



Post Office Box 809
Point Reyes Station
California 94956
T 415 663-1158
F 415 663-1099
www.malt.org

April 14, 2021

Honorable Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Honorable Commissioners:

In September of 2020, the National Park Service (NPS) released a General Management Plan (GMP) Amendment directing the future of ranching in the Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore) and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

Because the continuation of agriculture in the Seashore and GGNRA directly affects our mission to permanently protect Marin’s agricultural land for agricultural use, Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) unequivocally supports sustainable farming and ranching in these areas and believes that the NPS General Management Plan Amendment strikes an appropriate balance among the competing interests in the Seashore.

Together, the historic ranches in the Seashore and GGNRA represent nearly a fifth of Marin County’s agricultural acreage and production. These working family farmers and ranchers strengthen our local economy by creating jobs and providing local, healthy foods throughout the Bay Area.

The Seashore’s ranches also represent a significant portion of the county’s managed coastal grasslands, which provide habitat for endangered species, sequester carbon and thereby mitigate climate change, store water, support pollinators, and keep invasive plant species in check. Elements of the GMP that limit agriculture to protect natural resources and create incentives for ranchers to invest in the land will further enhance the stewardship of this valuable public asset.

We note that ranches in the park were not affected by the Mt. Vision fire in 1995 or the Woodward fire in 2020, the responses of ranchers being key to those outcomes.

Today we ask that that the California Coastal Commission concur with the Park Service’s conclusion that the NPS’s GMP amendment is consistent with the Coastal Act and join us in our support of the Amendment for the Point Reyes National Seashore and the GGNRA.

Sincerely,

Thane Kreiner, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

