Diablo Area
2020 North Broadway
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(415) 939-2059

February 17, 1976

Mr. Robert Doyle
828 Second Avenue
Crockett, CA 94525

Dear Bob:

Yes, Bob, I do remember meeting you when "Save Mt. Diablo" was organizing.

Thank you for your letter and Donner Canyon history and the bird list. I sent a copy of the bird list to Mrs. Steller of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society.

We are hoping to have a Ranger assigned to the Mitchell - Donner Canyons area in not too many months to get things under control. When this happens, I hope you will stop by to meet him and to share your knowledge of the area with him.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Earl
Area Manager

EAE:yc

January 31, 1976 [redacted]

Dear Mr. Ed Earl,

I met you several years ago when I was president of S.A.N.E. We hiked Donner Canyon with Dr. Mary Bowerman and Jane Helrich.

Since that time I've been going to college and studying Donner Canyon extensively. I have had the privilege of staying at the Hetherington house. I have grown to know the area well. I think the canyon is so well represented in wildlife and botanical beauty that I am growing very concerned for it's future. No where in Contra Costa's parks have I seen such birdlife. The varying plant communities cause such a variety of habitats. In the past 3 years I've seen impressive list of animals including a badger, a 1' 5" alligator lizard, Cooper's hawk, golden eagles and mountain lion foot prints (have been heard by the Reeves). There are manzanita groves with trees the size of oaks. There are rare species of plants and native grasses. And of course coulter and digger pines.

I'm sure you're aware of most of this but what I want to bring to your attention is the increasing danger to this very special area. Since the new housing developments just outside the Murchio properties, I've seen more and more people coming into the canyon. People deserve to use there parks and see this beauty so close to populated areas but I had never seen any litter in the canyon before this past summer. Now I've seen campfires and litter. I was on the Audubon Christmas Count, December 27 and a man who had walked in told me he had seen a young man in the canyon with a rifle and two hand guns. I myself saw several youngsters with bee bee guns on the road in.

My point is that it would only take one careless person to cause a devastating fire or one unconscious boy to kill a member of an extremely well represented food chain. This area had been so untouched by man for so long. It's a crime to let something happen now.

I am very aware of the lack of funds for rangers to patrol the area. I just would like you to understand my feelings for Donner Canyon. I've been leading small groups, S.A.N.E., Save Mt. Diablo and Audubon on hikes in the canyon for the past few years. I know the area very well and have stayed in the cabin several times during the summers. If I can do anything on a volunteer basis I have experience in many areas. I've worked for the East Bay Regional Park District amd my major is biology with an emphasis in botany. I am more than willing to devote some of my time to the preservation and enhancement of this area. I have sent you a write up I did for a D.V.C. Audubon class which I lead on a hike in January. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bob Doyle

Bob Doyle

Memorandum of Inspection

Murchio Dam and Reservoir (NIJ)

Contra Costa County

January 21, 1976

By W. J. Rothaus

On January 15, 1976, Mr. Keith Caldwell, Supervisor from Department of Parks and Recreation, telephoned our office to report a dam which is located on recently acquired property and which may be of jurisdictional size. I indicated that our Division had considered this particular dam to be less than jurisdictional size from a previous contact with Soil Conservation Service. However, I agreed to look at the dam since there was no record that any of our representatives had actually been at the dam.

On January 21, 1976, I met the following persons of the Department of Parks and Recreation for an inspection of the dam:

Messrs. Robert B. Hatch, District Superintendent
Ted Crane, District Maintenance Specialist
Chuck Lyden, Assistant District Superintendent
Ed Earl, Area Manager
Earl Wilder, Maintenance Worker

Location

The dam is located in the SW¼, Section 23, T. 1 N., R. 1 W., MDB&M, on Mitchell Creek, which is a tributary to Mt. Diablo Creek. The dam is approximately 1-3/4 miles from the town of Clayton.

Description of Dam and Appurtenances

The dam is an old earthfill dam that has been shown on U.S.G.S. maps since 1953. The following dimensions of the dam were obtained using a hand level, 6-foot folding rule, and pacing:

Height from stream channel at downstream toe to spillway crest	21 feet
Height from stream channel at downstream toe to dam crest	30 feet
Approximate crest width	12 feet
Length of reservoir	400 feet
Length of crest	200 feet

Area of reservoir	1 acre
Upstream and downstream slopes (average)	2:1
Drainage area (approximate)	3 sq. mi.

The volume of the reservoir was computed from the formula for a cone (1/3 bh). From this formula the capacity was determined for the storage to the crest and two spillways as follows:

Storage to dam crest	10 ac. ft.
Storage to 10-inch spillway	9 ac. ft.
Storage to 4-foot spillway	7 ac. ft.

The volume of the reservoir is probably much less from silting. No sounding was made to determine the depth to bottom, but a visual observation of the shores and grass growth indicated that the maximum depth is approximately 10 feet. The slope of the stream channel in the dam area would also indicate about a 10-foot water depth below the 4-foot-diameter pipe spillway.

