

180 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco 5, California

May 1, 1962

Memorandum

To: Regional Director
Through: Regional Chief, Recreation Resource Planning

From: Regional Chief, State Cooperation

Subject: Bodega Head

On the morning of April 30, Professor Neeland of the Biochemistry Department of the University of California, Berkeley, called to obtain information on Bodega Head. He informed us that the Public Utilities Commission is going to reopen hearings on the Pacific Gas and Electric proposal to develop an atomic power plant on Bodega Head. He said the hearings are being reopened because of the great volume of opposition to the PG&E proposal. The hearings will be held on May 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the State Building in San Francisco.

Professor Neeland asked what plans the National Park Service had for development of Bodega Head as a public reserve. I told him of our Pacific Coast Recreation Area Survey and our recommendation in that report as to the high recreation and biological values of Bodega Head. Professor Neeland indicated that the State Division of Beaches and Parks has had plans for a portion of this area as a State Park or as an adjunct to the Sonoma Beach State Parks. He said that the State was having some difficulty in financing such a project and that he believed it would be far better to try to preserve the area through Federal Government means. Mr. Angle and I were both on the telephone and we told him what we knew about the State's proposal in this area which was similar to Professor Neeland's understanding of the matter. We also told Professor Neeland that the Point Reyes National Seashore proposal was our primary interest on the California Coast at the present time and that we would not want to extend our interests because of the possibility of endangering the Point Reyes proposal.

We informed Professor Neeland that upon request we had prepared a letter to an individual at Bodega providing information on this subject which was possibly used at the recent hearing. I indicated that we could probably provide similar information for use at the forthcoming hearing if that is desired.

It is our understanding that Professor Neeland will contact the Division of Beaches and Parks in Sacramento to ascertain the status of their plans for preservation of Bodega Head. It appears we need not take further action in relation to Professor Neeland's request unless he gets in touch with us again.

Berkeley 8, California

Dear Professor Neeland:

(Sgd.) Robert S. Luntley

This is in reply to your letter of May 1, 1962, regarding the proposed visit to our office to discuss the proposed preservation of Bodega Head. Robert S. Luntley
Regional Chief
State Cooperation

We are, of course, sympathetic to and interested in the preservation of park, recreational, biological and cultural values along the coast. The view along these lines are contained in our 1958 report Pacific Coast.

Cleared for distribution:

Copy to: Director

The report, however, presents of the report, will be of interest to you. You are at liberty to use the report if you wish as the California Public Utilities Commission.

(Sgd.) Leo J. Diederich

5/18/62
(date)

Leo J. Diederich
Assistant Regional Director

In the circumstances, however, the cooperative responsibilities of the National Park Service are involved; we are not in a position to participate in the proceedings.

Sincerely yours,

Leo J. Diederich

Leo J. Diederich
Assistant Regional Director

Copy to: Director, w/c of press clipping and Luntley's May 1 memo

ENCLOSURE NO. 1

Public Utilities Commission
State of California
107 South Broadway
Los Angeles 12, Calif.

Gentlemen:

We are writing with reference to the proposed construction of a power plant on Bodega Head by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Unfortunately, the site chosen by the company has been designated by the State Park Master Plan and by the National Park Service as a section of California coast that should be preserved as a public park (see Harold Gilliam, THIS WORLD, San Francisco Chronicle, February 11, 1962). We therefore request that you urge the company's engineers to seek another site for the proposed power plant.

Sincerely yours,

Name

Address

as of now (April 12) this letter has
been signed by close to 150 persons
J. B. Neulands

MAY 18 1962

SIGNATURE
OFFICE COPY

JUN 5 1962

F PARKS

Howell 5/16

Bowen 5/17

Huffman 5-17

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE COPY

Dear Professor Neillands:

Thank you for your letter of April 11 with enclosures expressing your concern over the proposed construction of a power plant on Bodega Head, Sonoma County, California.

In 1959, the National Park Service in its Pacific coast survey found Bodega Head to be notable for its prehistory, history and marine biology and warranting preservation, because it was one of the more significant areas on the Pacific coast. The report covering this survey suggested that it would make a logical addition to the State park system.

Since the Department of Parks and Recreation has indicated an interest in preservation of at least a portion of the Head, we believe that you will want to bring your comments directly to the State's attention.

Evaluation of the effects of nuclear power installations on the fish and wildlife resources is carried out through a cooperative agreement between the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service of this Department. This provides us with the opportunity to comment on specific proposals during the preparation of the Atomic Energy Commission's final report.

