition would be neither safe nor aesthetically pleasing.

### **Traffic, Appendix E6**

While the DEIR does give an extensive traffic study for Wildwood Ave. and Upper Park Road, it does not address the current or future traffic hazard on Highway 32 due to disc golf activity. Right now it’s a hazardous maneuver to make a left turn into the dirt parking lot off Highway 32 because there’s no left turn lane or even a sign that announces to a driver where the disc golf

site is. It's even more dangerous to park across from the site and have to run across the highway to get to the site. The DEIR should have answers to these questions about traffic on Highway 32: How will these traffic hazards be dealt with? How many cars are turning into the disc golf parking lot now? What is the projection of increased traffic in this area of the highway if the disc golf project is developed? How many accidents have occurred there already? I think that not to have studied this part of Highway 32 for potential traffic hazards is a significant flaw in the DEIR.

**Wildlife, Mitigation Measure BIO-2f: Implement Measures to Protect Other Special-status Nesting Birds, pg.E4-70 and 71**

My husband, Lin Jensen and I have been “birders” for over 20 years. In the past we've monitored nests, done bird surveys and bird counts. We started the first ever Christmas Bird Count for Sierra Valley in Sierra and eastern Plumas Counties. Lin served as Sub-regional Editor for *American Birds*, reporting on the status of birds in eastern Plumas and Sierra Counties. We are listed as contributors to the *Checklist of the Birds of the Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass Area*. Birds are important to me and I value their contribution to my quality of life.

Of the three DFG “species of special concern” noted in the DEIR (pg. E4-70) the Loggerhead Shrike is one that breeds in our county and, “...could be affected during construction of the four Park Improvement Projects directly through loss of habitat and increased localized habitat fragmentation. *Substantial habitat loss and fragmentation would result in the reduction of population sizes and diminished use of the project area by some local wildlife populations, including these special-status species*” (my italics). The DEIR then goes on to contradict itself by saying, “However, implementation of the four park Improvement Projects would not substantially reduce nesting, foraging, or migration opportunities for these species in the Park because suitable habitat would not be removed in substantial quantities.” Either the birds will lose their habitat or they won't. But beyond that, the most important thing the DEIR failed to note here is the disturbance to this “special-status” bird *right now* due to the disc golf activities that are occurring *now*. I'll further comment on this point in the paragraphs below.

Also on page E4-70, the DEIR says, “Removal and/or disturbance of active nests of Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Loggerhead Shrike, as

well as common nesting birds that are protected under the MBTA and the Fish and Game Code, could also result from implementation of Park Improvement Projects. Disturbance of nesting pairs could result in nest abandonment and loss of active nests. Loss of active nests of these 'special-status' birds could result in a substantial adverse effect to local populations of the affected species. Loss of active nests of 'common species' would be inconsistent with MBTA and a violation of Fish and Game Code but would not constitute a significant impact under CEQA, as CEQA addresses impacts to 'special-status species' only. Impacts to 'special-status' nesting birds would be potentially significant and subject to mitigation." I agree with most of this text. I understand that CEQA only applies to "special-status" birds, but the "common" birds should be protected from disturbance too. One reason they should be considered in the report is because they are our natural "pesticides". They eat many of the insect pests that are harmful and a nuisance to humans, plants and trees. In addition, many are shrub nesters which means they nest close to the ground and human disturbance is much more likely to occur for them. Tree nesting birds would also be disturbed, especially if they were nesting in the small, slow-growing Blue Oaks. Regardless, the disc golf site is potential habitat for at least one of the special-status birds: the Loggerhead Shrike.

On page E4-71 the DEIR states how construction and development of the disc golf site will be conducted so as not to disturb "nesting special-status birds." Again, I think it's necessary to include the unlisted birds here as the DFG has done. I doubt that the birds won't be disturbed during construction, especially since a major part of developing the disc golf course involves paving over a lot of their habitat with concrete (reminiscent of the Park Plaza) and protection of the birds will only be extended to them when "feasible and practicable."

The DEIR states that before construction begins "To avoid potential impacts to active nests of 'special-status' birds, a qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys to identify active 'special-status' birds nests within 500 feet of the construction areas." However, for a survey to be accurate the disc golf activity would have to be discontinued for at least one "bird year" cycle, to see which birds would be nesting in the area if they weren't already being displaced from their normal breeding habitat by the current disc golf activity.

A major flaw in the DEIR is that it does not investigate the potential disturbance of the actual disc golf activities on the “nesting ‘special-status’ birds” and unlisted birds *that is occurring right now and will occur in the future*. An oak savannah woodland, such as the proposed site for the disc golf project is potential habitat for numerous species of birds, many of which are tree nesters, ground nesters and shrub nesters. A few examples of low and tree nesting birds that could be found in the disc golf area are: Lesser Goldfinch, Oak Titmouse, Bewick’s Wren, Northern Flicker, House Wren, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. All of these birds are known to breed in our county (Birds of Butte County, Altacal Audubon Society’s checklist; *Birder’s Handbook*) and most likely could be *trying* to breed in the disc golf area right now. These birds are simply being driven from the site at present and will be even more impacted when the site gets “improved” and more golfers and spectators arrive to play. Recently, when I was at the site I observed discs flying into bushes and players searching for their discs amongst the bushes. Many of the smaller birds nest in those bushes and would be greatly disturbed by the activities of disc golf players. It is important to protect the breeding activities of our native birds because, as I said above, we depend on them, not only as natural pest control, but also for distributing native plant seeds and for the aesthetic beauty they provide for us. Anyone who has read Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* will understand the value of our native birds, whether they are listed as endangered or not.

Among the larger birds present at the site is the California State listed endangered Peregrine Falcon, a pair of which has been frequently sighted at the cliff edge directly adjacent to the disc golf course. Recently, on May 21, 2007, I took Andrew Grant, a research biologist with the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Group, up to the disc golf site to see if we could find out if the Peregrines were nesting on the cliffs below the disc golf course. We did see one of the pair and its behavior when it saw us appeared to be one of territorial defense common to Peregrine behavior in the vicinity of a nest. While no nest was sighted at that time or later that day from below at Bear Hole parking lot, the cliff face is ideal for Peregrine nesting, and existing evidence argues the presence of a nest at the locale at this time. Peregrines, particularly while mating and nesting, can be easily alarmed and potentially driven from the site. My husband, Lin Jensen and I monitored a Peregrine Falcon nest for the U.S. Forest Service in Sierra Valley, eastern Plumas County for several years. We discovered that if a pair of falcons is allowed

to exist in relative security and peace, they will faithfully return year after year until they are eventually replaced by their own offspring.

Chico is blessed to have these Peregrines and many other species of native birds in Upper Park. If we want to have any wildlife at all for our children and grandchildren to be able to observe in their natural habitat, then these birds, and all the other wildlife, should be protected against unwarranted intrusion.

### **Economic and Social Costs of Implementing the Disc Golf/Trails Project**

While I couldn't find any reference in the DEIR to the cost of developing the disc golf site, it's a matter that needs to be addressed *before* it's built. While reading the **Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures, Table E7-1**, I noted that the City of Chico is listed as the "Responsible Party" for all of the mitigations. The lack of cost estimates is a remarkable omission, considering the potential price of mitigating this project. Do the people of Chico have any idea how much it will cost them to construct the disc golf site according to the design by Michael Belchik. The restrooms alone will be very expensive, let alone the endless yards of concrete for slabs, the wood chips, road construction, lighting, sign posting, etc. Wouldn't a disc golf course be less expensive to build if it were put in an area that already has at least some of the infrastructure that is needed to accommodate the anticipated popularity of the course and the large number of people expected to utilize the site?

Also, I've heard that there are "hundreds" of children who like to play disc golf. I ask, why then would you build this course way up in the hills where kids would have to be driven all the way up there to play? It would be a major trip for their parents. Why not put it down below where kids could, for example in the summer, ride their bikes, take the bus or when they want a family outing, be driven by their parents to a course that's not so far away? And if there are "hundreds" of adults who play then why not put it down closer to where these people are so they don't have to drive so far? Putting the disc golf course closer to Chico would be in keeping with the Mayor's Climate Agreement plan to reduce greenhouse gases.

## Summary Comments

I would like to learn to play disc golf myself. However, I could not do so at the present site with good conscience. The present disc golf site is too constrained with expensive mitigations that will need on-going maintenance and repairs and, in the end, will not sufficiently protect the soil, the plants, trees, and wildlife that once inhabited the area. It's located too far away to be convenient for the "hundreds" of players who now play and for those who might want to play, especially for kids. In other words, the present site is just not the appropriate place for such a worthy recreation as disc golf.

I hope that those in charge of making the decisions for our Bidwell Park will not decide to implement the Disc Golf/Trails Project in Upper Park just because the (illegal) course *is already there now*. That is not a good reason to compromise this fragile and yet wild and scenic place. On page E5-34 – E5-35, the DEIR admits that the CEQA required "Environmental Superior Alternative" is the "Restoration Alternative" and not the damaging and costly alternative of trying to mitigate a disc golf course at the present site. I know many people like to play disc golf and I would like our community to come together and find a more appropriate site. But Upper Park is not the right place.

With its craggy cliffs, oak and pine woodlands, sloping steeply down to the blue-green, boulder strewn Chico Creek far below I understand why many people call Upper Park "The Little Grand Canyon." Many times I've stood on the rim of the canyon, at eye level with Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks and even Peregrine Falcons. I believe that the present disc golf site is part of the gift that is Upper Park and that it should remain intact, in its natural wild state, for future generations. Please choose the Restoration Alternative.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Karen Laslo  
468 E. Sacramento Ave.  
Chico, CA 95926

As a long time Chicoian, I've watched with great horror - as a no regulation, free for all, overthrow approach to Management of this - Wonderful Park of ours.

Mt bikers trashed much of upper Park, making miles of new trails everywhere.

The Golfers took over a big chunk of Parkland. Disc golfers took over & damaged a chunk of upper Park, and now they want to Cement it! On a regular basis drinking & drug use is done at the disc golf course.

The Rich ruination of our view shed....

Special interest has taken over the Park... Weakening & deteriorating its natural Beauty. It's B time to return the Park back to its traditional uses. Swimming, horse back riding, hiking, bird watching, picnicing, strolling, dog walking, climbing, fishing, relaxing, Romance, family time, wild flower viewing, jogging, biking on approved trails, geology, education, photo taking.

Please stop all this special interest, keep the Park Natural, before it gets more out of hand →

"Save the Park - Protect the Park - Keep it Wild"

P.S. Although I have never used the observatory,  
it seems <sup>like a</sup> low impact use, for many to enjoy.

Please consider my comments, thank you for  
your time

Nita Torres

510 Alder St

Chico CA,

Brendan Vieg  
Senior Planner

Here are comments about the disc golf section of the BPMMP EIR.

#### E5.3.5.2

At this time any other sites are only potential and hypothetical. No other sites have been approved or can be played on. They do not exist and cannot be considered as options until they do. Opposition is certain with any of them. Many other sites have been proposed and ruled out in the past for various reasons, which has led us to where we are with this process today. This history of other sites and why they were ruled out should be included.

The two 18 hole courses, with future consideration of other Lower Park sites was by far the preferred option when a vote was taken by the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

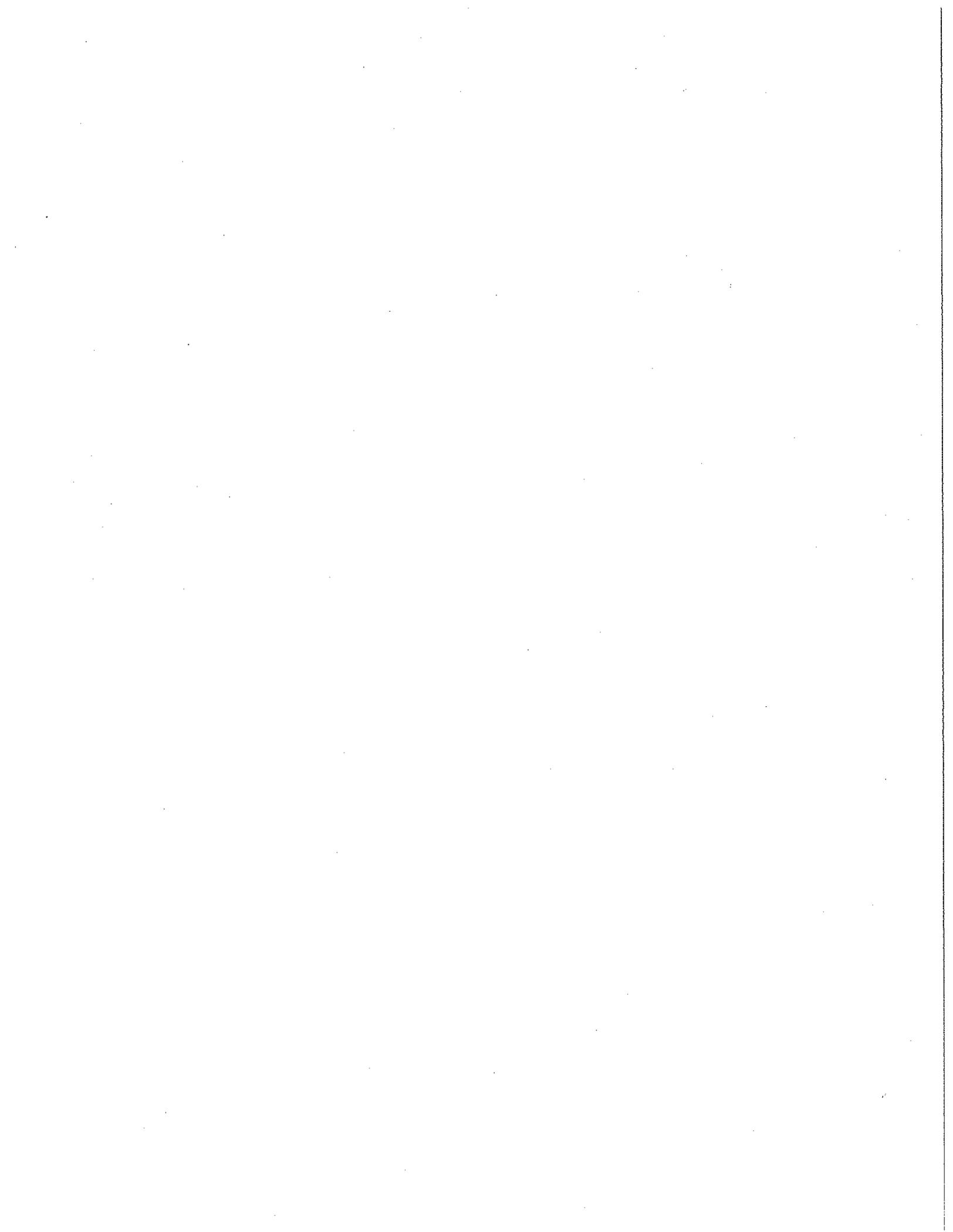
The potential to develop and approve them in the future and the recent agreement by the Friends of Bidwell Park to not oppose Lower Park disc golf sites, DOES give a further means of flexibility and potential mitigation to the Hwy. 32 site. Seasonal site rotations and temporary site recovery for impact areas would provide an extra means of addressing the opponents expected problems IF the planned methods are not sufficiently effective. This will also decrease the amount of use and traffic that would even further decrease said feared tragic and catastrophic impacts to the site.

These are notes to consider for the "Environmental Effects" of each Alternative under "Biological Resources."

#### E5.3.5

According to the botanical studies, Butte County Checkerbloom, and Bidwell's Knotweed populations have actually increased during the recent years of unmitigated use. There is a case to be made that some soil disturbance is preferred by these plants which are more often found along trails and parking lots in other parts of the park. I have not read in the EIR Draft where any crustaceans have been found or even plant species specific to vernal pools at the Hwy. 32 site.

Gregg Payne



**Public Comments addressing the Draft EIR's current lack of disclosure of the Draft BPMMP's inconsistencies with the existing specific resource management plan policies and local policies protecting biological resources of the existing BPMMP, and inadequacies in mitigation and/or the adequacy of the Draft BPMMP to reduce impacts to a less than significant level due to the inherent changeability of Implementation components that are sighted by the EIR as the means by which impacts will be reduced to less than significant.**

Submitted by Randy Abbott, member of the Public. 1151 e. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Chico, CA 95928

"The BPMMP is the specific resource management plan for Bidwell Park..... No other resource management or resource conservation plans apply to the management of Park lands."(pg.E4-133)

The current (1990) BPMMP is still the existing document for management of the Park until an updated plan is adopted by final resolution by Council. The Goals, Objectives, and Management Recommendations of the 1990 plan are part of existing conditions dating to 10-14-05 and therefore a disclosure of significant changes to and inconsistencies with this (as referred to in the EIR) 'specific resource management plan' resulting from the proposed adoption of the Draft BPMMP is a reasonable thing to request of the Final EIR.

From Section 2 of the Draft,

"To more clearly define roles and responsibilities and achieve efficiencies in Park management, another key issue addressed in the BPMMP Update is division of the plan into policy components (goals and objectives) to be overseen by the City Council, and implementation components (implementation strategies and guidelines) to be overseen by the BPPC and General Services Director. This change from the 1990 BPMMP is reflected in Chapter 3. (2-119)"

This in itself represents a significant change to Management policy because currently, the BPPC has no power to alter the BPMMP's contents outside of an amendment process that also requires council (elected official) approval.

Further, with regards to the BPPC's power to alter Implementation components of the Plan, many of the impacts described in the EIR are said to be inconsequential because implementation strategies contained within the Draft BPMMP when implemented will reduce such impacts to less than significant. How is it possible to allow the BPPC or others power to alter components of the plan upon which the reducing of impacts to less than significant levels is dependant?

