

❖ Friends of the Bernard Biological Field Station



PO Box 1101, Claremont, CA 91711 (909) 260-4403 www.fbbfs.org

Dear Friends,

Update:

As most of you know, the Architectural Commission (AC) certified the environmental impact report (EIR) in July and the City Council denied our appeal in September, so where does that leave us? A law firm has offered to look into the EIR approval *pro bono* and see if there is further grounds for action. They will let us know about this soon.

Where are we in the process?

Following is the approval process for the North Campus Master Plan. ✓ indicates what has occurred.

- ✓ CUC presents plan to City
- ✓ Draft EIR
- ✓ Public comment period
- ✓ Final EIR — Certification of EIR
- ✓ Appeal of EIR
- Project approval / notice of determination (January?— appeal possible)
- Development agreement (Jan/Feb — appeal, referendum possible)
- Initiative — anytime

Referendum/initiative

As you know if you have been reading the Courier or the Daily Bulletin (it even got some coverage in the Times), Carol Gil filed paperwork with the City to circulate a petition to put an initiative on the ballot that would designate the BFS a conservation zone but would not prevent it from being used as a field station.

Quite a few obstacles have been put in her way. She and Leo Green of the DB talked to the state election lawyers who said that the City is out of bounds in their behavior— this made quite a splash in the papers. Carol has recently gotten legal advice to go for a referendum first to overturn the development agreement once the AC approves it. Another development agreement

could not be submitted until a year after that vote. This would provide time for an initiative to be passed or for CUC to amend the agreement to include preserving the rest of the BFS.

Once the City and CUC come to an agreement, there will be 30 days from that date to collect signatures from 10% of the registered voters (this comes to about 2200) to place the issue on the next ballot. If the referendum passes, CUC could not submit another development agreement until a year from that date.

What can Friends do? (Addresses overleaf)

As always, call and write Belle Newman (the City Planner), the Architectural Commission, and the City Council and let them know what you think. Let them know the issue will not just go away.

Note: The AC must issue a “statement of overriding consideration” saying the benefits of the project outweigh the environmental damage it will cause. You can get a copy of the supposed benefits at city hall and view the EIR at the library. Any benefits there may be for the City are not tied to a particular location.

In addition, there has been no assessment of the environmental costs of the dozen or so biotech businesses the KGI is expected to bring to the area so it is not possible to make a reasoned assessment of potential net benefits. The city and the colleges have refused to make any effort to do this.

- Write to the Courier, the Bulletin, the Times.
- Talk to friends and neighbors about the issue.
- Donate time, services, or money to one of the groups working on the issues.

Remind city officials that there are other places to build colleges but no other wild area in the heart of the city. Let them know if you believe that the Quarry, the golf course, and the buildings

on Arrow are all preferable to the BFS as sites for KGI and future colleges. As of now, the colleges do intend to build on the whole BFS eventually. This should be a last resort, not a first choice.

On a positive note: Volunteer work at BFS

Recently a group of Friends spent a lovely morning in November cleaning up the western edge of the station. The weather was beautiful and the results satisfying. We found a lot to recycle!

Soon: We hope to have another volunteer work day in late January or early February to do cleanup at the BFS. Please let us know if you would like to help.

The Coalition to Preserve Claremont's Character

You may like to know about this new group which believes that the City is not listening to its citizens on many issues. CPCC supports the efforts to place a referendum and/or initiative on the ballot to allow citizens to decide what the future of the BFS land should be.

Anyone who would like to help offset the cost of legal advice can send a donation directly to the law firm that is helping and it will be put in the fund. If there is any money left over, it will be donated to the Friends. The address is:

Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP,
Attorneys at Law (attn. Rachel Hooper)
396 Hayes St.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Please either mark the check or put a post-it note on it to indicate that it is for account # GIL Initiative/Referendum so that it will be deposited to the correct account.

Sign petition/collect signatures:

Anyone who would like to sign the petitions to put a measure on the ballot or help to collect signatures should call the CPCC at **909-932-1529**. There should also be a web site up soon at **www.cpcc.n3.net**

Incorporation/non-profit status

The Friends have incorporated and have received state non-profit status. We are currently waiting for federal approval.

Buddy, can you spare a dime?

(Well, a few dollars would be more helpful)

We could really use some donations to help pay for photocopying and postage so, if the holidays haven't completely wiped out your bank account, please consider sending a donation of any size. Thanks!

Addresses:

City Hall:

PO Box 880, Claremont, CA 91711
909-399-5470

The Courier:

111 S. College Ave, Claremont, CA
91711
909-621-4761

The Daily Bulletin: (attn: Leo Green)

2041 E. 4th St, Ontario, CA
909-483-9316

The LA Times:

Time Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA,
90053
FAX: 213-237-4712
Metro section: 213-237-7847

Happy New Year and all the best!

12/28/99