

CGF Project Update: San Francisco YMCA Camp Jones Gulch Establishes a Stewardship Advisory Group

Committee for Green Foothills has met with representatives of Camp Jones Gulch and the YMCA on several occasions this fall to attempt to resolve the many concerns raised by their application for a Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP). We believe that the YMCA's needs for revenue can be met through several funding sources including a Conservation Easement over the forested lands, and funding from several State sources that can help restore legacy logging roads, reduce fire hazards, and replant areas of non-native pines with redwoods and Douglas firs.

CGF has urged the YMCA to consider an alternative plan based on restoration and stewardship of the forest that would over time return the forest to a more park like condition. [More details about why we encouraged the YMCA to go forward with this approach are in Lennie Roberts' December 18th letter to the YMCA on our blog.](#)

Progress on the Restoration and Stewardship Planning Approach

The YMCA is now moving forward to convene a Stewardship Advisory Group to review land use plans for the camp and to consider alternatives to the NTMP process which has met with enormous community opposition. CGF will be participating in the Advisory Group, as will representatives from a variety of interests. Although the YMCA has not been willing to withdraw the NTMP application until they are assured that CGF's alternative is feasible, we are hopeful that by working together, we can craft an environmentally superior outcome.

California Department of Forestry's Review is still open for Public Comment

Because of public concerns, the Regional Water Quality Control Board is now reviewing the NTMP, and California Fish and Game is also doing additional field review. The deadline for the close of public comment has not yet been announced; it is likely not to close until the end of March. You can send comments to: santarosapubliccomment@fire.ca.gov. Be sure to refer to the Permit Number: 1-06-NTMP-014-SMO.

The YMCA Submits a Use Permit to the County

The YMCA also needs to secure a renewed use permit from San Mateo County to continue operating its facilities. CGF sent in comments to the County on their recent application. [You can read our comments on our blog here.](#) While we hope that the Stewardship approach will result in a management plan that can receive more community support, we are also hoping that the County would condition the Use Permit to create a process for community input into the Camp's timber operations in case the NTMP is approved by the California Department of Forestry.

Thanks for speaking up – your voice does make a difference!