A study of where Objectives of the 1990 Plan are found in the Draft BPMMP shows that many Objectives and/or the management concepts they described are now presented as implementation components – some mandatory, some not - subject to change at the behest of the BPPC. The results of that study are represented by the Table below.

While the scope of the table does not include the tracking of the Management recommendations of 1990 BPMMP's Section 5, the clear cut removal of two of those recommendations are included here as they represent significant changes to the specific management plan for Bidwell Park.

In the interest of noting where mandatory language does appear below, please note the 'must' that appears in 'Recommendation A':

1) 5.1.1 Decision Making and Management

Issue 4:

The intent of Annie Bidwell's gift to the City of Chico is held in high regard among park managers and park users.

Recommendations:

A) Annie Bidwell's requirements as noted in the Deed of Conveyance must always remain a primary consideration in all decision making related to Bidwell Park.

B) The Deed of Conveyance should be used to maintain the City's dedication to stewardship of Bidwell Park.

C) The Goals, Objectives and Recommendations in the MMP should be considered as a supplemental policy statement for management of Bidwell Park.

--- and ---

2) 5.1.8 , Issue 4, the portion of Recommendation 'a' that reads, "Large undeveloped properties should be subject to more specific conditions prior to actual development applications."

Nothing like either of these important existing policies is contained within the Draft; the EIR should disclose their absence as a significant impact to the existing specific management plan for Bidwell Park.

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The table below contains all the goals and objectives from the 1990 BPMMP.

Following each excerpt you will find an abbreviation or two that describe the nature of the change in simplest terms, for instance R = Removed when an objective is completely missing and nothing arguably similar has taken its place.

Following each set of abbreviations you will find a location or list of locations where the old objective or goal or their reasonable equivalent can be found in the April 2007 Draft Plan.

In some cases a brief note pertaining to the change is added.

**Significant impacts resulting from changes:**

Because changes at the BPPC level to the Implementation components are not subject to either environmental review or Council (Elected official) approval, the placing of an existing Objective or Goal into the Implementation component category is a potentially significant impact.

Another potentially significant impact to existing policies that results from the 'Downgrading' of Objectives to Implementation component occurs when discretionary language is added to the former Objective or its equivalent. Discretionary language essentially makes the former Objective of Park Management an 'option to consider'. In many cases Objectives central to good stewardship of The Park's natural resources have been so altered.

Whether a new, different, but arguably equally effective Goal or Objective has taken the downgraded entry's place varies from case to case. Every effort was made in the making of this table to identify new Objectives and Goals in the new Draft that might be interpreted as reasonably equivalent.

When a 1990 goal or objective now appears as an IS&G, the term 'downgraded' is applied in the Table attached to identify these changes.

For the purposes of this public commentary, only instances of Removal, Downgrading of an Objective to an Implementation Strategy, or Altered for the Bad (ALT-b) need apply.

Instances where changes have occurred resulting in direct or indirect conflicts (impacts) to local policies protecting biological resources have been highlighted in dark red. Other policies whose 'downgrades' are not highlighted may be similarly changed, affecting other City resources.

### **Key to Abbreviations:**

**S:** Same as 1990 (or very close).

**UG:** Upgraded to Goal

**DG:** Downgraded to.... Usually one level, a Goal becomes an Objective, an Objective becomes an Implementation Strategy, etc.

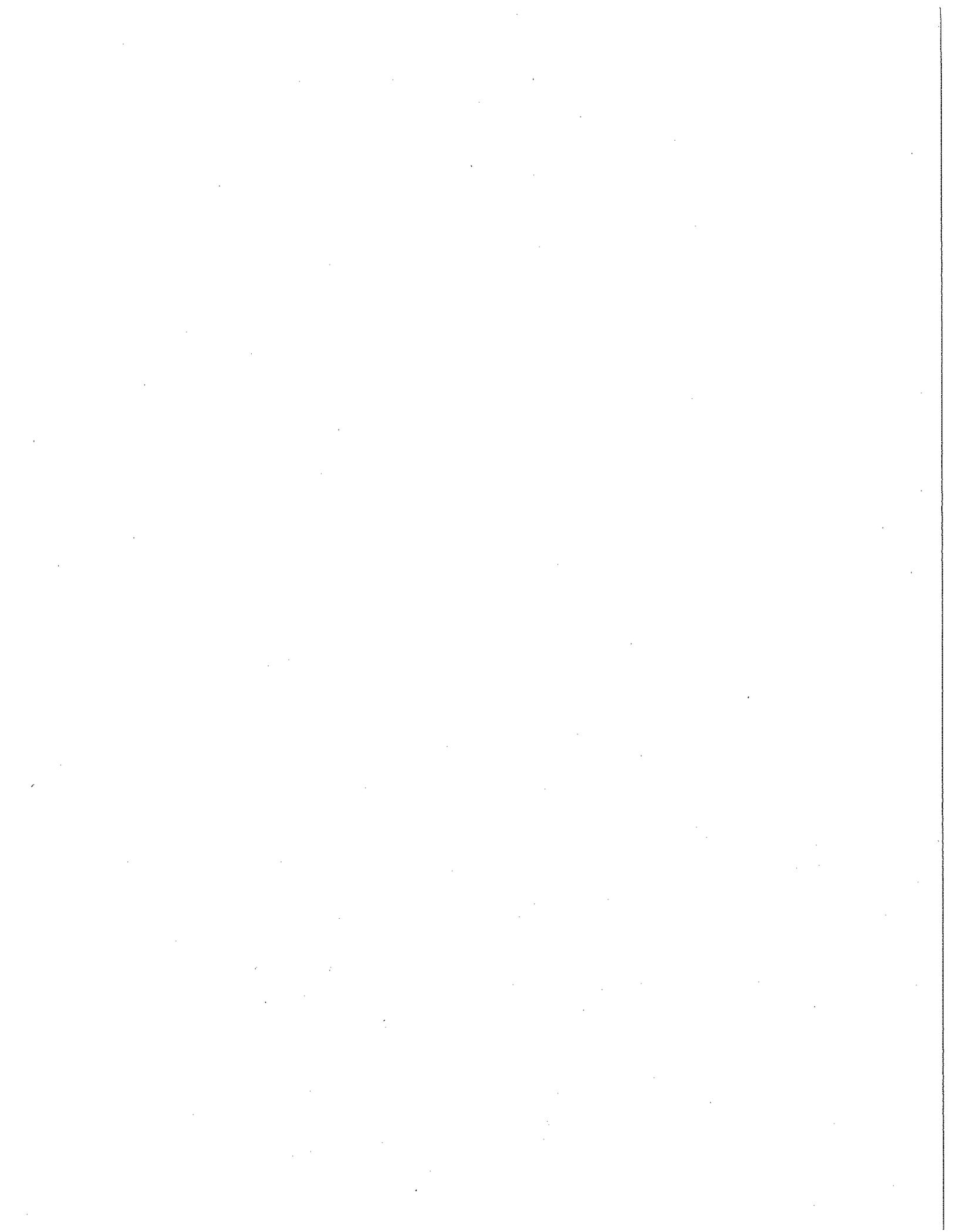
**R:** Removed; not replaced with similar.

**ALT-sim, g, b:** Altered; either similar (**sim**), for the good (**g**), or for the bad (**b**). Good or bad from a conservationist's perspective.

**M:** Moved to new subject heading.

**O:** Objective

**I:** Implementation Strategy and/or Guideline



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table showing moved, altered, downgraded and removed Goals and Objectives of the 1990 BPMMP as they appear in the 2007 Draft BPMMP</b></p>			
<p><b>2.1 Decision Making and Management</b></p>			
<p><b>Goal:</b> To implement a coordinated decision making and management process.</p>		<b>S, ALT -g</b>	Goal, pg.3-7
<p><b>Objective #1:</b> Clarify the roles of CARD, the Bidwell Park Commission, the Chico City Council and other entities charged with roles pertaining to Bidwell Park.</p>		<b>UG</b>	Goal, pg.3-7
<p><b>Objective #2:</b> Use the Master Management Plan as a tool for decision making and as a means of conflict resolution so that decisions reflect consistent and defensible interpretations of the plan.            (*While the new objectives listed at right do all make reference to using the BPMMP as the basis for decision making, there is no call for decisions to reflect "consistent and defensible interpretations". This omission reflects a potential significant impact to the value of the policy.</p>		<b>ALT -b*</b>	O.DMM-2,4,5,&6 Pg. 3-7
<p><b>Objective #3:</b> Apply an amendment process for the Master Management Plan that allows for the incorporation of new data and conditions without compromising the overall philosophy and intent of the plan.</p>		<b>DG</b>	I.DMM-2,pg.3-7
<p><b>Objective #4:</b> Allow new data to become officially recognized and incorporated into the Master Management Plan.</p>		<b>DG</b>	I.DMM-3,pg.3-7
<p><b>Objective #5:</b> Acknowledge and support active citizen input in the decision making process.</p>		<b>S</b>	O.DMM-8,pg.3-7
<p><b>Objective #6:</b> A Joint Powers or Lease Agreement should be entered into between the City of Chico and CARD whereby CARD will manage Bidwell Park.</p>		<b>R</b>	
<p><b>2.2 Natural Resources</b></p>			
<p><b>Goal:</b> To recognize the complexity of the ecological communities in Bidwell Park and the diversity of</p>		<b>ALT-b*</b>	Goal PR-1,

management procedures required to protect and integrate them with human activity. (* Note that "to protect and integrate" has been changed to "when integrating human activities into the Park..."; see also Goals PR -2,3 and 4 pg.3-12		Pg, 3-13
<b>Objective #1:</b> Encourage the regeneration and perpetuation of the native ecosystems.	<b>ALT-sim</b>	Goal BR, pg.3-16, O.NC-1, pg.3-16
<b>Objective #2:</b> Favor native plants over exotics based on environmental conditions and design goals.	<b>ALT-sim</b>	O.P-1, pg.3-17
<b>Objective #3:</b> Control the spread of undesirable, invasive and exotic plants (Allanthus, Poison Oak, Giant Reed, Vinca Major, Himalayan Blackberries), which compete with or harm natives.	<b>ALT-g*</b>	O.P-1, pg.3-18 (*Note mention of wildlife habitat.)
<b>Objective #4:</b> Plan for replacement and recruitment of young native trees and shrubs in existing mature, even age stands, managed recreation areas and riparian areas.	<b>ALT-sim</b>	O.NC-3, pg.3-17 O.NC-7, pg.3-17
<b>Objective #5:</b> Protect rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals.	<b>ALT-sim</b>	O.P-2, pg.3-17 O.TW-1, pg.3-19
<b>Objective #6:</b> Implement planting programs designed for specific areas.	<b>DG</b>	I.P-2, pg 3-18
<b>Objective #7:</b> Develop a clearly defined pruning and maintenance policy for preserving trees and wildlife values.	<b>R</b>	(* the call to develop policy is gone but see I.MS-4, pg.3-42)
<b>Objective #8:</b> Restore and protect natural riparian areas. (*Despite some more specific language relating to aquatic habitat needs, the clear simple call to 'restore' is gone. Remember that most of Lower Park's riparian zone is on dire need of intervention if we are to see native species survive the competition from invasives. The Lower Park herb layer is almost completely lacking the native plant diversity it once had.)	<b>ALT-b*</b>	O.AR-1,2, 3&4 I.AR-4, pg.3-20 (note the 'should') See also: O.Lower-3, Pg.3-45
<b>Objective #9:</b> Practice sound horticultural practices to preserve trees.	<b>ALT-g</b>	O.P-6, pg.3-17
<b>Objective #10:</b> Utilize fire management guidelines.	<b>ALT-sim</b>	O.PF-1 & I.PF-2, pg.3-21
<b>Objective #11:</b> Protect the watershed of Big Chico Creek and promote improvement of surface and groundwater quality for public use and aquatic species. (* note: "aquatic species" has become "fish and terrestrial wildfire")	<b>ALT-sim*</b>	O.H/WQ-1, pg. 3-15
<b>Objective #12:</b> Apply water conservation measures in irrigated areas.	<b>R</b>	
<b>Objective #13:</b> Protect and enhance native wildlife habitats to achieve a balanced ecosystem.	<b>ALT-sim</b>	O.NC-1, pg.3-16
<b>Objective #14:</b> Enhance anadromous fisheries and support the Dept. of Fish and Game's efforts to manage the fisheries of Big Chico Creek.	<b>S</b>	O.AR-1, pg.3-20

<b>Objective #15:</b> Conserve and protect natural resources.	<b>ALT-g, UG</b>	Goal BR, pg.3-16
<b>Objective #16:</b> Protect archeological resources by identifying and resolving use conflicts and restricting public access to certain information.	<b>UG, DG, ALT-sim, M</b>	Goal CR, O. CR-3, pg.3-21 I.CR-1,pg. 3-22
<b>Objective #17:</b> Identify and protect aesthetic resources.	<b>UG, ALT- sim</b>	Goal AR, pg.3-25 O.VR-1, pg.3-26
<b>2.3 Park uses, Events and Facilities</b>		
<b>Goal:</b> To apply appropriate intensities of Park use and distributions of facilities to meet the changing needs of the Park users while protecting the natural intrinsic resources of the Park.	<b>S</b>	Goal F, pg.3-31 Goal LU-1, pg.3-8 (appears twice)
<b>Objective #1:</b> Effectively manage current and projected levels of Park use.	<b>S,M</b>	O.VU-4, pg.3-12
<b>Objective #2:</b> Understand the areas and types of activities that are suitable to the facilities. Refocus Park uses, events and facilities for safe and enjoyable family use.	<b>DG</b>	I.PRU-3, pg.3-30
<b>Objective #3:</b> Restrict uses that cause substantial environmental deterioration, individually or cumulatively. (*Restrict uses...” differs from the 2007 DP’s, “shall be mitigated” -- for better or worse is a hard call. There is no mention of the ‘individual or cumulative’ nature of the cause of impacts.)	<b>ALT-b*</b>	O.PRU-3 pg.3-30 I.PRU-3, pg. 3-30
<b>Objective #4:</b> Manage use intensity based on carrying capabilities established through analysis of environmental factors.	<b>ALT- sim, ALT-b?</b>	O.NC-6, pg.3-17
<b>Objective #5:</b> Focus developed recreation outside of Bidwell Park and emphasize natural features and facilities for passive recreation use within the natural areas of the Park. Emphasize wilderness recreation in Upper Park. (* no mention of ‘wilderness recreation in Upper Park’, and ‘natural areas of the Park’ has been changed to a very undefined ‘minimally developed areas of the Park’.)	<b>ALT sim &amp; b*, DG</b>	O.RC-2, pg.3-11 I.RC-1, pg.3-11
<b>Objective #6:</b> Redesign, relocate or discontinue the use of facilities that are known to contribute substantially to the decline of natural features or conditions.	<b>R</b>	(O.NC-6 pg. 3-17 is likely as close as can be found in the 2007DP)
<b>Objective #7:</b> Design and locate new facilities, such as pedestrian bridges, to minimize adverse environmental effects.	<b>S/ALT- sim</b>	O.RF-1, pg. 3-33
<b>Objective #8:</b> Emphasize uses and facilities that cannot be provided anywhere else but Bidwell Park. (For example, tennis courts should not be allowed in Bidwell Park but provided at other facilities in the city).	<b>ALT- sim</b>	O.RC-1, pg. 3-11

<p><b>Objective #9:</b> Promote the construction of new park facilities in other parts of Chico to relieve recreational use pressure on Bidwell Park.</p>	<p><b>ALT- sim, DG</b></p>	<p>I.SLU-15, pg.3-11 O.RC-3, I.RC-3, Pg3-12</p>
<p><b>Objective #10:</b> Apply design standards for common facilities.</p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p>O.RF-2, pg.3-33 O.DS-1, pg.3-43</p>
<p><b>Objective#11:</b> Clarify the use and role of Park facilities such as dams, stream diversions, wells, trails and buildings.</p>	<p><b>R</b></p>	
<p><b>Objective #12:</b> Require special event sponsors to demonstrate what measures will be taken to reduce impacts on Park resources.</p>	<p><b>DG, ALT- sim</b></p>	<p>I.SE-3, pg. 3-25</p>
<p><b>Objective #13:</b> Develop management plans for each management zone; base on recommendations, policies and Management Unit concepts presented in the Master Management Plan. (* Note that in 1990 there were 32 management zones representing 32 unique geographic areas. Under suggestion by the consultant [EDAW], the draft's proposal is to reduce the number of 'zones' to four: Lower, Middle, Upper and Disc Golf. The possibility for a "plant community" based Natural Resource Management Plan is present, but the NRMP is developed only to the stage of infancy at this point and will take a great deal of funding and support to establish).</p>	<p><b>ALT- sim*</b></p>	<p>O.MC-5, pg. 3-7</p>
<p><b>2.4 Circulation and Access</b></p>		
<p><b>Goal:</b> To develop an efficient and safe circulation system which clarifies access rights and responsibilities for formal and informal circulation uses (motor vehicles, horses, bicycles, pedestrians, runners, disabled persons, special user groups and wildlife).</p>	<p><b>ALT-b*</b> (*Lacks any reference to wildlife)</p>	<p>Goal C/A Pg.3-36</p>
<p><b>Objective #1:</b> Motor vehicles in Bidwell Park should be used for access only; recreational use of Bidwell Park roads by motorists should be phased out.</p>	<p><b>ALT- sim</b></p>	<p>O.C/A-2, pg.3-36</p>
<p><b>Objective #2:</b> Utilize existing city streets beyond Park boundaries, to the extent possible, for motor vehicle circulation.</p>	<p><b>DG</b></p>	<p>I.C/A-4, pg.3-36</p>
<p><b>Objective #3:</b> Establish appropriate bicycle and pedestrian entries and access points to the Park and a link to the University campus and downtown.</p>	<p><b>ALT- sim</b></p>	<p>O.AP-1, pg.3-37</p>

