

Subject: [LandUseCommittee] Franz Valley Study - Oct. 1978

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Conversation: [LandUseCommittee] Franz Valley Study - Oct. 1978

Hi all,

We have been out of town at a forestry conference reviewing properties that have sold carbon credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). The day before, I had a serious golf injury and I lagged on back reading the Franz Valley Report so I decided to review it again. My copy from Sonoma County Planning Dept. (now PRMD) says "Please return by Nov. '78". I wonder how much my late fee is after 31+ years at \$1/day compounded -- too big a number for me to understand. I wonder if it's a historical document? So if you ever find yourself with lots of extra time on your hands, read it. It's is posted on the FMWW website.

I am always looking at the zoning stuff (e.g. Open Space District), but I have missed a lot of good information that is important to our watershed.

This is the history part of the study! Brian Kahn was our Supervisor, Janet Nicholas was one of our Planning Commissioners, the Citizen's Committee members were Miriam Clark (former neighbor & bridge partner), James Rundel (still a neighbor), Don Gers (still lives above Bill & Harriet), and Barbara Meyer who was with the Sonoma Wildflower Society who led hikes at our Ranch and taught us alot about wildflowers. Then mentioned as the staff in this project and it's Project Manager is Ray Krauss. So if you have any questions, you know who to contact.

Can the document be of help to us? I think so for the following reasons:

- 1) Some good historical info if the History Committee wants to do look it up.
- 2) Slopes exceeding 30% are considered unsuitable for development.
- 3) Figure 2-1 appears to leave Pride out of the "area that requires proof of water"! It also states "northeast of St. Helena Road are aquifer recharge areas" (p. 19) Poor groundwater availability is "a possible constraint to intensive agriculture" (p. 20) This page also discusses impacts of development and mitigation as does p. 25.
- 4) Importance of wildlife and fishing habitat (p. 27)
- 5) Historic fire data (p. 32)
- 6) Franz Valley Plan reinforces the county's policy of protecting agriculture (p. 65)
- 7) St. Helena Road designated a scenic corridor with 200' setback. Was this adopted? (p. 84) Same applies to creek including north fork on Cornell property.
- 8) Open space/preservation of natural resources (p. 83)
- 9) If we continue to deplete forest and woodland cover at the existing rate, we can look forward to a future of climate change, loss of soil, loss of groundwater, increased runoff and a general decrease in the habitability and prosperity of the area. (p. 91)
- 10) Two areas along the upper reaches of Mark West Creek are responsible for maintaining summer flow and the high quality of the riparian vegetation and the fishing habitat of the creek (p 93) (more detail on

p 94)

11) Historical Resources - July 1978 (p 97)

12) Rare and endangered plants and their habitat (p 102)

13) Birds (p 122) - Betty and I have yet to see the roadrunner but a friend recently painted one near Calistoga.

14) P 125 - Overview of Native American people

I believe that there is valuable material in this document that would be useful to both the Land Use Committee and the Historical Committee.

Jim