There are two spillways to control the storage. The control of winter runoff storms is obviously dependent on an open 4-foot pipe, and I indicated that additional spillway capacity would definitely be advisable. The existing spillway has approximately a 100 cfs capacity. The historical maximum flood of October 1962 for the area, considering floods near Walnut Creek, may have produced a flood greater than the capacity of this spillway. I indicated that an increase of two to three times the present capacity would be advisable as soon as possible, just to control an historical flood. The Contra Costa Flood Control District was suggested as a source for a local flood estimate. There was no direct evidence that the dam had ever been overtopped, but I suggested that either the previous owners, Soil Conservation Service, or the County could provide this information.

There are several bare steel pipes in the dam that are part of the water system of the property, and I suggested that the slopes of the dam should be cleared to determine the exact number and the locations. I indicated that any steel pipe that is not encased in concrete is subject to corrosion and should eventually be removed, grouted, or encased.

The condition of the dam was not judged because of the many unknown variables. There was no sign of instability, with the exception of the upper crest area. There is a wooden-type of retaining wall that is in a state of collapse. The reason for

District 2 Headquarters
4525 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 539-4000

June 21, 1976

Dale Sanders
Planning Director
Contra Costa County Planning Dept.
Administrative Building
Pine & Escobar Streets
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Mr. Sanders

We have recently acquired the Murchio property, adjacent to the City of Clayton, as an enlargement of Mt. Diablo State Park. With adequate development, in the future, this will become a major public use and entry to Mt. Diablo.

We are examining the property to discover as much as we can about operational problems and how to best cope with them. The most obvious is Mitchell Canyon Road which dead ends about 2500 feet into the property. The end of the road is a great party place for teenagers with evidence of much "Lovers Lane" activities. This is of concern to us and I am sure the Sheriff's office also.

This leaves us wide open to vandalism and, of course, fire danger along with other possible undesirable activities.

We would like to obtain control of this road from the northerly edge of the property (Clayton city limits) to its present termination.

I am not unaware of the complexities involved since the road is county owned in fee. The county may well feel a responsibility to the owner contiguous on the west side, in the future at least.

We would like to place a control gate on the northerly line. This would be operated in accordance with the public use hours established for the property and assume maintenance of that portion of the road behind it.

There is a triangular piece of land, ownership unknown, at the north line. This is physically suited for construction of a turn-around and can be used for that without construction at present.

At present I would like to inquire into the County's reaction to this proposal, and if favorable, how best can it be accomplished?

After you have time to reflect upon it I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss it with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Robert B. Hatch
District Superintendent