<b>Objective #4:</b> Encourage non-motorized modes of travel to, from, and within Bidwell Park.	<b>S</b>	O.C/A-4, pg.3-36
<b>Objective #5:</b> Use certain portions of the roadways in Bidwell Park for motor vehicle access, bicycles and roller skaters. Use trails for pedestrians and equestrians where feasible.	<b>ALT-g DG</b>	I.C/A-5, pg. 3-36
<b>Objective #6:</b> Prevent new north-south roadways from dividing Bidwell Park. (Expansion of existing north-south roadways is more desirable than new roads)	<b>S</b>	O.C/A-3 pg.3-36
<b>Objective #7:</b> Closely follow "signal warrant" processes and financial planning for intersections in the park vicinity so that pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle movements are accounted for in traffic signal planning and design.	<b>DG, S</b>	I.C/A-6, pg.3-36
<b>Objective #8:</b> Connect park bicycle routes to the Chico Bicycle Pathway system where appropriate.	<b>S</b>	O.T-1, pg.3-29 I.C/A-1, pg.3-36 I.T-7 & 8, pg.3-29
<b>Objective #9:</b> Establish defined areas and policies for off-road bicycles. (*Establishing policies and areas for mountain biking was in fact one objective that was accomplished while the 1990bpmmp has been in effect. Municipal code 12R.04.070 and 12R.04.100 clarifies City policy in this regard, however mention of the code's content is not obviously reflected in the 2007DP).	<b>ALT-sim or b, DG</b>	
<b>Objective #10:</b> Eliminate unauthorized roads and paths. (*Note that 'should' is used in the 2007DP language, rather than 'shall').	<b>ALT-b*, DG</b>	O.T-1, pg.3-29 I.C/A-7, pg.3-36 I.C/A-8, pg.3-36
<b>Objective #11:</b> Clarify motor vehicle, pedestrian (including roller skaters) and cyclist roadway use rights and responsibilities.	<b>DG, ALT-b</b>	
<b>Objective #12:</b> Use centralized parking areas in appropriate locations such as under State Route 99 to reduce walking distances to sites that are inaccessible to motor vehicles. These parking areas should be designed to avoid creating conflicts with other park uses including existing access and trail use.	<b>ALT-sim*</b> (*The reference to 99 has been removed).	O.Parking-1 Pg.3-38
<b>Objective #13:</b> Use design techniques at roadway/pathway crossings that require the appropriate movements while minimizing unsafe and unpleasant bicycle or pedestrian circumstances.	<b>R*</b> (*Perhaps O.RA-7 is a broader way to encompass this concept.)	
<b>Objective #14:</b> Assure appropriate levels of access by maintenance and emergency vehicles. (* In this case the 1990 language is clear and to the point, 2007DP's language seems vague and misleading)	<b>ALT-b*</b>	O.AP-2, pg.3-38
<b>Objective #15:</b> Increase, where appropriate, access points for pedestrians and cyclists.	<b>ALT-sim</b>	O.AP-2 and associated



Mile Pool and Upper Park.	(*another should)	pg. 3-40
<b>Objective #5:</b> Notify Park users that undeveloped natural areas within the Park are to be used at their own risk.	<b>DG,S</b>	I.RR-4, pg. 3-25 O.Upper-9, pg. 3-52
<b>Objective #6:</b> Assist in the phased relocation of the rifle and pistol range out of Bidwell Park.	<b>R</b>	
<b>Objective #7:</b> Identify and clarify risks associated with swimming, hiking and other activities in Upper Park including slower response times by emergency services.	<b>DG,M</b>	I.Upper-10, pg. 3-53
<b>Objective #8:</b> Set up an emergency response protocol for park users and management.	<b>DG,ALT-sim</b>	I.PS/ES-5, pg. 3-40
<b>Objective #9:</b> Use strategically located information centers and public telephones to decrease emergency response times.	<b>DG</b>	I.PS/ES-6, pg. 3-41
<b>Objective #10:</b> Implement design solutions where safety and security are compromised by physical circumstances.	<b>DG,ALT-b</b> (*another 'should')	I.DS-3, pg. 3-43
<b>Objective #11:</b> Improve access to restroom facilities in Middle Park and Upper Park. Improve and add new restroom facilities at: 1. Cedar Grove: Improve restroom facilities. 2. Walnut Grove: Add future restroom. 3. One Mile: Improve restroom facilities. Restrooms facilities should be handicapped accessible.	<b>ALT-g</b>	O Rstrm-1, pg. 3-33 I. Access-1, pg. 3-32
<b>Objective #12:</b> Implement mosquito abatement program.	<b>DG,ALT-sim</b>	I.PS/ES-10 Pg. 3-41
<b>Objective #13:</b> Ensure that Bidwell Park is a safe resource for all users and users groups.	<b>ALT-g</b>	O.PS/ES-1, pg. 3-40
<b>Objective #14:</b> Close the Park to motor vehicles at night with the hours to be set by the city, except in approved night use areas.	<b>S,DG</b>	I.C/A-9, pg. 3-36
<b>2.6 Education</b>		
<b>Goal:</b> To explain park systems and encourage park users to accept personal responsibility for the effect of their actions on the park, thus reducing adverse impacts and management requirements. (* 'Stewardship' does in many ways equal 'responsibility', but there seems to be a shift away from 'personal' responsibility throughout the plan with less emphasis on consequences, responses to degradation, etc.).	<b>ALT-sim? b?*</b>	Goal I/E, pg. 3-23
<b>Objective #1:</b> Utilize a coordinated signage system to guide park users with respect to facility locations	<b>DG, ALT-</b>	I.I/E-3, pg. 3-24

and park rules. (* "Park rules" is missing from the new reference to signage, but "rules and regulations" appears under the objective that relates to the CCNC....)	sim*	O.I/E-2, pg. 3-23
<b>Objective #2:</b> Utilize natural processes and phenomena to explain why certain activities are encouraged and others are discouraged. (* Careful reading of the Draft shows the objective is reduced to something that " should be considered".)	<b>DG,ALT-b*</b>	I.I/E-2, pg. 3-23
<b>Objective #3:</b> Utilize Bidwell Park as the setting for natural resource education.	<b>ALT-b? sim?</b>	O.I/E-7, pg. 3-23
<b>Objective #4:</b> Maintain a master calendar of organized activities and events.	<b>ALT- sim</b>	O.I/E-3, pg. 3-23 I.I/E-2, pg. 3-24
<b>Objective #5:</b> Provide for information centers with maps and pamphlets at the CARD Center, One Mile Rec. Area (summer only), the Nature Center, Five Mile Rec. Area (summer only), Hooker Oak Rec. Area and Horseshoe Lake.	<b>ALT- sim</b>	O.I/E-3, pg. 3-23
<b>Objective #6:</b> Organize a data gathering system designed to provide a collection of information about Bidwell Park.	<b>M, ALT- sim, DG</b>	I.DMM-2, 8, 9, pg.3-7,8 and others
<b>Objective #7:</b> Guide community groups, students and businesses in establishing responsibility for Bidwell Park.	<b>S</b>	O.I/E-8, pg. 3-23
<b>Objective #8:</b> Determine which groups and organizations will commit to involvement and responsibility for Bidwell Park.	<b>ALT-g, M</b>	New section on Volunteers; Various, pg. 3-42, 43
<b>Objective #9:</b> Support the Chico Creek Nature Center in its efforts toward education in Bidwell Park.	<b>ALT-g</b>	O.I/E-1 & 2, pg. 3-23
<b>2.7 Maintenance</b>		
<b>Goal:</b> To provide an efficient maintenance program that keeps Bidwell Park's facilities and resources safe, clean, attractive, functional and in harmony with the users and natural resources of the Park.	<b>S</b>	Goal MO, pg. 3-41
<b>Objective #1:</b> Utilize maintenance methods that minimize adverse effects on natural conditions (irrigation, mowing, trimming etc.) and control detrimental impacts caused by humans and natural processes (vegetation build up, pests, acts of nature).	<b>DG,S</b>	I.MS-2, pg. 3-41
<b>Objective #2:</b> Establish an appropriate base funding source to allow the maintenance crew to accomplish the tasks required.	<b>ALT- sim</b>	O.MS-2, pg. 3-41

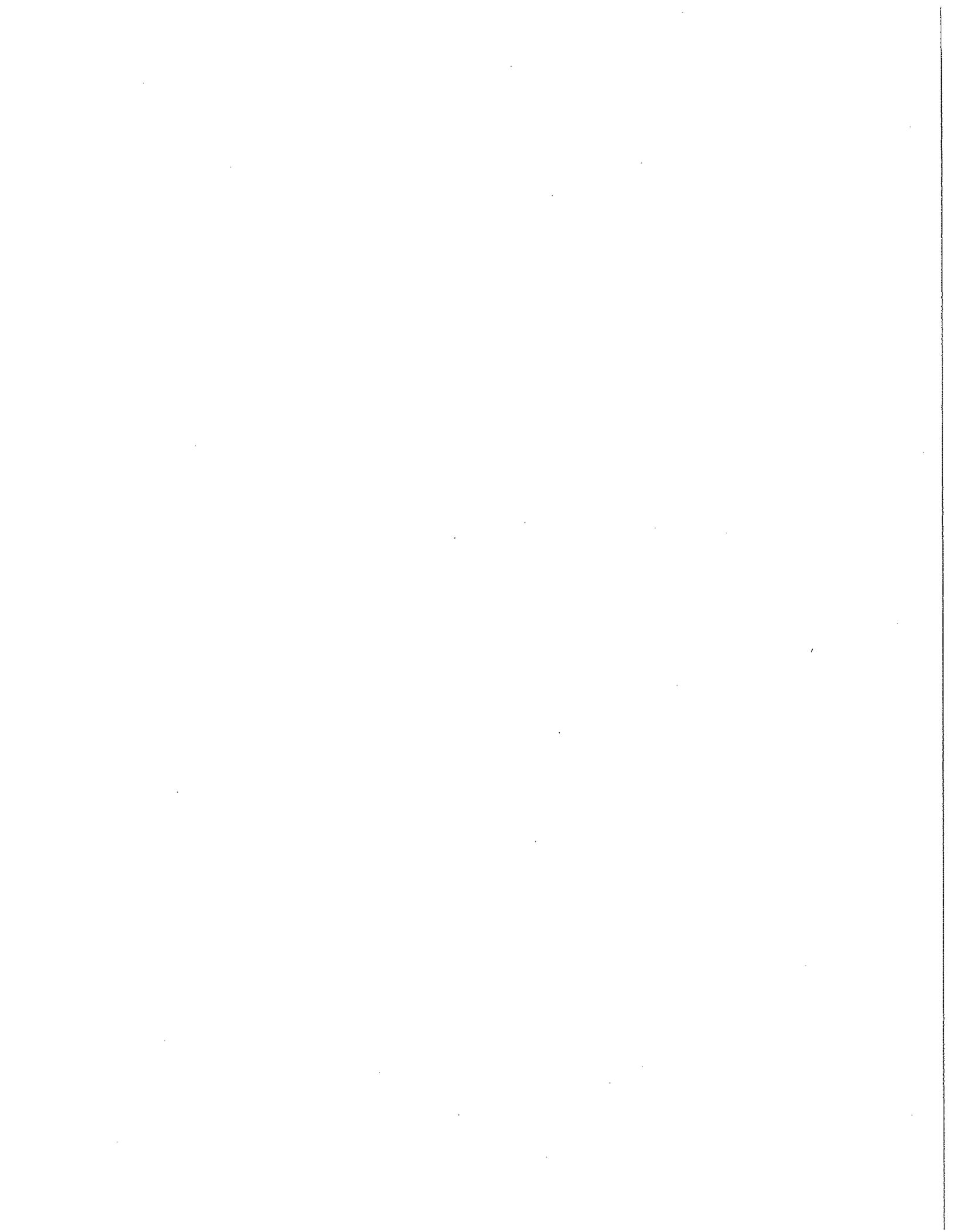
<p><b>Objective #3:</b> Apply a defendable system where maintenance priorities are organized by task type, frequency and geographic area to focus available labor and funds on key issues.</p>	<p><b>R</b></p>	
<p><b>Objective #4:</b> Generate community support, through public education efforts, for minimizing avoidable park maintenance tasks (litter pick up, vandalism repair, etc.).</p>	<p><b>ALT-sim</b></p>	<p>Goal I/E, pg. 3-23 &amp; associated Objectives And ISG's</p>
<p><b>Objective #5:</b> A safety inspection program should be established whereby all areas and facilities are scheduled for appropriate safety reviews. Areas may receive anywhere from daily (children's play areas, restrooms, picnic areas) to weekly to annual inspection, as appropriate, to monitor concerns. These inspections should be recorded, and any safety concerns appropriately corrected. The program should be designed to minimize the exposure to the of the operation agency, City of Chico, and to protect users and public resources.*</p>	<p><b>ALT-sim</b>  (* that's how my copy of the 1990 BPMMP has it written-RA).</p>	<p>O.MS-1, pg. 3-41</p>
<p><b>2.8 Off-Site Issues</b></p>		
<p><b>Goal:</b> To provide a proper framework for decisions related to off-site properties and circumstances that have the potential to adversely or positively impact the purpose of Bidwell Park. (* Although nearly identical, the 2007 DP language fails to mention off site issues that may benefit the Park, such as right of ways or the acquisition and development of recreational lands outside of Bidwell Park).</p>	<p><b>ALT-b*</b></p>	<p>Goal LU-2, pg.3-8</p>
<p><b>Objective #1:</b> Use Bidwell Park's status as a regional attraction and resource to protect beneficial values threatened by development of off-site properties.</p>	<p><b>R</b></p>	
<p><b>Objective #2:</b> Develop timely recommendations and positions for particular properties and projects by following off-site developments activities and influencing policy formation.</p>	<p><b>ALT-sim, M*, UG</b></p>	<p>Goal SLU-2, pg.3-9 O.SLU 1&amp;2, pg. 3-9</p>
<p><b>Objective #3:</b> Require developers and other project applicants to mitigate their respective negative impacts on Bidwell Park. City staff should consider impacts on Bidwell Park when they comment on the scope and content of environmental impact assessments.</p>	<p><b>ALT-g</b></p>	<p>O.SLU-2, pg. 3-9</p>
<p><b>Objective #4:</b> Encourage the development of facilities and areas for active recreation outside of Bidwell Park.</p>	<p><b>ALT-sim, DG*</b></p>	<p>O.RC-3, pg. 3-11 O.RC-2, pg. 3-11 IRC-2, pg. 3-12</p>
<p><b>Objective #5:</b> Support General Plan provisions requiring neighborhood parks with new development.</p>	<p><b>DG</b></p>	<p>IRC-4, pg. 3-12</p>

<b>Objective #6:</b> Support City Council approval of funding methods for neighborhood parks.	<b>ALT- sim</b>	O.RC-3, pg. 3-11
<b>Objective #7:</b> Encourage implementation of General Plan provisions providing for public access and recreation along creek side green ways.	<b>ALT-g</b>	O.RC-4, pg. 3-11
<b>Objective #8:</b> Clarify Park boundaries and protect from encroachment.	<b>ALT- sim</b>	O.SLU-8, pg. 3-10
<b>Objective #9:</b> Support adequate buffer policies to protect view shed and water shed.	<b>ALT. sim</b>	O.SLU-1, pg. 3-9 I.SLU-6, pg. 3-10 O.H/WQ-1, pg.3-15 O.VS-1, pg.3-26 and others referring to viewshed.
<b>Objective #10:</b> Encourage plans and designs for Lindo Channel and the banks of Big Chico Creek that maintain recreational uses in these areas all the way to the Sacramento River. (* Note new mention of natural resource protection).	<b>ALT-g*</b>	O.RC-5, pg. 3-11
<b>Objective #11:</b> Oppose new north/south road crossings through the Park.	<b>ALT- sim</b>	O.C/A-3, pg.3-36
<b>Objective #12:</b> Maintain communications with owners of property in locations that could ultimately affect Bidwell Park.	<b>DG</b>	I.SLU-7, pg. 3-10
<b>2.9 Funding and Implementation Resources</b>		
<b>Goal:</b> To utilize all appropriate funding and implementation resources to accomplish the goals and objectives identified by the Master Management Plan for Bidwell Park. (* No goal appears under the section on funding -3.5.8, pg.3-43; use of "should").	<b>R*,DG,ALT-b</b>	O.FI-1, pg. 3-43
<b>Objective #1:</b> Provide information that leads towards development of a long-range financial plan for recreational facilities and programs for the Chico Urban Area that would allow for a practical consolidation of the services provided by the City of Chico and CARD and an equitable distribution of the burden on residents of the Chico Urban Area.	<b>R</b>	
<b>Objective #2:</b> Provide management strategies that justify the use of a variety of funding mechanisms.	<b>R</b>	
<b>Objective #3:</b> Implement a volunteer and contributor program that harnesses the willingness of volunteers to accomplish tasks identified in the Master Management Plan and other specific plans for the Park.	<b>ALT- sim, M</b>	O.V-1, 3 & 4, pg. 3-42,43 I.V-1, pg. 3-43
<b>Objective #4:</b> Determine tasks which can be accomplished by volunteers.	<b>ALT- sim, M</b>	O.V-4, pg. 3-43 I.V-2, pg. 3-43
<b>Objective #5:</b> Encourage groups to improve areas specific to their use.	<b>DG</b>	I.FI-2, pg. 3-44

<b>Objective #6:</b> Provide recognition for contributions of money, time and effort by groups at each site.	<b>DG</b>	I.FI-3, pg. 3-44
<b>Objective #7:</b> Encourage Butte College and Chico State University faculty and students to study and provide assistance to Bidwell Park.	<b>ALT-sim, DG</b>	I.DMM-10, pg. 3-8
<b>Objective #8:</b> Encourage private sector donations for park improvements by utilizing corporate recognition as an incentive.	<b>DG,ALT-g</b>	I.FI-4, pg. 3-44
<b>Objective #9:</b> Establish trusts which provide revenue for Bidwell Park in perpetuity.	<b>DG</b>	I.FI-5, pg. 3-44
<b>Objective #10:</b> Apply user fees, with discretion, for specific activities in Bidwell Park.	<b>DG</b>	I.FI-6, pg. 3-44
<b>Objective #11:</b> Avoid toll booths and/or toll gates for access to Lower and Middle Park. (*Upper Park is now included in areas not likely to see tolls).	<b>DG,ALT-sim</b>	I.C/A-10, pg. 3-37

**Summary :**

- Number of 'Downgrades' : 39
- Number of 'Upgrades' : 5
- Number of 'Altered – bad' : 16
- Number of 'Altered – good' : 11
- Number of 'Removed' : 12



**Comments on Section E-4 Environmental Impacts –  
4 specific Park ‘Improvement’ Projects**

Submitted by Randy Abbott, member of the public, 1151 e. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Chico, CA 95928

**ALL COMMENTS ADDRESS DEFICIENCIES IN PROPOSED MITIGATION,  
INSUFFICIENTLY DISCLOSED IMPACTS, AND/OR INSUFFICIENTLY  
DESCRIBED ‘EXISTING CONDITIONS’ (SEC.2)**

**Impact AES 1b:**

- **Grasslands/wildflower fields**
- **Vernal pools**
- **Blue Oak woodland and individual trees**
- **de-vegetation of landscape**

Impacts not listed: Horseshoe Lake Project: Introduction of trees to areas of the Park that are (Biologically and aesthetically) natural grassland habitat and/or wildflower fields; Areas of Horseshoe Lake perimeter and North Rim trailhead. ( This was noted at CAC meetings on the subject )

This should be construed to imply the Aesthetic significance of the remaining uninterrupted vista present at the site that captures the view of the Tuscan ridge meeting the ‘Valley floor’ with its biologically distinct plant communities and geologic formations forming both a purely visual aesthetic as well as an aesthetic display of natural history unaltered by the building projects and landscaping designs of ‘modern’ mankind.