We understand that to date the Atomic Energy Commission has not received an application from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company for a construction permit for the Bodega Head installation. However, procedures are set up, under the agreement, for review by the Fish and Wildlife Service if such an application is received. In this case, the Atomic Energy Commission would transmit a copy of the application and pertinent background material to the Fish and Wildlife Service and request its review and comments. This information would, in turn, be transmitted to the Area Director (Mr. Donald R. Johnson, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, 101 Seaside Avenue, Terminal Island, California) who has been designated coordinator for these matters in the State of California. He would then consult with appropriate State officials and report to the Fish and Wildlife Service here. This report and other data from the Service's radiobiology experts would then be combined into a report to the Commission.

JUN 5 1962

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFICE COPY

You may know that it is always possible for interested citizens to appear as intervenors at hearings held by the Atomic Energy Commission.

We appreciate having the information contained in your letter, which will better enable us to appraise the project if and when the application is referred to us for comment.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) John A. Carver, Jr.

Assistant
Assistant

Secretary of the Interior

Professor J. B. Weilands
Department of Biochemistry
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Similar letters to:

Mr. Joel W. Hedgpeth
Director, Pacific Marine Station
University of the Pacific
Dillon Beach
Marin County, California (PRS 6218)

Mrs. Jack Parker
Route 1, Box 540
Vacaville, California (Department letter)

Copy to: DCCO US WP FW RP LM(2) w/c Mrs. Parker's letter
Regional Director, Region Four (2) w/c inc. and enc. No. 1
TCF, Shellfisheries w/c inc. and enc. No. 1
Park Planning w/c inc. and enc. No. 1

JWHowell:LDStringer:TRS:BHT:kej 5/14/62

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BNP
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enr 5/9

KENN SHERWOOD ROE
2406 EUREKA WAY, APT. #3
REDDING, CALIFORNIA

April 8, 1963
Howell

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth
Director National Park Service
6 St. 18th & 19 sts.
N.W. Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As you are well aware, California, the beautiful, may not be for long with crowding, smog, and exploitation of natural resources. If man is to avoid disaster here, resulting from the disregard of the delicate balance of nature, he must act now with foresight, understanding, and wisdom.

We question, therefore, the need of the proposed atomic power plant at Bodega Head. Here is a project that can aesthetically ruin one of the last, most beautiful, most biologically versatile seashores in the West. In fact, producer Alfred Hitchcock chose the setting for his latest film, The Birds, because of the "remote beauty of the lonely Marin Coast, and its quaint seaport which is a rarity to find."

As yet, science knows too little about atomic wastes which could change or endanger a vast coastline including the nearby Point Reyes National Seashore Park. There must be less attractive, more practical areas in the state. Of course, it is difficult to attach a dollar sign to beauty.

It is not that we are against industrial progress; ironically one of the PG&E representatives, Dr. Leslie Carbert, best expresses our philosophy when he said recently, "Industry must face a new morality, an obligation and responsibility to the need of the public; it must recognize a compromise between nature and man....that man needs beauty and freedom."

Is there any way the Park Service can assist? The Bodega Head, recently considered for a park in the master plan, is a priceless heritage of coastline, a scenic, recreational, and ecological asset....an asset that can be written off by irresponsible industrialization.

Sincerely,
Kenn Sherwood Roe
Kenn Sherwood Roe
Northern California
Audubon Society

Howell SF
Sweat 5/9

MAY 13 1963

153-3877

Mr. Kenn Sherwood Roe
Northern California Audubon Society
2406 Sureka Way, Apt. 43
Redding, California

(S) JEN H. THOMPSON

Dear Mr. Roe:

We have your letter of April 8 requesting assistance from the National Park Service in the preservation of the natural values of Bodega Head on the northern coast of California.

The Department of the Interior is currently working with the Atomic Energy Commission to establish procedures which would permit Departmental review of nonmilitary nuclear projects and submission of suitable recommendations when natural values are endangered. At present, through an informal arrangement with the Atomic Energy Commission, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Geological Survey have been reviewing applications for construction permits for power plant installations. Under the new agreement all agencies of the Department would have this opportunity.

Representatives of this Department met with officials of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company on April 23 for the purpose of discussing the possible biological hazards to marine life from the proposed installation of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head. We also anticipate obtaining information on the possible hazards of the release of radioactive materials to nearby Point Reyes National Seashore project.

In regard to the preservation of the natural resources of Bodega Head, we understand that the California Department of Beaches and Parks was interested in obtaining at least a portion of the Head as an addition to the State Park System. In 1959, this Service in its Pacific Coast Survey found Bodega Head to be notable for its prehistory, history and marine biology and warranting preservation perhaps at the state or local level.

We are impressed with the clarity and eloquence with which you state the case. We share your interest and concern in the decisions that must be shared by all citizens of this Country--as you seek to resolve how best to use the few remaining precious parcels of undisturbed lands.

Dr. Conrad
Director National Park Service
Post. 18th & 19 sts.
N.W. Washington, D.C.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. Wirth:

(Sgd) BEN H. THOMPSON

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cc:

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Kenn Sherwood Roe
Northern California
Audubon Society