

From: [Terra Fuller](#)
To: [Norvell, Bernie](#); [Albin-Smith, Tess](#); [Morsell-Haye, Jessica](#); [Peters, Lindy](#); [Miller, Tabatha](#)
Cc: [Gurewitz, Heather](#); [CDD User](#)
Subject: feeding wildlife Coastal Trail
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 9:20:26 PM

Dear Fort Bragg City Representative and Staff,

I am writing this letter regarding the feeding of wildlife, specifically ravens and ground squirrels, along the coastal trail, as a biologist and as a Fort Bragg City resident. I frequent the southern trail weekly and lately on almost every occasion I witness the public feeding ravens. I would say in most situations it is senior citizens feeding nuts to birds in the parking lot and along the trail and it appears the ravens are recognizing these individuals and their cars. A few of these people I have spoken to when occurring in front of me and many believe they're doing nothing wrong and have an emotional attachment to their actions.

Feeding wildlife may seem to have little consequences; however, it is against the law in violation of CCR title 14 section 251.1 with CDFW having "keep it wild" program due to the seriousness these actions can have on wildlife.

In addition, the coastal trail is a wonderful recreational opportunity and is located on valuable habitat for nesting seabirds, shorebirds, and many other terrestrial bird species. Feeding an extremely intelligent bird, as ravens are, will have repercussions to other species from direct predation, competition and harassment. Raven/ crow populations are increasing due to their opportunistic success with humans, with depredation needed to protect some endangered species. In addition, I was surprised to learn a few years ago while working with a local rancher that his lamb survival was not due to coyote predation, but from ravens; once birthed, ravens would eat their eyes resulting in the need for humane euthanasia.

I'm sure when the coastal Trail went through CEQA this issue of public feeding of wildlife was not examined nor required mitigation; however, given the severity of this problem and the impacts to other species (eventually this will lead to negative human-wildlife interactions), I am requesting the city take measures to mitigate this issue and suggest the following be considered and implemented to educate the public and enforce the necessary actions:

1. Install signage stating no feeding of birds and wildlife. Locations should be around the parking lots, along the mill site road, along trails and bench locations.
2. Educate city staff and the police department regarding this issue.
3. Consider a future city ordinance to prohibit the feeding of wildlife (see City of

Downey-Davis as examples).

4.

Enforce this issue when doing patrols.

I know this may seem like a trivial issue, but we have an obligation to address this especially when we open up areas to the visiting public and our egregious actions are harming the biological community we are trying to experience and enjoy.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Terra Fuller

Sent from my iPad