Impacts not listed: Disc Golf/Trailhead Area Project: The ‘filling’ and therefore loss of 4 small vernal pools from the scenic vista; the addition of large mulched areas within the scenic vista in locations currently in an unaffected state (Belchik proposals); The installation of man made tree protectors (Further, these are completely un-described and un-illustrated in the EIR and the Disc Golf Appendix, therefore likely impacts to the aesthetics of the site remain undisclosed); Impacts to the scenic vista resulting from a greater total footprint of de-vegetation than currently exists. (see below -\*1); Impacts to the scenic vista resulting from a greater total number of de-branched and partially defoliated trees as a result of disc strikes to blue oak and other shrubs than currently exists.(see below -\*1)

\*1 – Note: The project proposal and accompanying EIR put forth the theory that present impacts of various types, including impacts to the scenic vista, will be lessened as a result of relocating a given amount of infrastructure to currently un-impacted areas with the caveat that new methods of mitigation (Tree protection poles and mulching of tee surrounds, a central trail and possibly the ‘greens’ around the baskets) will limit new impacts to trees to a less than significant level.

Part and parcel of this theory is that abandoned, currently impacted areas will regenerate with native flora, and de-branched trees in these abandoned areas will heal into healthy trees thusly reducing the overall current impact foot print.

There is no guarantee that passive restoration of the native landscape will or can occur before the same de-vegetated areas are covered by invasive plants listed in the EIR as existing at the project site.

Mitigation lacks a standard to which potential reseeding seed source is to be held (i.e. what native and/or local wildflower field compatible seeds would be used).

There is *no* mitigation offered to offset impacts to Blue Oak leaves, apical meristems, or branches, (which contribute to *both* the health and aesthetic value of the tree), only proposed, un-described protection to the tree trunks.

### Impact AES – 3

- **Grasslands/wildflowerfields**
- **Legal responsibilities of the City to uphold contract**

Impacts not listed: Horseshoe Lake Project: Because of cumulative historical impacts to aesthetics at the site, alteration of the grassland habitat by the introduction of trees into that ecotype's aesthetic would result in a breach of contract between the City and the Citizens of Chico.

The City accepted responsibility for ownership of the Annie Bidwell Deeded park land in the nature of a trustee for the benefit of the citizens of Chico, and the title is vested in *the people*.

Despite the City's full fee interest in the property which amounts to the nullification of interest in the real property once held by Bidwell's heirs, the contract implied between the City and the Public to honor the terms upon which a property is purchased, deeded or conveyed into the public domain using the terms and conditions contained within the instrument of legal property transfer (the Deed) remains, unless removed by a vote of the people applicable to all of the people (voters) of the City of Chico. (the City Charter), and the title is subject to

The City is thusly bound to honor the conditions of the deed to "preserve as far as reasonably possible for the beauty of the said Park..." along with other conditions such as to use the land as a public park .

Section 1 of the BPMMP incorrectly describes these conditions as having been removed from the deed, and Section 2 fails to describe these matters in their entirety.

### Impact AES-4

- **Humboldt Road**
- **Vernal pools**
- **Addition of mulch**
- **Tree trunk protectors**
- **De-vegetation of the site**
- **De-branching and de-leaving of Oaks and other shrubs**
- **Effectiveness of cliff setbacks**
- **Unauthorized trails**
- **Trees added to grassland/wildflower fields**

Impacts to the visual character not listed and/or inadequately described:

Disc Golf/Trailhead Area Project:

The covering of sections of the Old Humboldt Road for the purposes of a parking lot; For members of the community who value the visual character of the Historic Road this is very significant, especially in the context of a Park that bears the road builders name;

The 'filling' and therefore loss of 4 small vernal pools which will damage the visual character of the site; The addition of large mulched areas in locations currently in an unaffected state (Belchik proposals) negatively affecting the visual character ; The installation of man made tree protectors (Further, these are completely un-described and un-illustrated in the EIR and the Disc Golf Appendix, therefore likely impacts to the aesthetics of the site remain undisclosed); Negative impacts to the visual character resulting from a greater total footprint of de-vegetation than currently exists. (see below - \*1); Impacts to the visual character resulting from a greater total number of de-branched and partially defoliated trees as a result of disc strikes to blue oak and other shrubs.(see below -\*1) ;

The Belchik proposals supposedly establish set backs from the cliff that would potentially lessen the current amount of discs that are lost over the cliffs. This in turn might have a positive effect on the visual character in the cliff area due to a healing of the vegetation that is currently impacted from unofficial disc retrieval trails. However no standards of monitoring the effectiveness of the course adjustment is provided to ensure that discs will no longer be sent errantly over the cliff's edge.

The result of ineffective setbacks will be a significant continuing and worsening degradation of the visual character of the cliff area due to the incompatibility of unauthorized trails on the steep slopes of the area that will result in increased erosion over time. Therefore monitoring for the effectiveness and a plan to address potential ineffectiveness of the setbacks needs inclusion in the mitigation measure.

Impacts not listed: Trails Plan: Impacts caused by management's non-response to future unidentified unauthorized trail making and unauthorized social trails.(see \*2 below).

Impacts not listed: Horseshoe Lake Project: Introduction of trees to areas of the Park that are natural grassland habitat; horseshoe lake perimeter and North Rim trailhead. (This was noted at CAC meetings on the subject)

\*1 – Note: The project proposal and accompanying EIR put forth the *theory* that present impacts of various types, including impacts to the scenic vista, will be lessened as a result of relocating a given amount of infrastructure to currently un-impacted areas with the caveat that new methods of mitigation (Tree protection poles and mulching of tee surrounds, a central trail and possibly the 'greens' around the baskets) will limit new impacts to trees to a less than significant level.

Part and parcel of this theory is that abandoned, currently impacted areas will regenerate with native flora, and de-branched trees in these abandoned areas will heal into healthy trees thusly reducing the overall current impact foot print.

There is no guarantee that passive restoration of the native landscape will or can occur before the same de-vegetated areas are covered by invasive plants listed in the EIR as existing at the project site, including a standard to which potential reseeding seed source is to be held (i.e. what native and/or local wildflower field compatible seeds would be used).

There is no mitigation offered to offset impacts to Blue Oak leaves, meristems, or branches, which contribute to both the health and aesthetic value of the tree, only proposed, undescribed protection to the tree trunks.

\*2- Note: The language of the trails plan contains no mandatory language describing who, when, where, or how the ongoing problem of unauthorized trail creation will be monitored nor is there clear mandatory language that binds the City to respond at all – response remains optional.

This affects several CEQA Impact types including Degradation of the visual Character, Impacts to Biological resources, Impacts to Cultural and Physical resources, Soils and potentially Hydrology.

Unofficial trails are acknowledged in the existing conditions section of the EIR discussion of erosion (Section 2) as a *process*. In fact, unauthorized trails exist as ongoing social phenomena just as much as a temporary and finite current number of unauthorized trail locations.

#### **Impact BIO-1b and Mitigation Measure Bio 1b**

- **Lack of adequate proposal options-impacts to checkerbloom**
- **Unclear setback criteria for checkerbloom**
- **Unclear Fairway description and setback**
- **Unclear DG use pattern criteria**
- **Unconsidered impacts to BCC habitat**
- **Unconsidered impacts to shrubs and rocks that currently ‘protect’ BCC**
- **Insufficient ‘decommissioning’ mitigation**
- **Insufficient mitigation that sights optional (discretionary) BPMMP Objective**
- **Lack of mitigation for post construction maintenance activities**

Inadequacies of the Impacts description and Mitigation Measure of Bio-1b, and the failure of proposed course options (A, B, and C) to adequately reduce impacts to CNPS 1b listed plants to less than significant:

No option is given for course layout that avoids the immediate vicinity of Butte County Checkerbloom on long course holes 3, 4, and 17, why? It is unreasonable to propose a course for all three course options that does not reasonably avoid impacts to CNPS 1b plants. Inviting intensive recreation in close proximity with these plants is irresponsible stewardship and doesn't reflect a meaningful attempt to minimize impacts 'at the site'.

It remains undisclosed which Butte County Checkerbloom populations will be subject to a minimum 25 foot setback indicated as necessary where physical site constraints exist as noted on page E4-53. Please clarify what criteria define a physical constraint and if the 25 foot setback associated can be applied to future course alterations.

It is unclear what the document means by a '50 foot setback' where this applies to fairways; Is this meant to imply 50 feet from the center line of the fairway? Or from a fairway's edge?

What is the EIR's definition of a fairway's width? How was the criteria established? What is the average thrown disc's deviance from the center line of a fairway? What is the maximum deviance?

Page E4-53 claims that 'improvements have been designed to restrict foot traffic to clearly defined trails and establish clearly defined tees, targets, and fairways.' There is no further reference to how a fairway is clearly defined. Despite having a central trail, a purpose of a fairway is to travel to the location of a thrown disc, and a player will readily leave a central trail to access the disc. The result is the creation of multiple trails stemming from the central trail. This type of use of Butte County Checkerbloom habitat has direct impacts on potential future populations of Butte County Checkerbloom and potentially impacts to existing populations if setbacks are not sufficient.

Similarly, the mulching of tees, central trails and target areas, and "Target to Tee" trails in currently unaffected areas (Belchik proposals) represents direct impacts to Butte County Checkerbloom habitat and should be noted as such.

The EDAW special status plant survey report— field survey forms – refer to 8 occurrences of Butte County Checkerbloom in which there is partial 'protection' to the plants due to shrub cover. One such form refers to the plants being protected because they occur at the base of a rock. Does the EIR use this as criteria for allowing closer placement of intensive recreational facilities to the plants?

It should be noted that impacts to shrubs as a result of disc retrieval at the site has resulted in destruction to shrubs and therefore shrubs cannot account for protection of 1b plants.

Likewise, golfers currently use rocks to build infrastructure at the sight, and this is an established social pattern at the unsupervised and remote sight. Unauthorized maintenance at the site using the materials approved for site construction (a.k.a. rocks) can potentially result in direct or indirect impacts to B.C. Checkerbloom.

The use of boulders as a means of indicating fairway and trail decommissioning is proposed by Mitigation Measure Bio-1b, however the use of locally collected rocks has been the means disc golfers have used to identify their tees for some time. As a practical matter, I suggest a 4 x 6 inch sign placed at near ground level indicating that the path is closed for restoration.

Note also that the collection of rocks and boulders at the sight for general purposes outlined in the proposal will have a negative impact on fauna (reptiles, small mammals and insects) that live under the rocks

Despite the statement in Mitigation Measure Bio -1b that Objective O. P-8 of the BPMMP *shall* be implemented, the wording of the Objective clearly states that implementation (of the Objective ) can occur "as funding or volunteer efforts allow."

Therefore a rewording of the Objective as a mandatory directive, either in the BPMMP or as a mitigation measure *sans* "as funding or volunteer efforts allow," is required to adequately define a mandatory mitigation measure.

Further there is no schedule or method provided by the measure defining when or how the monitoring and documentation of Butte County checkerbloom shall be accomplished by the City.

It appears the disc golf project is not held to the same standard as the Trails Plan/Horseshoe lake Plan as found in Mitigation Measure BIO-1c that calls for appropriate mitigation to be developed through consultation with CDFG. Is the proposed mitigation for placement of Disc golf use in close proximity to B. C. Checkerbloom the result of consultation with CDFG? This should certainly apply to the acknowledged use of the site for disc golf in close proximity to Butte County Checkerbloom (Holes 3, 4, and 17 – Long; Hole 12 – Short).

#### **Impact BIO-1c and Mitigation Measure BIO-1c**

- **Lack of mitigation for post construction maintenance activity**

Deficiencies in Mitigation Measure Bio-1c:

Does not require City to implement any mitigation measure during future, post-construction period maintenance of official trails or other infrastructure that are part of the Trails Plan and Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan.

#### **Impact BIO-1c and Mitigation Measure BIO-1c and Impact BIO-1e and Mitigation Measure BIO-1e**

- **Unauthorized trails**

EIR/Draft BPMMP/Trails Plan do not effectively address impacts that occur/potentially may occur from current and future incidents of unauthorized trail occurrence.

The following quotes from the Trails Plan and BPMMP are presented to indicate the EIR/project's acknowledgement of existing Unauthorized Trails and related unauthorized activities and the lack any mandatory language that would result in the monitoring of the Park for current and future unauthorized impacts that potentially would significantly affect Butte County Checkerbloom (as well as other sensitive resources), and the lack of mandatory language that holds the City accountable to affected sensitive resources . Quotes are italicized, and discretionary non-mandatory language is highlighted in red

Despite the statement," *The area concept plans are intended to show proposed enhancements in greater detail and provide specific recommendations for phasing, management, maintenance, and improvements in these areas,*" The fact is no specific language that address who, when, where, how unauthorized trails shall be monitored for and addressed is included in the Trails Plan or BPMMP, despite a fair description of what may be **optionally** done at the City's discretion.

*The sensitive resources within the Park are being impacted by increased use, and careful consideration to resource protection will need to be incorporated into any plans for future trail maintenance, construction, or closure.*

*This document is intended to serve as a guide for future trail maintenance, improvement, construction, and closure within Bidwell Park.*

*Reasonable restoration of soils and plant communities should accompany trail route closures where exposure of significant soilless hard pan surface or other significant erosion has occurred.*

#### *Monkey Face*

*Multiple unofficial trails extend up the face, creating an unsightly appearance from Horseshoe Lake and causing erosion*

*Further field review, documentation, and monitoring will be required to implement a successful trail system.*

#### *2. Discourage off-trail use.*

*Address unofficial trails for either closure and restoration or establishment as an official trail.*

*The assessment of the condition of existing trails will be ongoing. Assessment time should be included in the Park's annual maintenance budget and should be done at a regularly scheduled interval, perhaps annually or as funding allows.*

*The City should make its stand clear on unofficial mountain biking trails. ( this statement is incongruous with existing municipal code policy that already exists, restricting Mountain bike use to authorized trails while in Upper Park.)*

#### **From the DRaft BPMMP:**

*O. T-1. Create a trail system that accommodates a variety of users and experiences and considers the following:*

- Eliminate and implement measures to discourage the creation of new unofficial trails;*
- Trail closure when necessary should include a reasonable measure of habitat rehabilitation, signage, or other method to indicate closure, and monitoring to ensure future non-use and achievement of rehabilitation goals;*

4 of 9 photos beginning on page 4 of the Trails Plan, 3 of 9 photos on page 5, at least 1 photo on page 6, one photo on page 7, one photo on page 19 show examples of unofficial (unauthorized, social) trails. These photos document the existing presence of unauthorized (Unofficial) trails in the Park.

Unofficial trails are also acknowledged in the existing conditions section of the EIR discussion of erosion (Section 2) as a *process*. This indicates that unauthorized trails exist as ongoing social phenomena, not only as a temporary and finite current number of unauthorized trail locations.

Thusly, while the planning document acknowledges the unauthorized trail phenomena, and the EIR states the fact that the entire park has not been surveyed for

sensitive resources, it fails to logically address the potential impacts to sensitive resources by mitigating for these potential impacts, by requiring a guaranteed schedule of monitoring for (such as annually), and closure of, as yet unidentified and future unauthorized (unofficial) trails.

#### **Mitigation Measure BIO-1e**

- **Mitigation of ground disturbance during maintenance**

This mitigation measure fails to provide similar mitigation for potential impacts resulting from trail *maintenance* activities such as are provided for any ground disturbing activities allowable on a segment by segment basis during *construction* of Specific Projects, as this applies to the regular maintenance activities of the park wide trail system and future, post-construction maintenance of new official trails identified in the Trails Plan.

