

George Reinhardt
NHUDG - Noyo Headlands Unified Design Group
707 964-2477
nhudg@mcn.org

Honorable council members and staff,

A number of things concern me with regard to agenda item #7F.

1. The comfort letter. Are there risks here? I believe the timing of the prop 84 grant is forcing our hand. Taking possession without money for clean-up can be very costly.
2. The council should mention the possibility of daylighting - which crosses the path that is being acquired. This way G-P understands that toxins discovered when we daylight are their responsibility. The restoration work will probably be the community's responsibility. We have the people and skill to do the restoration work here in our community, but the money for the clean-up remains G-P's responsibility.
3. There is still talk about a path over the berm. This is a bad idea. Does this mean they plan to leave the mill pond in place? The berm should be removed as part of the clean-up. Sea level rise will take out the berm if we don't. With the berm gone, we can create a proper estuary. This will be a community based project. It could be overseen by the RCD, or MLT, or Fish and Wildlife and the Noyo Center with help from the Botanical Gardens. Working closely with the city, any one of these could be a leader in guiding the restoration of wetlands on the mill site. The berm and the mill pond are threatened because of climate change.
4. The blue line is the next phase of the trail to be completed. It should not go as far as it does in this proposal. It will make it difficult to daylight both creeks. Why not stop the construction of this near term phase further back? From the end of the next phase of the trail there is going to be a walkable gravel "interim" path that connects to the south. Lets leave this rougher trail in place, while we are cleaning the mill pond and beginning the work on wetland restoration. Connecting the north and the south trails is something we all want right away. Perhaps signage can be placed to inform the public that interruptions will occur for clean-up and further restoration.

Many thanks for all your hard work and devotion to the best interests of our community.

George Reinhardt
NHUDG Noyo Headlands Unified Design Group
707 964-2477
nhudg@mcn.org
<http://www.noyoheadlands.org>