#### **Impact Bio-1d and Mitigation Measure BIO-1d**

- **Duplicitous impacts to wildflower fields**
- **Fairway vs. trail definition**
- **Multiple trails**
- **Need for accurate mapping**
- **Insufficiency of mitigation (discretionary language)**

Speculative assumptions of Impact BIO-1d: "It is anticipated that wildflower field communities...will establish...in the decommissioned parts of the 'existing' disc golf Course footprint, (etc.)"

This is speculation, especially due to the presence of several invasive plant species at the site.

The possibility exists that wildflower fields will passively reestablish, but in order to guarantee a lessening of impacts to the wildflower field resource at the site, further Mitigation needs identification.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1d refers to minimizing the number of trails, and to decommissioning existing trails through wildflower fields. It makes no mention of fairways. Please disclose the difference between fairways and trails for the purpose of this EIR and associated planning documents, and provide an accurate description of each proposed fairway. What is the definition of a fairway? What is its maximum width? Does it allow multiple trails? If not, how will fairway use through wildflower fields not result in multiple trails? What is the maximum number of trails per fairway that will result in currently unaffected wildflower fields as a result of each Project Option (A, B, C)?

What is the source of the 'boulders' suggested to be placed 'just outside any points where trails enter the wildflower community'? Please disclose these points by providing detailed maps of trails and fairways, showing the fairway's official boundary in relation to the wildflower field communities present at the site.

The EIR should remove discretionary language, "as funding or volunteer efforts allow", and create a specific mandatory schedule for the monitoring of wildflower field communities, as well as mandatory documentation methods standards to make the mitigation measure referring to "Plant Objective O.P-8 of the BPMMP", an effective, mandatory mitigation measure.

### **Impacts and Mitigation Measure(s) Bio-2d (1)&(2)**

- **Insufficient mitigation for nesting raptors**
- **Need to monitor cliff setback effectiveness, establish fine for ‘littering’ of discs**

Both Bio 2d 1 & 2 address potential impacts that may result from construction, but no discussion or related mitigation of impacts that may result from disc golf use at the site are disclosed. Golf Discs are most often made of hard unforgiving plastic that would likely injure or kill a bird or damage a nest if contact is made.

Because new areas previously unaffected are proposed at the site, it is imperative that if surveys for nesting raptors for construction discover raptor nests at locations potentially affected by disc golf play, a means of avoiding impacts to the affected nest sites is implemented.

The EIR should account for this potentially significant impact.

Furthermore the protection of nesting Peregrine Falcons directly adjacent to the Disc Golf / Trailhead area should be a higher priority than the locating of an intensive recreational facility with the potential to impact the safety and viability of the bird population.

Course changes (as per Belchik) to establish set backs from the cliff are proposed that would potentially lessen the likelihood of injury or disruption to the raptors present, as well as lessen the current amount of discs that are lost and sometimes retrieved using unofficial trails in the cliff area, however no standards of monitoring the effectiveness of the course adjustment is provided to ensure that discs will no longer be errantly sent over the cliff's edge, potentially affecting the Raptors.

It should be noted in the EIR that the flight of a disc is not an extension of its original flight trajectory, but changes dramatically with the loss of disc spin and momentum. In the case of a disc thrown over a cliff, with enough air under it to allow a significant loss of spin and momentum, a disc may begin to descend in any direction depending on the influence of air currents it is no longer able to ‘overcome’. A disc will typically descend at a sharp angle in this uncontrollable direction, gaining a peak momentum generated by gravity and allowed by current air conditions until contact with earth is established. It is quite possible for a disc to be thrown over a cliff which crashes into the cliff itself after a loss of initial momentum and direction reversal, and thus it is possible for an errant or intentionally thrown disc to impact the nest site.

A fine for ‘Littering’ should be established and the act of throwing a disc off the cliff area should be sited as an example of littering at the Disc golf facility kiosk, along with disclosure of the fine amount.

### **Impact BIO-3c**

- **Impacts to previously unaffected Oak Habitat**
- **Impacts resulting from continued unmitigated use after official construction**

Impacts not listed: The loss of potential tree nursery sites at previously unaffected areas that are part of the Belchik proposals. This is a significant and unavoidable impact because no mitigation is proposed or likely possible that offsets the 'walk anywhere within the fairway' effects of trampling.

This unavoidable impact also applies to the tee, target and narrow central trail areas because of proposed mulching.

Adverse effects of Disc Golf on oak woodlands are described in the EIR and associated arborist's report, including impacts to foliage and branch tips as well as bark. These are listed as 'potentially significant impacts', when in relation to project proposals these are actually 'significant and unavoidable' because 1) Up to Over 100 trees previously unimpacted are potentially affected by the proposals, and 2) No mitigation is offered to protect foliage and branch tips, nor to protect the bark of branches.

Without significant changes to the proposal or Mitigation Measure for Oak Woodland, the City is required to submit a statement of overriding consideration if these unmitigated impacts are allowed to occur.

Other impacts not listed: Potentially significant impacts to Oak Woodland resulting from continued unmitigated use of the area as has been established as the social norm with the assistance (complicity) of the City.

The City has consistently failed to enforce Municipal Code **12R.04.140 that prohibits destruction, injury, cutting or taking of any natural condition of the landscape** within Bidwell Park, and failed to implement both its General Plan and State and Federal law requiring final environmental review adoption before project development. This has created a social environment in which lawlessness is considered normal and acceptable behavior.

#### **Mitigation measure BIO-3c**

- **Insufficient mitigation as part of 'decommissioning' goal**
- **Unclear criteria for new structure placement**
- **Potential impacts from proposed fencing – alternatives suggested**
- **Use of discretionary language as Mitigation**
- **Project's contradictions with mitigation sited (NRMP)**
- **Soil compaction at target areas**
- **Monitoring period for Blue Oak planting**
- **City's mitigation record**

The potential for 'boulders' placed as barriers to discourage use of decommissioned trails (does the EIR author mean 'fairways'?) is untested. No mitigation in the form of monitoring and duration of monitoring or enforcement is proposed, nor is specific mitigation that would describe standards for successful trail closure and/or rehabilitation.

A certain level of site enforcement should be included in the Mitigation Measure if trail/fairway closure is seriously proposed. Establishing a fine for the use of areas outside the official disc golf course for intentional disc golf play will be required to counter the existing prevalence of disregard for current Municipal Codes that prohibit the injury of natural conditions of the Park exhibited at the site.

**"12R.04.140 Destruction, injury, cutting or taking of any natural condition of the landscape - Prohibited.**

No person shall destroy, injure, cut, or take any natural condition of the landscape, including, but not limited to, flowers, shrubbery, plants, vines, trees, grass, wood, or rocks, in or from any city park or playground except with written permission of the park director.”

(Res. No. 19 93-94 §2 (part), Res. No. 39 02-03)

Criteria for “deeming necessary” the placement of ‘new structures and impervious surfaces in the drip line of Oaks’...’ to reduce footprint size of trees’ has not been disclosed by the EIR.

It is unclear (undisclosed) what type of fencing will be used to demarcate the 1 foot beyond oak tree drip lines during construction. It is possible for many types of fencing to have a direct impact on a tree’s roots, thus impacting a tree’s health, especially in an area of limited ground water where a given root may be the tree’s sole access to sufficient ground water for survival or may contribute a critical amount of water for the tree’s survival.

Trees at the site have been sited as slow growing due to a lack of readily available water in the EIR’s assessment of Oak trees at the site.

“Oaks in this environment survive to maturity only when roots have accessed fissures in the Tuscan formation that provide access to sufficient water”, (Chris Boza – on site meeting w/BPPC). Without confirmation of where a tree’s roots access these fissures, the use of large metal stakes or large wooden stakes is an unnecessary risk to the tree’s health.

It is recommended that a number of hand placed ‘plastic flags on a wire’ (commonly used in the resource assessment trades) placed every 2 feet along the proposed barrier, or 1 inch plastic tape following a circumference of hand placed 2 foot bamboo stakes will be sufficient indicators to reasonably educated and supervised construction crews to result in avoidance of the Oak resource during construction.

This method of ‘fencing’ has the added benefit of lessening the impacts to the visual character of the site during construction.

It is currently unclear whether the phrase ‘shall be implemented’ with regards to the NRMP’s Oak management guidelines is meant to override the discretionary (optional) character of the NRMP’s guidelines for Oak tree management.

The NRMP guidelines call for an *increase* in Oak Tree recruitment; how does the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3c accomplish this increase?

The NRMP guidelines call for mechanical removal of woody debris from the base of Oak trees to prevent damage to mature Oaks during wildfires; Mitigation Measure BIO-3c calls for the *installation* of a 6” layer of woodchip mulch in many places (disc golf only). What is the total square footage of Oak woodland surface area subject to woodchip mulching? What actions are required to protect the Oaks in the case of wildfire? Is it likely impossible to protect the health and/or lives of Oaks subject to Wildfire when a 6 inch woodchip mulching/kindling is present within the drip line of the trees.

No mention of mulching any given radius surrounding Targets (Baskets/Pins) is disclosed by the EIR; Is this a typo, or intentional? How does the EIR propose to limit soil compaction around basket/pin areas?

5 years is an inadequate amount of time to monitor Blue Oak planting success given the slow growth and growth habits of this plant.

Blue Oak seedlings typically occupy the shaded areas within the drip line, sometimes remaining 2 feet tall or less for years ("20 years is not unusual", Boza – onsite meeting with BPPC) until a change in light availability following the death of the Parent tree or significant limb allows the tree to proceed in growth pattern to a larger size. Even then, there is no guarantee that the tree nursery will produce a large mature tree or that a surviving tree will access enough water to allow it to grow beyond restricted size. Blue Oaks, like many drought tolerant species, can age a full lifespan while retaining a relatively small size, given the correct environmental conditions.

Therefore the replacement of a large Blue Oak, that fulfills not only its own life function as a tree, but as a large tree provides a given amount of acorn (Mast) food source to the Oak Woodland environment, significant shaded area suitable for *Sidalcia Robusta* habitat, significant branch structure to provide nesting and perching opportunities and a myriad of other environmental functions, with a 5 year old likely ½ inch maximum central stem thickness seedling is an inadequate mitigation to impacts of disc golf that result in tree mortality.

Further the city has no established record of successful mitigation through the planting of Blue Oaks, despite several attempts. (BP municipal golf course, Horseshoe Lake toxic clean up.)

Acquisition of new public lands with similar shallow soils and ridge top Blue Oak Habitat set aside as off site mitigation is one recommended method of mitigating for any such unavoidable impacts resulting from construction or ongoing use.

#### **Impact and Mitigation Measure BIO-3d**

- **Impacts to Wildflower fields in light of long term development trends**
- **Impacts to Wildflower fields and insufficient mitigation for *construction* of parking lots and landscaping**
- **Insufficient impact description**
- **Unclear fairway definition (again)**
- **Unclear mitigation-seed type & source for re-seeding**
- **Suggestions for temporary fencing**

Applicable to Horseshoe Lake concept plan: Wildflower fields are a primary attraction to visitors of the Middle Park area during the springtime. Impacts to Wildflower fields have been ongoing for years as a result of *authorized* development including the creation of manmade Horse Shoe Lake, the rerouting of the Upper Park Road, inclusion of a separate bike path in that project, construction of the Observatory (a wonderful

educational facility), and the removal of a large tract of soil and relocation of a parking lot that resulted from a toxic clean up of a shooting range.

This has diminished the footprint of land available to wildflower fields over time. While these impacts predated the scope of this EIR, they never the less influence the cumulative impacts of the proposed project.

With due respect to the EIR's planned improvements for lake shore and lake habitat, as well as treatment of trails and trail construction within the proposed project, the direct impacts caused by the *construction of* new lake shore treatments and new proposed facilities and associated landscaping proposals at the site including at new picnic tables, and parking lot B and potentially the expansion of Parking lot B all displace the wildflower field community unnecessarily.

Both disclosure of impacts and mitigation are underdeveloped within the EIR:

Construction of non-trail components of the project proposal are not required by Mitigation Measure BIO-3d to identify and avoid wildflower fields. No quantified description is provided that indicates what areas or amounts of wildflower field will be displaced by non-trail components of the project.

Existing trees at the site (as mentioned in appendix E of the BPMMP) are trees that have been planted on the man made retaining dam of Horseshoe Lake, and their willow offspring, no native trees occupy the shallow soils of the Lake's northerly edge. No trees naturally currently exist in the direct vicinity of parking lot B or on the shallow soils of the Lake's northern edge. Comments received at the CAC meetings from Woody Elliot representing CNPS pointed out that trees are not found in these areas because inadequate environmental conditions (shallow soils) exist.

Impacting a man made lakeshore by including wetland plants such as willow, etc. can enhance the ecology of the area, planting trees of any sort upon wildflower field habitat detracts from the eco-value.

Applicable to the Disc Golf Area Proposals: Without a clear description of fairway boundaries, it is not possible to judge the impacts to wildflower fields that may result from project implementation and facility use. Proposals indicate only by a line on map that wildflower fields are allowed to function as fairways.

Lack of adequate fairway boundary description is a recurring deficiency in the EIR's disclosure of project description, and associated impacts and mitigation to various resources.

Please disclose the seed content standard to which seed for 're-seeding' will be held, if any.

Please consider defining appropriate methods of fencing, such as bamboo stakes and plastic tape or other methods that limit the impacts to the visual character of the construction sites.

### **BIO- 3e Impacts and Mitigation Measure**

- **Insufficient Mitigation (incomplete)**

Mitigation is insufficiently described because it is known that four vernal pools will be lost/filled as a result of Disc Golf project development, yet a description of exactly how

this impact would be mitigated by 'replacement or restoration/enhancement' as potentially required by decisions by USACE remains undisclosed.

#### **BIO -7 Impacts and Mitigation**

- **Conflicts with Municipal Code and General Plan**
- **Occurrence vs. development**
- **Trails Plan and conflicts with Muni Code**
- **Prior consistency of BPMMP (1990)w/ other City policies**
- **Draft's Conflicts with GP and Muni Codes**

Several components of both the Draft BPMMP and the Disc Golf area Project are in direct conflict with more than one existing City policy protecting biological resources, including portions of Municipal Code Section 12R and the Resource Conservation Area designation of the General Plan that is part of the City's Open Space Action Plan (see page 7-2 in General Plan), an open space plan required by the Government Code.

The Resource Conservation Area designation is defined in the General Plan, "RCAs provide opportunities for various non-development oriented uses. They may be used for limited passive recreation, educational purposes, as sites for scientific study, or as locations for off-site mitigation banking "(Page 7-10 Gen. Plan 1994/99)

According to the EIR (page E4-130), "RCAs are designated to recognize the presence of sensitive and valuable habitat requiring protection and conservation in perpetuity..."

The Resource Conservation Area designation went into effect when the General Plan was adopted in 1994, and allowed pre-existing intensive developments for 'active' recreation to remain.

In effect, future development oriented uses were off the table within RCA areas at that point, with the exceptions of facilities for "limited passive recreation, educational purposes, as sites for scientific study, or as locations for off-site mitigation banking".

This action was consistent with the Current (1990) BPMMP which states, "Focus developed recreation outside of Bidwell Park and emphasize natural features and facilities for passive recreation use within the natural areas of the Park. Emphasize wilderness recreation in Upper Park." (2.3, Objective 5 Park Uses, Events, and Facilities; Page 30) and on page 5, "Developed recreation opportunities should be shifted to other outside park resources, while improvements in Bidwell Park would emphasize passive uses and maintenance of existing facilities where appropriate."

#### **Disc Golf and RCA/GP:**

While the EIR and existing conditions section of the Draft BPMMP document (Section 2) claim that Disc golf has occurred at the site since 1989, this description is not a description of 'disc golf *development*'.

The RCA status was applicable to the site as per City policy when the land was purchased as an addition to Bidwell Park.

'Disc Golf *development*' may possibly predate allowable cutoff dates for describing existing conditions in a CEQA document as claimed by the EIR's authors, however it does not predate the adoption of the General Plan.

*Development* of the Disc Golf site can be dated to the installation of metal tone poles.

Since the Document uses personal communication with Gregg Payne to 'establish' the reference date for disc golf 'occurrence' (set at 1989), there is no reason why the document's authors cannot include a date from the same source (G.Payne) for the permanent installation of the metal tone poles.

Prior to that event, environmental conditions at the site were not impacted by the social disc golf play that occurred in small numbers of people on an undeveloped landscape. ( personal communication from Randy Abbott received by City and EDAW prior to Belchik proposals – see #3 below).

Despite the lack of consideration for introducing a disc golf development into an undeveloped landscape by the EIR, there still remains a conflict with the RCA status of the site and the existence of the Disc Golf development because the *development* of disc golf is not a pre-existing condition in the Resource Conservation Area, i.e. the two designations are currently incompatible.

The EIR must address this incompatibility.

Mitigation of this conflict must be included in the proposal, likely removing areas within the Disc Golf project boundaries from RCA status in the GP in the event the Disc Golf Project is approved.

(Footnote #3 – The following is content of a letter submitted by Randy Abbott to Dennis Beardsley, Petra Unger (of EDAW) and Brendan Vieg on 10-3-05 ,” the intensity of use by disc golfers did not alter the landscape until after 1997. This I know 1<sup>st</sup> hand as one who started playing the course- according to Gregg Payne when I asked him how long the tone poles had 'been up' - two months after the tone pole installation.

At that time there were no visible paths emanating from the tee areas, and no tell tale loss of living leaves from the tee side of fairway blue oaks. Within a year, even with (by today's standards) very light usage, paths had formed. Therefore I find it unbelievable that any significant established use that would in anyway override the policies involving developed recreation in Bidwell Park could have existed prior to 1997.”)

#### **Disc Golf and the Muni Code 12R; 12R's relationship to the current BPMMP and RCA:**

The disc golf development also contradicts Municipal Code 12R.08.040 that restricts the BPPC and others from designating a City Park or playground or portion of such park or playground as an area for intensive use if such area has been dedicated as open space to remain in its natural state, or has been dedicated to a passive recreational use requiring peace, quiet and tranquility, and, by reason thereof, the regular use of such park or playground or portion thereof for public events would normally be incompatible with such dedicated use; or that has been previously set aside to remain in its natural state or for uses that generally require peace, tranquility and quiet.

12R.08.040 also includes a complete list of areas within Bidwell Park that have been dedicated for intensive use,( note that none of these fail to qualify as pre-existing conditions at the time of the GP's adoption.):

"1. The following portions of Bidwell Park. as delineated in Exhibits "A" through "D" attached to this chapter:

- a. The One-Mile Dam recreation area,
  - b. The Council Ring area,
  - c. The Cedar Grove area,
  - d. The Five-Mile Dam recreation area.
2. a. North Park Drive from Vallombrosa Avenue west to Vallombrosa Way.
  - b. South Park Drive from 4th Street east to Centennial Avenue.
  - c. Upper Park Road from Wildwood Avenue east to end of the road.
3. The following additional parks and playgrounds:
    - a. Children's Playground,
    - b. Plaza Park,
    - c. Depot Park".

The adoption of the 1990 BPMMP describes Upper Park as a "wilderness preserve", and consistently describes a commitment to "preserving and protecting the Park's natural resources"(Page 13, 1990 BPMMP) (i.e. to remain in a natural state).

The EIR describes impacts of Disc Golf that will occur as a result of Disc Golf Project Implementation and disc golf use as including impacts to Oak tree woodlands and vernal pools as well as wildflower fields. This is in direct conflict with Municipal Code 12R.04.140, the Prohibition of destruction, injury, cutting or taking of any natural condition of the landscape (within Bidwell Park). (full text below)

The EIR fails to provide adequate mitigation for these conflicts with the Municipal Code.

**The Trails Plan and O.T-1 and I.T-11 of the Draft BPMMP as drafted are also in conflict with certain Municipal Codes:**

- **12R.04.070 Bicycles - Other restrictions in Upper Bidwell Park.**

Bicycle use in Upper Bidwell Park shall be permitted only on the roads and trails. No bicycle use shall be permitted on the trails whenever the park director determines that damage to the trails is likely due to wet weather conditions. Roads closed, permanently or temporarily, to motor vehicles are trails for the purpose of this section.

- **12R.04.100 Bicycles - Use near banks of pools or swimming areas and in creeks -Prohibited - Exception.**

Bicycle use is prohibited within 100 feet of the banks of any swimming pool or swimming area in Bidwell Park, except where established roads for vehicle traffic or bicycle paths are situated at a closer distance. Bicycle use is also prohibited within Big Chico Creek except when permission is granted by the park director or the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission.

(Res. No. 19 93-94 §2 (part), Res. No. 39 02-03)

- **12R.04.140 Destruction, injury, cutting or taking of any natural condition of the landscape - Prohibited.**

No person shall destroy, injure, cut, or take any natural condition of the landscape, including, but not limited to, flowers, shrubbery, plants, vines, trees, grass, wood, or rocks, in or from any city park or playground except with written permission of the park director.

(Res. No. 19 93-94 §2 (part), Res. No. 39 02-03)

Conflicts with these codes occur because the Trails Plan and Draft BPMMP provide a policy of unauthorized trail tolerance through the creation of *optional* implementation strategies that undermine the Muni Code's mandatory protection of the natural conditions of the Park and prohibition of bicycle use off trail, etc.

The draft BPMMP only prompts the City to '*consider*' the elimination and discouragement of unofficial trails.

The Trails Plan states, "*The City should make its stand clear on unofficial mountain biking trails. If it is decided that such use is not allowed in Bidwell Park the regulation should be clearly stated at trailhead regulatory signs and in brochures and trail maps.*"

This implies that no existing Codes or policies exist, and tiers to the proposed Draft BPMMP's *non*-mandatory (optional) call to '*consider*' eliminating unofficial trails. (O.T-1 pg.3-28, 29 – nor does any I.S.& G. refer to any mandatory closure of unofficial trails).

To allow continued use of Unauthorized trails and to allow the creation of new unauthorized trails through the policies created in the Draft Trails Plan and Draft BPMMP is also in direct conflict with Existing policies of the current BPMMP:

"Eliminate unauthorized roads and paths." (Page 32, 2.4, Objective 10)

After referring to "80" miles of trails in the Park, the same paragraph in Section 2 (pg.2-94) states that "All trails in Upper Park are open [to all users], except the Yahi Trail".

It is unclear if the figure '80' miles includes trails in Lower and Middle Park, and if this figure includes trails currently defined by 'unauthorized' status. The General Services director, Dennis Beardsley has publicly stated that Official trails in Upper Park are those with official names.

The point of this portion of public commentary is not to take issue with the trails identified in the Trails Plan slated for official status, the point is rather to ask for clarification of treatment of those not designated as official and to seek policy consistency with existing City ordinances in that treatment as described in the policies subject to the Project and Program EIR.

Does the Update process seek to de-establish the unauthorized status of unofficial trails not identified in the trails plan as official as this status relates to existing municipal codes? Does the Update process seek to establish an order in which all unofficial trails are open to all users? Does the Update seek to allow the creation of new unauthorized trails by defining a usable trail as any trail? How does the Update differentiate between off-trail use and use of an unofficial trail? Are Unofficial trails considered off-trail use, or does the City have no policy for use of unofficial trails?

Similarly, the lack of mandatory unofficial trail closure policy applies to future unauthorized trail development, whether intentional or unintentional.

Page 2-19 of the Existing Conditions section of the EIR describes the process by which unofficial trails are created, "Once erosion has occurred, the rocky and rutted trail conditions cause trail users to seek smoother, less eroded routes, leading to widened or "unofficial" trails." 'Less eroded routes' certainly include unofficial trails that establish an entirely new route upon the landscape.

The use of off trail areas of the Park and the creation of unofficial (social, unauthorized) trails are one in the same thing. It is disingenuous to state otherwise, especially on soils characterized by the EIR thusly, "Most of the project site soils have a high to very high potential for runoff, indicating that the potential for erosion by water is also high." This is especially true in Upper and parts of Middle Park because the soils are shallow, sit on top of a substrate of limited water absorbing capacity and have a high ratio of stones and cobbles to fines. Thus the potential for significant impacts to the natural conditions of the Park is very high if these new policies that conflict with existing policies are allowed adoption as Park Management policy.

Mitigation to these conflicts with current Municipal Codes should be a change in Trails Plan and Proposed Draft BPMMP language that is consistent with codified policies pertaining to mandatory resource protection and Bicycle use in the Park.

Section 12R of the Municipal Code should be included as part of Appendix J.

**Conflicts with existing local ordinances that would result from adoption of certain sections of the Draft BPMMP affecting areas set aside to remain in a natural state.**

The Proposed Draft BPMMP is also in conflict with **Municipal Code 12R.08.040** that restricts the BPPC and others from designating an area for intensive use that has been previously set aside to remain in its natural state or for uses that generally require peace, tranquility and quiet.

In section 3.6 .1.2 and section 3.6.2.2 Language allows the optional development of new intensive uses outside of areas currently developed for intensive use, i.e. the natural areas of the Park. No mandatory language exists that will restrict new intensive developments to currently developed footprints.

It is very unclear what the terminology used in the Draft BPMMP, "minimally developed areas of the Park, (LRC-1, pg.3-11)" means.

Without a clear definition of what areas of the Park are allowed future development of facilities for intensive use, it is impossible not to conclude that designations of intensive recreational facilities within areas set aside to remain in a natural state, are allowed to occur under the Draft policies of the Updated BPMMP.

This is poignantly clear when the 'permissible uses' as described in sections 3.6.1.1 and 3.6.2.1 are specifically applicable to the entire Park Zone -i.e. Lower Park and Middle Park. The logical application of these policies is to allow new intensive use facilities anywhere in Lower and Middle Park in direct conflict with Muni Codes.

This is potentially also in conflict with the RCA designation of the Park, if a future proposed development outside current development footprints is not for 'limited passive

recreation, educational purposes, as sites for scientific study, or as locations for off-site mitigation banking.”

Mitigation for this conflict to local policies and ordinances should include a change to Draft BPMMP language that reflects consistency with existing local policies and ordinances.

## **GEO-2**

- **Insufficient description of impacts resulting from a lack of unauthorized off trail use of the resource**
- **Lack of effective mitigation**

Although the description of impacts (page E4-102) refers to ‘creation of new paths or trails by Park users who do not stay on the marked trails’, and recounts that yes, this is a challenge faced by other park systems, it fails to disclose that all proposed policies in the Draft BPMMP and Trails Plan that address the closure of unofficial, unauthorized, social, or unmitigated trail use or creation are strictly optional due to a lack of mandatory language.

Further, no specific scheduling of monitoring for unauthorized activities is included in the Draft BPMMP or Trails Plan, so there is no reasonable expectation that recommended guidelines would ever be implemented.

Once annual monitoring of the Park is the minimum recommended.

## **IMPACT HAZ-7**

- **Increase to wildfire risk**
- **Need to assess impacts from emergency vehicles on resources**

The increase of fuel load via a 6 “ woodchip mulch surrounding tees and along central trails and potentially surrounding targets at the Disc Golf Project site would increase risk of wildland fire.

Mitigation should include an amendment to any existing Wildfire management plan for Bidwell Park or lacking such, a plan shall be required that addresses emergency response to the site, including the access of fire suppression vehicles. The impacts of these vehicles on the biological resources in the event of a wildfire at the site should be included in the final EIR.

Functional non-flammable alternative might be considered: Gravel of same type as found on site?

## **Impact LU-1**

- **Inconsistencies with General Plan and municipal code**
- **Insufficient description of existing conditions – planning process**
- **Need for Mitigation of inconsistencies**

Several components of both the BPMMP and the Disc Golf area Project are inconsistent with more than one existing City Policy, including portions of Municipal Code Section 12R and the Resource Conservation Area designation of the General Plan

that is part of the City's Open Space Action Plan (see page 7-2 in General Plan), an open space plan required by the Government Code.

The Resource Conservation Area designation is defined in the General Plan, "RCA's provide opportunities for various non-development oriented uses. They may be used for limited passive recreation, educational purposes, as sites for scientific study, or as locations for off-site mitigation banking "(Page 7-10 Gen. Plan 1994/99)

According to the EIR page E-130, "RCAs are designated to recognize the presence of sensitive and valuable habitat requiring protection and conservation in perpetuity..."

The Resource Conservation Area designation went into effect when the General Plan was adopted in 1994, and allowed pre-existing intensive developments for 'active' recreation to remain. This action was consistent with the Current (1990) BPMMP which states, "Focus developed recreation outside of Bidwell Park and emphasize natural features and facilities for passive recreation use within the natural areas of the Park. Emphasize wilderness recreation in Upper Park." (2.3, Objective 5 Park Uses, Events, and Facilities; Page 30) and on page 5, "Developed recreation opportunities should be shifted to other outside park resources, while improvements in Bidwell Park would emphasize passive uses and maintenance of existing facilities where appropriate."

While the EIR and existing conditions section of the Draft BPMMP document (Section 2) claim that Disc golf has occurred at the site since 1989, this description is not a description of 'disc golf development'. 'Disc Golf development' may possibly predate allowable cutoff dates for describing existing conditions in a CEQA document as claimed by the EIR's authors, however it does not predate the adoption of the General Plan.

Development of the Disc Golf site can be dated to the installation of metal tone poles

Since the Document uses personal communication with Gregg Payne to 'establish' the reference date for disc golf 'occurrence' (set at 1989), there is no reason why the document's authors cannot include a date from the same source (G.Payne) for the permanent installation of the metal tone poles.

Prior to that event, environmental conditions at the site were not impacted by the casual disc golf play that occurred in small numbers of people. ( personal communication from Randy Abbott received by City prior to Belchik proposals).

Despite the lack of consideration for introducing a disc golf development into an undeveloped landscape by the EIR, there still remains a conflict with the RCA status of the site and the existence of the Disc Golf development *Because the development of disc golf is not a pre-existing condition* in the Resource Conservation Area, i.e. the two designations are incompatible.

Therefore mitigation of this inconsistency must be included in the proposal.

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Unless indicated as allowable under Federal, State, County or Local (CITY OF CHICO) ordinance or law, the City cannot adopt a resolution to allow a new

recreational facility development with potentially significant impacts to the environment without first adopting by final resolution of City Council an environmental document stating the significant environmental effects of a project, identifying feasible ways to minimize the significant effects, and describing reasonable alternatives to the project that can reduce or avoid significant environmental effects.

The City is only now in the process of doing this for the disc golf project, despite pre-environmental document adoption permission by staff to allow the development of disc golf courses at the site. This permission by Staff marks the beginning of the City's complicity with pre-environmental review development of the site, and is a part of the public record, preceding the City's first Initial Study. \_\_\_\_\_

The Draft BPMMP Section 2 fails to identify the existing state of the planning process on 10-14-05 as non-compliant with environmental law: allowing a development designed without the benefit of sufficient environmental analysis, including review of consistency with existing Local Policies and Ordinances.

Disclosure of these facts is important to the CEQA process, and to the decision making process based on a full disclosure of the facts.

The disc golf development is also inconsistent with Municipal Code 12R.08.040 that restricts the BPPC and others from designating an area for intensive use that 'has been previously dedicated as open space to remain in its natural state, or has been dedicated to a passive recreational use requiring peace, quiet and tranquility...' The RCA status (limited passive recreation) was conveyed to the site as per City policy when the land was purchased as an addition to Bidwell Park.

The adoption of the 1990 BPMMP describes Upper Park as a "wilderness preserve", and consistently describes a commitment to "preserving and protecting the Park's natural resources"(Page 13, 1990 BPMMP).

The EIR describes impacts of Disc Golf that will occur as a result of Disc Golf Project Implementation and disc golf use as including impacts to Oak tree woodlands and vernal pools as well as wildflower fields.

This is in direct conflict with Municipal Code 12R.04.140, the Prohibition of destruction, injury, cutting or taking of any natural condition of the landscape (within Bidwell Park).

The EIR fails to disclose Mitigation for these conflicts to the Municipal Code.

The Trails Plan as drafted is also inconsistent with certain Municipal Codes:

- Bicycle use restricted to trails when in Upper Park (12R.04.070)
  - Prohibition of Bicycle use *within* Big Chico Creek or upon its banks (12R.04.100)
- And from the current (existing) BPMMP, "Eliminate unauthorized roads and paths." (Page 32, 2.4, Objective 10)

The Trails Plan states, "*The City should make its stand clear on unofficial mountain biking trails. If it is decided that such use is not allowed in Bidwell Park the regulation should be clearly stated at trailhead regulatory signs and in brochures and trail maps.*"

This implies that no existing Codes or policies exist, and tiers to the proposed Draft BPMMP's *non*-mandatory (optional) call to 'consider' eliminating unofficial trails.(O.T-1 pg.3-28, 29; I. C/A -7, page 3-36 – no I.S.& G. refers to mandatory closure of unofficial trails).

Mitigation for these inconsistencies with current Municipal Codes should be a change in Trails Plan and Proposed Draft BPMMP language that is consistent with codified policies pertaining to resource protection and Bicycle use in the Park.

Section 12R of the Municipal Code should be included as part of Appendix J, but is not currently included in the draft.

The Proposed Draft BPMMP is also inconsistent with Municipal Code 12R.08.040 that restricts the BPPC and others from designating an area for intensive use that has been previously set aside to remain in its natural state or for uses that generally require peace, tranquility and quiet.

In section 3.6 .1.2 and section 3.6.2.2 Language allows the optional development of new intensive uses outside of areas currently developed for intensive use, i.e. the natural areas of the Park. No mandatory language exists that will restrict new intensive developments to currently developed footprints.

This is potentially also inconsistent with the RCA designation of the Park, if a future proposed development outside current development footprints is not for 'limited passive recreation, educational purposes, as sites for scientific study, or as locations for off-site mitigation banking.'

Mitigation for these inconsistencies to local policies and ordinances should include a change to Draft BPMMP language that reflects consistency with existing local policies and ordinances.

#### **Impact PS-5**

- **Inadequate impact description – effects to the maintenance of public facilities**

It is inappropriate for the EIR to claim that construction of the Four Park Projects will not move forward until adequate funding is secured and to use this as justification for not providing information on project costs.

The EIR's authors should not assume these projects will not move forward, possibly affecting the funding of other public facilities maintenance.

The decision to adopt the new BPMMP and of the four park 'improvement' projects should be directly influenced by cost. Because cost affects the implementation of all City policies ongoing, because there is never enough money for all policies to be implemented at any one time, a decision to adopt *any* new policy is always in relation to an atmosphere of inadequate funding.

The EIR is clearly deficient if it does not disclose 1) current cost estimates to build each Park 'improvement' project and 2) estimated long term mitigation and maintenance costs, projected a minimum of 5 years.

#### **UTIL-4**

- **Oversight?**

What is the water supply for the proposed restrooms at the disc golf site?

## **EIR – Public Comments-Section E5 – Alternatives**

Submitted by Randy Abbott, member of the public, 1151 e. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Chico, CA 95928

“Section 15126.6[a] of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR (1) describe a range of reasonable alternatives to a proposed project, or to the location of the project, that would feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and (2) evaluate the comparative environmental advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives. An EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to a proposed project, but must consider a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives that will foster informed decision making” (pg. E5-1)

### **Insufficiency of EIR to set forth alternatives that reasonably reduce a significant or potentially significant adverse effect of the proposed project.**

Horseshoe Lake Specific Project: Significant direct impacts considered in this project should include the potential displacement of additional grassland, wildflower fields, and Vernal Pools (Northern volcanic mudflow vernal pool plant community) that result from landscaping of portions of the Project, and from parking lot expansion at Parking lot B;

The EIR should consider Cumulative Impacts to these resources taking into account past impacts resulting from approved and mandated projects including: Construction of Chico Municipal Golf Course and expansions of that facility, the rerouting of Upper Park Road, construction of bike path, construction of Horseshoe Lake, Various parking lots, including the recent relocation of Parking Lot E.

Cumulative impacts to the aesthetic and biological value of these resources have been significant over time, therefore the project proposal should strive to reduce to a minimum further impacts to these resources to the greatest extent feasible within the Project Objectives.

All of the Project’s Objectives can be realized without the addition of landscaping that displaces the native flora naturally occurring at the site. Especially in the context of impacts created by *attempts* to establish trees and/or shrubs that may or may not be successful, as past attempts to establish similar plantings in similar environmental conditions has frequently proven unsuccessful in City Projects.

Likewise, it may reasonably be possible to provide additional parking by addressing the potential maximum capacity of the existing Parking Lot B footprint by the addition of cement wheel stops that serve as markers delineating parking ‘spots’. The current lot encourages cars to park at random degrees of closeness because there is no such delineation.

Because *all* of the Project Objectives can be met, and potentially significant impacts to both aesthetic and biological resources can be avoided by NOT planting trees and shrubs where Wildflower Fields, Grasslands or Northern volcanic mudflow vernal pool plant community currently exists, and because there is reasonable expectation that additional parking capacity of existing Parking footprint can be achieved without the expansion of the existing Parking Lot B footprint, it is reasonable to request an Alternative be set forth by the EIR for the Horseshoe Lake project pursuant to Section

15126.6[a] of the State CEQA Guidelines cited above, that include these suggested alternative project criteria.

The above recommended Alternative to the Horseshoe Lake project should not be construed to limit proposed lakeshore treatments pending avoidance of Wildflower Fields, Vernal Pools or Grasslands from the construction of the same.

Disc Golf/ Trail Head Specific Project: Despite a range of labeled Alternatives within the Disc Golf/TH Project Proposal, and despite a range of labeled CEQA Mandated Alternatives, totaling 6 possible proposals, only one Alternative – the Restoration Alternative – has the potential to reasonably avoid or significantly lessen significant impacts to Butte County Checkerbloom (CNPS 1b). Similarly, significant impacts to Oak Woodlands and Wildflower Fields are consistently present in all but the Restoration Alternative.

(Referring to B.C.C.), Holes 3, 4, and 17 of the long course are **in the immediate vicinity of known locations of this plant species.**” (Pg. E4-52).

According to the EIR, all project proposals and alternatives except for the Restoration Alternative impact the same known occurrences of Butte County Checkerbloom in the Long Course area.

Therefore Alternatives within the Project Proposal, and Alternative ‘C’ of the CEQA required alternatives – the only alternatives that meet the stated DG/TH Project Objectives – are demonstratively too similar to permit a reasoned choice between a project that significantly impacts a sensitive resource (CNPS 1b B.C. C.) and a project that could avoid or substantially lessen this significant impact.

Given the size of the site, it should be possible to AVOID all impacts to Existing known occurrences of Butte County Checkerbloom and still achieve the stated Project Objective of including disc golf suitable to ‘tournament’ play. It may even be possible to reduce impacts to Wildflower Fields by redesigning the site for a minimum 18 hole facility using existing maps of sensitive resources. Although it may be difficult to analyze relative potential impacts to Oak Woodlands based on maps produced for the EIR because these maps fail to illustrate the specific footprints of Oak Woodlands, it should not deter the EIR from providing at least one alternative that meets the Project Objective, avoids CNPS 1b species, and further reduces impacts to Wildflower Fields, even if additional fieldwork and design is necessary.

The following suggestion for an Alternative 18 hole disc golf facility is made without the benefit of Oak Woodland analysis. While impacts to Oak Woodlands is a major Public concern and an unavoidable impact of the Project, the possibility exists that the City will pursue the Stated Objective of including Disc Golf into a multi use development of the area by any means necessary- even if they must rewrite every existing policy and ordinance to do it.

Consideration of impacts to Oak Woodlands should be comparatively weighed in terms of numbers of Oaks currently and potentially newly affected by the suggested alternative, as has been included in the arborist’s report for current course design options.

Note that the B.C. C adjacent Proposed holes # 2 and #12 Long are also within the functional 'play zone' of the fairway, therefore this suggested alternative attempts supply a design that would substantially lessen potential impacts to these B. C. C. occurrences.

**Abbreviations: S=Short course as proposed, L=Long course as proposed, T=Tee, B=Basket (or target)**

**Suggested potential Alternative Course Design to avoid B.C.C. (CNPS1b)**

**Hole #1:** Use S-T #1, Use S-B #2

**Hole #2:** Use S-T&B #3

**Hole #3:** Use S-T #5, Use S-B #6

**Hole #4:** Use S-T #16, Use S-B #17

**Hole #5:** Use S-T #18, Use S-B #18

**Hole #6:** Use L-T&B #1

**Hole #7:** (pending analysis) Create alternative T adjacent multi-use trail (approximately 100' North of and 50' East of currently proposed L-T #2, and new alternative B approximately 100' Northwest of currently proposed L-B #2.

(This alternative design uses the multi use trail for golfer circulation, removing a duplicitous B to T parallel trail, and reduces likely impacts to B.C.C shown on the map within the range of disc play for proposed Hole L #2.

**Hole #8:** Use L – T&B #14

**Hole #9:** Use L – T&B #15

**Hole #10:** (pending analysis) Create alternate (NEW) T adjacent and North of L-T 16; new B located slightly SW of currently proposed L-B #12

**Hole # 11:** Use L – T&B #5

**Hole #12:** Use L – T&B #6

**Hole #13:** Use L – T&B #7

**Hole #14:** Use L – T&B #8

**Hole #15:** Use L – T&B #9

**Hole # 16:** Use L – T&B #11

**Hole # 17:** (pending analysis) Create an alternative hole between proposed L-B #11 and approximately 50 feet north of proposed L-T #12 (or similar least impactful design)

**Hole # 18:** Use L – T&B #16

It is important that the EIR meet CEQA requirements to make a reasonable effort to supply alternatives that significantly reduce impacts to sensitive resources while still achieving Project Objectives, but this is especially important for the proposed Disc Golf/Trail Head project because the DG/TH project negatively affects quantitatively more known sensitive resources than all other Specific Projects combined. An argument could be made that quantified, known, unavoidable impacts resulting from adoption of the DG/TH project proposal dwarf quantified, known, unavoidable impacts to sensitive resources that result from adoption and implementation of the Program (BPMMP) and other Projects combined, as currently drafted in this EIR.

Because the DG/TH Specific Project does account for the greatest percentage of known impacts to sensitive resources resulting from the entire Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update Project, it is reasonable that alternative locations be identified

and analyzed by the CEQA process. Due to a lack of environmental analysis, it is unclear that the sole off-site alternative sighted in section E5 (Modified Disc Golf Plan) is practical or desirable for an alternative site, and is therefore inadequately presented as a CEQA alternative that might "avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project."

Therefore it is reasonable that the EIR:

- 1) Provide thorough environmental analysis of the proposed alternative site identified by the Modified Disc Golf Plan.
- 2) If said alternative site substantially increases total BPMMP Update project impacts to known sensitive resources, locate and analyze an alternative off-site location that does avoid or substantially lessen impacts to sensitive resources.

#### Faulty Analysis of the 'no project alternative' for the Disc Golf / T.H. Project:

The analysis of impacts fails to incorporate the logical and legal application of the non-Zone Specific (Parkwide) Goals and Objectives of the BPMMP and furthermore, enforcement of **Municipal Code 12R.04.140 that prohibits destruction, injury, cutting or taking of any natural condition of the landscape** to current use and conditions of the so called, "Hwy. 32 Site".

#### **Comments relating to Project Objectives:**

##### The Draft BPMMP's failure to meet Project Objectives:

The BPMMP fails to 'resolve planning issues pertaining to current Park management' because it fails to resolve the main source of user conflict currently present in the Park and in the Community: the non-enforcement of local policies and ordinances designed to both protect the ecosystem of the Public resource and establish a criteria by which recreational impacts are allowed.

The BPMMP also fails to clearly resolve similar problems with the City's past disregard for CEQA required planning protocol.

Despite the language of Objectives O.MC-1 and O.MC-3, no implementation strategy for these objectives is set forth by the Planning document.

Without a clear mandatory implementation policy that binds City decision makers to adhere to Federal, State, and Local environmental laws and guidelines, past performance shows that an abandonment of these statutes and policies is possible.

The BPMMP fails to 'resolve planning issues pertaining to current Park management' because it fails to clearly, with mandatory policy, define a schedule for monitoring for new unauthorized development of 'unofficial trails', and fails to state that closure of unauthorized trails is a mandatory maintenance task.

While this issue has not socially erupted into as major a source of conflict as the Disc Golf phenomena, probably due to the innocence of off trail users who do not benefit from the lack of educational signage present, and the incremental, cumulative nature of off trail use, this issue has

been identified by both the environmental and cultural resource stakeholders in the process as a primary concern.

I urge that the EIR suggest/make changes to currently optional (discretionary) language addressing unauthorized trail closure, making those policies mandatory with words such as 'shall' and 'must', and include a once yearly monitoring program as additional and mandatory implementation policy.

Taking these important steps provides a solid foundation upon which to base all future trail development decisions, including the building of new trails identified in the Trails Plan and future as yet un-proposed trails.

#### Failure of the Trails Plan to meet Project Objectives:

The Trails Plan fails to clarify circulation patterns in Lower Park because many existing trails are not included in the Trails Map of Lower Park. Examples: Creek side trail that accesses Council Fire Ring, Creek side trails on north and south side, Trail from Hwy 99 @ northeast nexus with Peterson Drive that extends NE to join Vita Course Trail., etc.

#### Failure of Disc Golf / Trail Head Project to meet Project Objectives:

The Disc Golf Project fails to mitigate for the locating of disc golf use at the site *if* the intention of the Project Description is to allow 'professional' tournaments at the site.

OS-1 zoning allows only for 'non-professional' athletic fields and facilities, thusly a change to the zoning of the site may be required. (OS-2 may allow for professional tournaments?)

#### Inadequate analysis of 'Modified Trails Plan 1:

The reopening of closed portions of South Park Drive results in obvious environmental impacts that are not considered in the existing analysis (of impacts of the Trails Plan).

Several impacts and potential impacts need evaluation before the environmental effects of this Alternative can be adequately considered described for purposes of a CEQA Alternative.

- Effects to an established user population
- Increase of hazards *within the Park*
- Increase of user conflicts *within the Park*
- Potential impacts to riparian and aquatic habitats if road construction is necessitated directly or indirectly by the project.

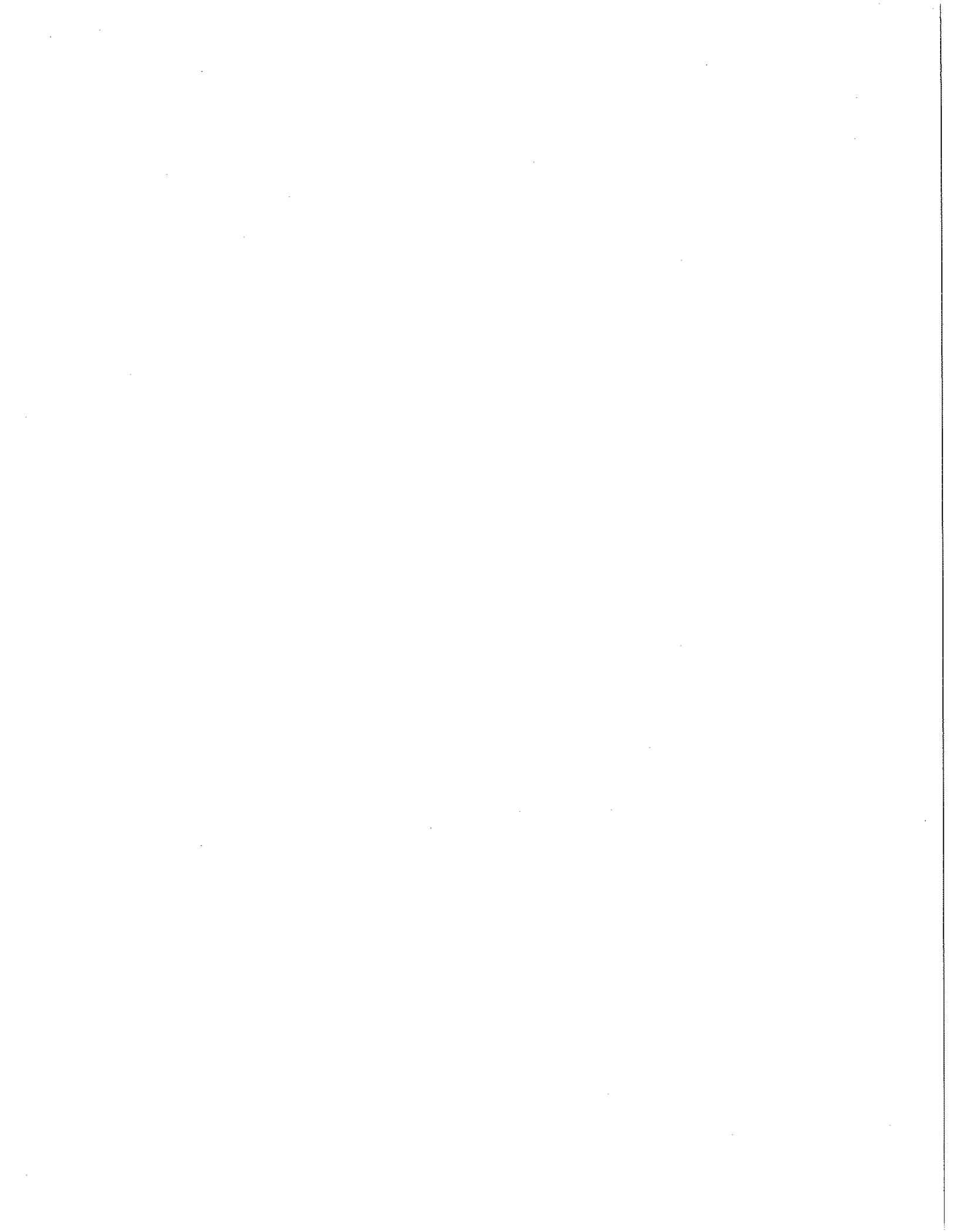
#### Inadequate analysis of impacts and mitigation of Modified trails Plan 2 :

The closing of currently open sections of South Park Drive to vehicles as described in the EIR makes no exception (such as 'Blue Plate Access') for currently allowed Disabled Access. This may be a direct violation of the ADA pending an interpretation by the Department of Justice.

If it is the Lead Agency's intent to mitigate for this impact, such mitigation needs to be included in the EIR.

#### Inadequate analysis of the Modified Disc Golf Plan

E5.3.5.2 lists several potential impacts specifically associated with the proposed alternative site at Comanche Creek, yet offers no analysis of these impacts, nor offers mitigation for any impact identified in that analysis.



## Significant Inaccuracies in and Omissions from the Draft BPMMP and Draft EIR

Submitted by Randy Abbott, member of the public. 1151 e. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Chico, CA 95928

**The following inaccuracies and/or omissions are identified by their page and/or section number where they occur/should occur.**

Various impact descriptions, E1, E1.1; The EIR states that the impacts generated from the Projects and Program are insignificant because they impact a small percentage of similar habitat type(s).

The EIR goes on to claim that Baseline descriptions, Impact descriptions, and Mitigations identified in the EIR can be tiered to similar future developments within the Park.

The EIR omits a quantified description of how much of each habitat type can be impacted as a result of these tiered applications of Mitigation before a significant impact occurs.

2-2, 2.1.2; Omits the history of significant cumulative impacts to the Grassland and Northern Volcanic Mudflow Vernal Pool Plant Communities sustained over time by the development of those resources. Examples include: Construction of Chico Municipal Golf Course and expansions of that facility, the rerouting of Upper Park Road, construction of bike path, construction of Horseshoe Lake, Various parking lots, including the recent relocation of Parking Lot E.

This should be construed to imply the Aesthetic significance of the uninterrupted vista present at the site that captures the view of the Tuscan ridge meeting the 'Valley floor' with its biologically distinct plant communities and geologic formations forming both a purely visual aesthetic as well as an aesthetic display of natural history unaltered by the building projects and landscaping designs of 'modern' mankind.

Despite the non-man made nature of the plant community types present, they are, as implied by Sec. 2.1.2, among the primary reasons people visit the area. Thus decisions that affect these resources should be based on an existing conditions description that pays respect to past cumulative impacts.

2-16, Surface hydrology map lacks vernal pool features

2-3 and Appendix E, pg.9; Both maps of Lower Park do not identify existing trails along creek, including the trail that accesses the Council Fire Ring, and others.

2-91; 2.3.3.5; Incorrect number of original deeded parkland acres from Annie Bidwell is given.

Should read : 1,902.88 acres

Also: The Historical Description completely omits the historically documented conditions of land use provided with the original deed and fails to describe the Bidwell's

intent to preserve the beauty and natural conditions of the area by including these conditions in their generous gift.

This is not only a serious omission of historic accuracy on a local level, but fails to describe an important achievement of two of California's most important pioneers of European descent, as well as overlooks the formation of one of California's original tracts of (ecologically) preserved land.

Decision makers at Council level may not be aware of the historical significance of these facts.

1-5: Inaccurately claims the original land use restrictions were "removed from the Deed" in 1949. The deed has not changed, despite the purchasing of the reversionary interests by the City in 1949 that resulted in a full fee interest of Bidwell deeded parklands.

The record should be accurately described.

2-8: 2.2.1.2 fails to describe the existing Bidwell Park Master Management Plan.

A reasonable synopsis of the central themes of this document, including its prioritizing of the conditions of the Bidwell deed, and the weighing of land use decisions against preservation of the Park, would be commensurate with an accurate description of existing conditions.

( For reference purposes: In the 32 zone-specific section of the 1990 Plan, a few examples of problematic use patterns are provided: creek bank erosion (page 5, 101,132, 155) ; soil compaction (page107) ; impacts to Oaks (page 111) ; Excessive # of trails (page112, 119, 125,129,138) ; heavy use leading to habitat degradation (page 118, 123) ; the need to keep use intensity down to achieve natural Valley Oak regeneration (page124) ; damage from unmanaged mountain Biking (page125) ; erosion of the north rim trail tread (page139, 148) ; need to monitor Mt. Bike race location (page 147) ; the presence of important plant species and the need to manage use intensity on the north facing slope , including on land that the City at that time had yet to purchase(page 154).

Each of these problems has specific recommendations to improve conditions.)

2-98: Omits the date when disc golf development was allowed to occur at the Hwy 32 site. "Disc golf has occurred on the 40 acres of former BLM land along SR 32 since 1989," does not describe 'development.'

"In 1999, the BPPC and City Council authorized the continued use of the site as a disc golf course pending environmental review" may be true, but does this coincide with permission to develop the site by adding Tone Poles and other infrastructure?

The Statement "The disc golf course currently consists of a short and long course with 39 "holes" in place over about a 25 acre area," seems very inaccurate. What criteria are used to arrive at the acreage figure?

2-107: Fails to list the historic Humboldt Road, Pine Trail or Rain Forest Trail as additional access from Hwy.32.

2-113: Contact information for the Bidwell Park Endowment fund has been omitted.

Appendix E and related environmental analysis of Trails Plan;

While the trails plan explains, "The process for the Bidwell Park Trails Plan varies slightly from the typical process in that limited field analysis was conducted (key locations only, not entire trail system)," (T.P. 5.0, Pg.13),

It is unclear which sections of the trail system received field analysis, if any, and what was included in that field analysis. That analysis information should be included, no matter how slight.

While the Trails Plan seeks to formalize a number of social trails that exist on South side of Upper Park, proposing to bring these trails up to Trails Manual standards, one trail appears on the Trails Map to be an exceptionally steep route that descends from the disc golf area to the Guardian Trail. As a matter of disclosure for responsible decision making, and as a component of responsible trails analysis for the consideration of adoption of a social trail, the EIR should provide a description of this trail's steepness as a component of erosion potential.

Appendix E and related Environmental documents also fail to address the existence or suitability of the 'Brouhard Trail' or other alternatives to retain historical connectivity dating to well before 10-14-04 between the South Rim and Guardian trails and the Annie Bidwell Trail.

Appendix J, Omits reference to or content of Municipal Code Section 12R ; the reference to the Muni code on page E3-3 is highly inaccurate because of this.

Appendix H-3, 4, 5, and E3-17, 18, 19, Maps of disc golf proposals omit locations of trails that would lead players from one target to the next tee. In the case of Alternate B this is especially a problem because the short course holes do not follow one another. If the City were to allow development of this option the result would likely be players throwing at random targets and creating trails and fairways that transect the wildflower fields this option seeks to avoid.

Section 2.1.3.1; Omits Map of current, existing conditions of the Disc Golf / Trail Head Project area.

Because the EIR uses 10-14-04 as the applicable date describing 'existing conditions' of the Project Site, and because the "No Project Alternative" amounts to a continued, unmitigated use of the Site, it is reasonable that the EIR provide an accurate description of the existing site, including Maps that illustrate the locations of existing fairways, fairway trails, tee and target green footprints, and the location of sensitive resources.

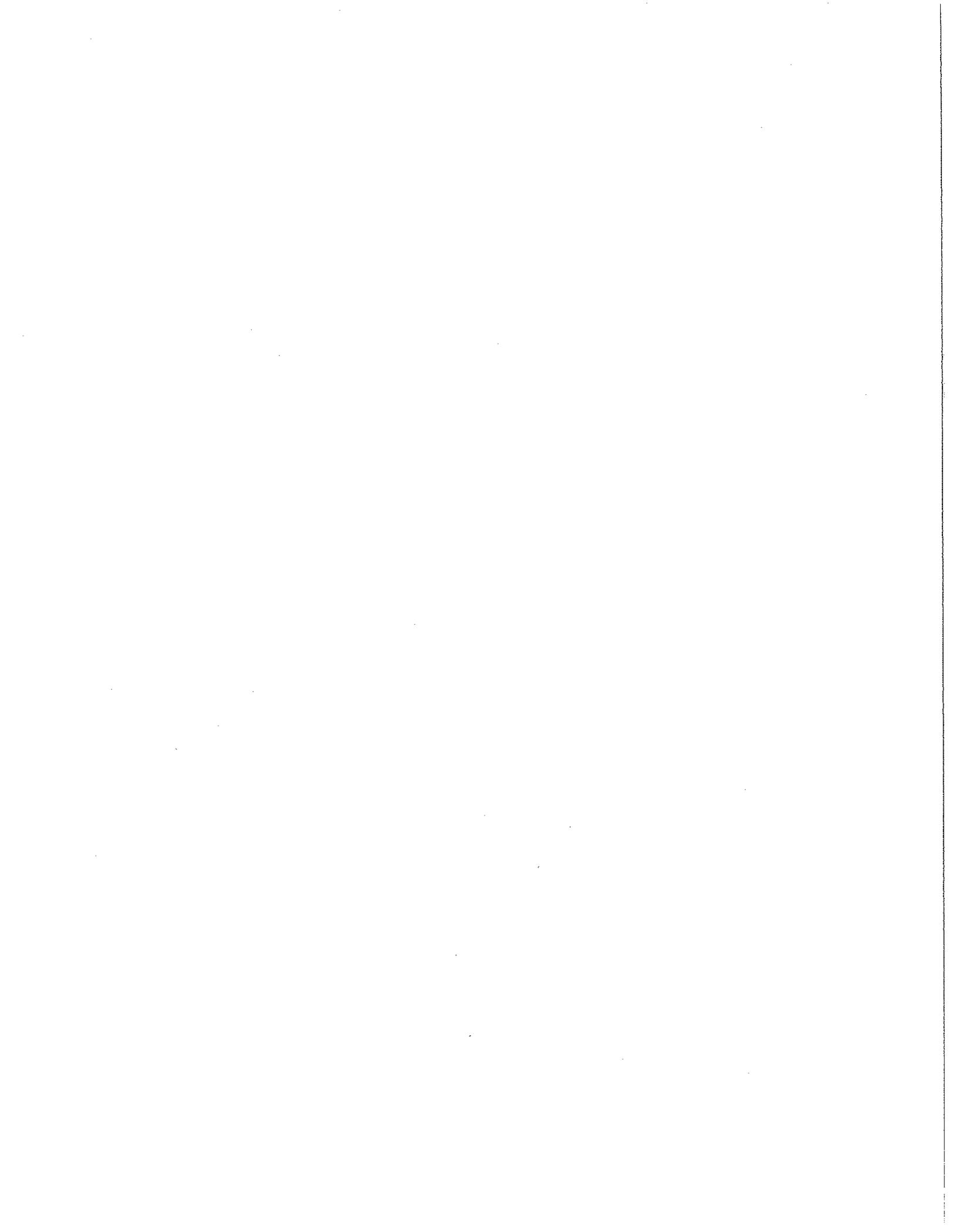
Glossary of Terms; Omission of working definitions for the terms 'Focused' and 'Emphasized' , and 'Minimally developed areas' as these terms are used in I.R.C-1 (pg.3-11) "Developed recreation shall be 'focused' outside the Park, and facilities for non-intensive use shall be 'emphasized' within the minimally developed areas of the Park"

E4-130, Omits a description of what specific parts of the Park are (as claimed by the EIR's authors) exceptions or exemptions to RCA status.

E4-52, TYPO: States Concept Plan C would result in one '21' hole long course, rather than one '18' hole long course, as proposed.

E4-58, TYPO: 'Butte County Checkerbloom' appears where 'Bidwell's Knotweed' should.

E4-153, TYPO: 'Wildlife' appears where 'wildfire' should.

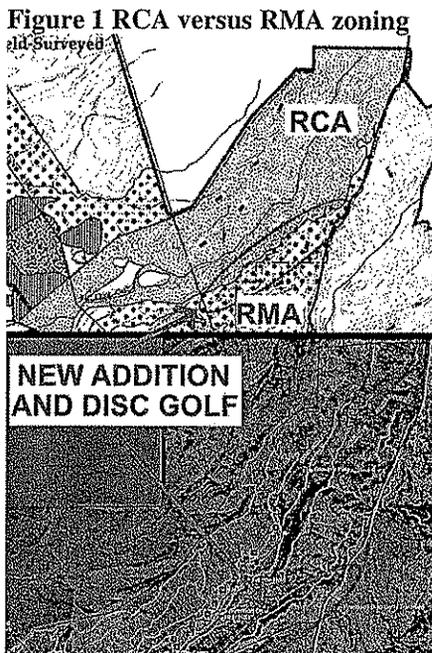


**To: Brendan Vieg – Senior Planner  
Bidwell Park Master Management Plan EIR Comments**

With the cost of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan nearing \$500,000 and the City of Chico in a budget crisis I have to wonder just how much more money the city is willing to spend to study and locate the sport of disc golf. Not a single dollar has been spent to actually improve or manage a site for disc golf. 13 years have passed since the BLM property was purchased and still no decisions have been made.

This document describes why option A is the most appropriate EIR alternative for the Disc Golf / Trailhead Project. It also discussed some of the shortcomings of the “Restoration Alternative”, and concerns over specific plants and their treatment in the EIR.

**Option A “Preferred Alternative” (18 hole advanced course and 18 hole beginner course) -**  
The highway 32 site has a zoning overlay as a resource management area (RMA) versus the remainder of Bidwell Park which is considered a resource conservation area (RCA). Even if the site was zoned RCA it would be consistent with the General Plan and existing uses of OS-1 and RCA zoning to build a disc golf facility at the highway 32 site. Multiple EIRs and botanical studies, as well as multiple disc golf course designs have been evaluated for the BLM site. The first course design consisted of 45 disc golf holes. There currently exist 39 disc golf holes at the site. The largest disc golf option (option A), which was the “preferred alternative” as selected by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission and the BPMMP CAC maintains 36 disc golf holes. Option A reduces the area used by disc golfers by 30-40%. Option A protects Bidwell’s Knotweed, Butte County Checkerbloom, and reduces soil compaction around Blue Oak trees. This is also the only option that both meets the “project objectives” and meets the needs of the existing user base.



The disc golf / trailhead project EIR objective is to build an environmentally sensitive disc golf course at the heavily studied Upper Park site. It is not to heavily study the site in order to remove disc golf. For these reasons the "no project alternative" and "restoration alternative" should not be selected.

Chico's General Plan speaks directly to the issue of outdoor recreation in an RMA. The Draft Bidwell Park Master Management Plan seems to address these requirements completely.

**General Plan Section 7.2 Implementing Policies: Biotic Resources**  
**OS-I-26**

*Recreational & Education Plan. Guidelines and standards for providing, and limiting, recreational activities, if applicable to the RMA, including descriptions of proposed recreational activities within public open space (e.g., parkways, green space, or golf courses). Where biological resources will abut urban uses, ways to restrict or prevent access into those habitats should be prescribed. An educational program to increase public awareness of sensitive resources and use restrictions, including instructional and interpretive signage, hiking trails with descriptive pamphlets/guides, wildlife viewing platforms near preserve areas, and other types of public information should be included, if appropriate.*

Additionally the General Plan describes the highway 32 trailhead nicely with regards to being an appropriate recreation site.

**General Plan Section 7.4 Open Space Classifications**

*Open space for outdoor recreation. Areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value, areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes including access to lake shores, beaches, rivers, and streams, and areas that serve as links between major recreation and open space reserves, including utility easements, stream- and riverbanks, trails, and scenic highway corridors are all considered open space for outdoor recreation.*

The highway 32 site as a trailhead and disc golf facility provides an excellent opportunity to view and experience Bidwell Park. The geography of the area lends itself to separation of more isolated areas south of Big Chico Creek, and so does not threaten to infringe on areas of Bidwell Park that are less traveled.

**Guiding Policies: Parks and Recreational Open Space**

*PP-G-1 Develop a diversified, high quality public park system that provides recreation opportunities at a variety of scales for all residents.*

The "preferred alternative" Option A provides a course for both beginners and experts at disc golf. See the draft Master Management Plan Goals DG/T-1,2, and 3 as well as the objectives and implementation strategies and guidelines of that document for more information on why Option A was selected as the "preferred alternative" by both the BPPC and the CAC for the master plan update.

Additional mitigation for Option A that were not referenced in the Disc Golf / Trailhead project EIR but could be considered include...

1. Locating an additional disc golf site closer to the City of Chico: An additional course in Bidwell Park or some other city property could reduce use of the existing sites and therefore reduce impact. If sites evaluated include previously evaluated locations then the history of why those sites were not previously selected should be discussed.

2. Locating a seasonal site to move the beginner course to during certain times of the year: Seasonal rotation of the beginner course between the highway 32 site and an additional site in Bidwell Park or some other city property could reduce use of the existing sites and therefore reduce impact. If sites evaluated include previously evaluated locations then the history of why those sites were not previously selected should be discussed.

**Restoration Alternative EIR Option:**

The restoration alternative would build access, parking, and lookout improvements at the highway 32 site. Only disc golf as a recreation would be removed. Restoration of the site would require a work plan and an additional EIR. The skills needed to restore the site do not exist within the current city staff. Therefore, in order for this alternative to be implemented, the City of Chico would have to hire additional consultants and spend over and above the half-million dollars expected to be spent on Bidwell Park's Master Management Plan.

In essence the City of Chico would remove the only component of the Disc Golf Course / Trailhead project that could be privately funded, and replace it with a gardening project for consultants. The "restoration" would probably cost as much as a disc golf course would cost to build. There is no mention in the restoration alternative as to what state the site would be restored to. Prior to disc golf the site was used for hunting, four-wheel drive, and cattle grazing. Is that the restoration point? Prior to city ownership the site was used for disc golf.

Even opponents of the current site argue that disc golf is good and necessary and courses need to be built in Chico. By selecting the restoration option the City would still need to locate and possibly buy property, perform studies, negotiate with neighbors, and fund a disc golf course. If new site was not well received by disc golfers there would be little enthusiasm for private funding.

The restoration alternative is the absolute worst fiscal decision that could be taken related to the disc golf issue. It would put undue financial burden on the city, and fails to meet the project objectives. The city has no experience in this line of work, and the "restoration alternative" is an unrealistic and inappropriate CEQA alternative.

Finally, the Trails Plan project EIR contains no "restoration alternative". The Trails Plan includes areas of the Disc Golf / Trailhead project. There has been no delineation between impacts caused by hiking, biking and disc golf at the disc golf site. No trails or recreation components taking place in either the New Addition or the BLM property have been officially approved by the City of Chico. To direct a "restoration alternative" at only one recreation use when none have been officially approved seems discriminatory. Since the entry level cost for disc golf is much lower than mountain biking it could be seen that that discrimination occurs on an economic level. In order to assure that no park user is discriminated against a "restoration alternative" should be included for trails in the New Addition and BLM properties. Another option would be to remove the "restoration alternative" from the Disc Golf / Trailhead EIR.

**Consistent Treatment of Natural Resources:**

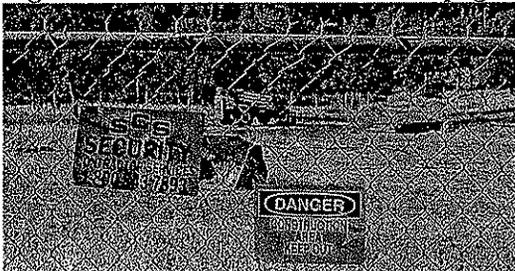
All Disc Golf / Trailhead project EIR options that improve disc golf facilities also protect Bidwell's Knotweed. It is important to point out that Bidwell's Knotweed does not require legal protection, and that the city has not adhered to these policies previously. At the disc golf site Bidwell's Knotweed grows mostly along footpaths created by the recreation. It is also prevalent in the heavily traveled beginning section of the North Rim Trail. Since Bidwell's Knotweed is considered equally in the trails project EIR and the disc golf/trailhead project EIR it would seem that the most heavily used portion of North Rim trail could have foot traffic directed elsewhere, if the city is to be consistent.

Decision makers at the city should consider fully the implication of placing a very common plant that grows abundantly along paths off limits to foot traffic. Without a park wide botanical study there is no telling what impact this might have on park use. That's not to say that disc golf cannot be designed around this plant. That has already been done.

Historically there has been little consistently in the consideration of this plant. The recent Horseshoe Lake lead clean-up project ignored and bulldozed Bidwell's Knotweed. The plant was not listed as a botanical species of interest in the EIR for that project. The bulldozing of knotweed occurred while the disc golf design was being constrained by the presence of knotweed. Note that the plant was bulldozed in an RCA and put off limits in an RMA zone. That does not seem to be consistent with the city's zoning policies. Why does that inconsistency exist?

Finally in comparing the previous Stewart botanical survey with the most recent botanical survey completed by EDAW it can be seen that the occurrences of Bidwell's Knotweed and Butte County Checkerbloom have increased in between the two studies. While some might argue that the original study was incomplete there can be no definitive information that proves that as a fact. What evidence exists that disc golf has had a negative impact on Butte County Checkerbloom and Bidwell's Knotweed?

**Figure 2 Construction for lead cleanup ignored Bidwell's Knotweed**



**Figure 3 Bidwell's Knotweed that was bulldozed during cleanup**