RBH:jm

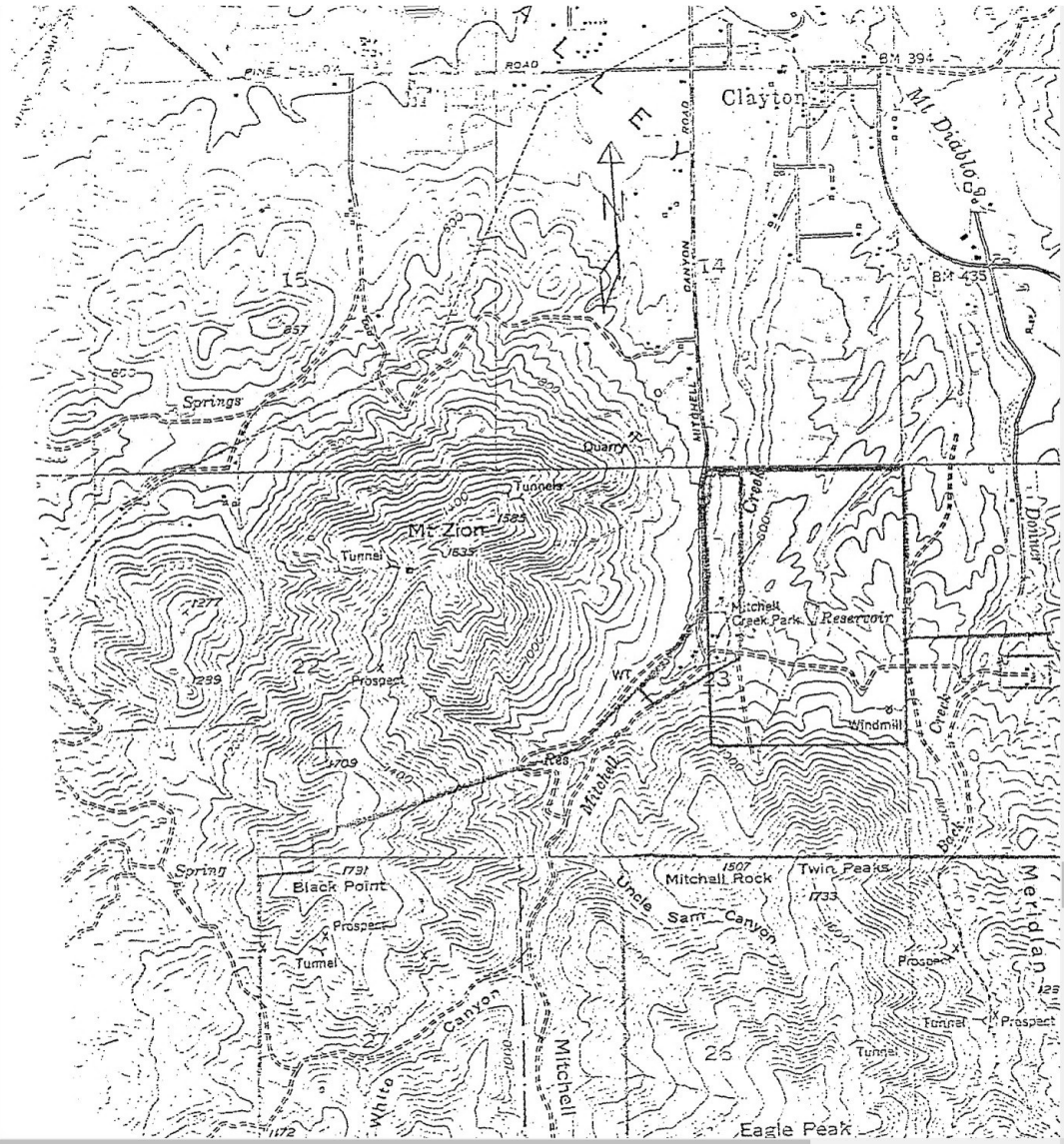
cc: Diablo Area

Mount Diablo State Park
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Reimbursement Parcel

A portion of the North 1/2, and the North 962 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 23. T. 1 N., R. 1W., M.D.B.&M., County of Contra Costa, State of California, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of said Section 23, thence along the North line of said Section 23, and the South lines of Subdivision No. 3576 recorded in Book 129 Maps Page 26, Subdivision No. 4015 recorded in Book 158 Maps Page 28, and Subdivision No. 4012 recorded in Book 137 Maps Page 15 Contra Costa County Records, North 88°21'21" West 1308.43 feet; thence continuing along said North line and the South line of Subdivision No. 4504 recorded in Book 162 Maps Page 21, Contra Costa County Records, North 88°34'24" West 383.00 feet; thence continuing along said North line and the South line of Subdivision No. 3977 recorded in Book 140 Maps Page 50, Contra Costa County Records, North 88°17'33" West 891.15 feet more or less to a point on the Easterly line of that certain 40 foot strip of land described in the Grant Deed to the County of Contra Costa recorded May 6, 1941 in Book 589 Official Records of said County at page 285, said point being the Southerly terminus of a course described as "South 21°41' West 120.24 feet" in Parcel One of said Deed; thence along the Easterly line of said 40 foot strip South 21°41' West 73.47 feet; thence Southerly along the arc of a curve to the left, tangent to the last named course, whose radius is 270.00 feet, an arc distance of 91.50 feet; thence South 2°16' West 165.72 feet; thence South 0°50' West 332.12 feet; thence South 1°29' West 1,178.65 feet; thence South 6°24' West 261.65 feet; thence South 5°17' East 306.54 feet; thence along the Southerly line of said 40 foot strip of land South 84°43' West 20.00 feet to an iron pipe; thence leaving said 40 foot strip of land South 6°46'31" East 328.38 feet to the center of said Section 23; thence along the West line of said Southeast Quarter, South 962 feet; thence along a line parallel with and 962 feet Southerly of, measured at right angles to the North line of said Southeast 1/4, East 2640 feet to the East line of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 23; thence North 962 feet along said East line to the East 1/4 Corner of said Section 23; thence along the East line of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 23, North 0°15' East 2652.86 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 222 acres, more or less.



State of California — Agriculture and Services Agency

Files

Memorandum

3720-203

To : Richard A. May, Manager
Acquisition Branch
Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date : April 15, 1977
File No.: DBP-324 Murchio

From : **Department of General Services** - Real Estate Services Division
650 Howe Avenue, Sacramento 95825

Subject: Mt. Diablo State Park
Parcel 2262 (Murchio Property)

In response to your request of March 31, 1977, the following information is attached:

1. Two Settlement Summaries
2. Two Statements of Just Compensation

You will note that there are two summaries each. This acquisition was from two parties - 54/56 interest from the Murchio Estate and 2/56 interest from Mary Murchio.

The only relocation payments on this property were $9,000 to tenants that were not located on the 222 acres in question.

The valuation summary is as follows:

200	acres	@ $5,000 /Ac	$ 1,000,000
1,237.72	acres	@ 500 /Ac	618,860
		Total Value	$ 1,618,860
		Rounded	1,625,000

The 222 acres in question are estimated to be divided at 187 acres at $5,000 and 35 acres at $500. This breakdown was based on the 720' contour line where water could be delivered, therefore, the appraised value of the 222 acres is:

187	acres	@ $5,000 /Ac	$ 935,000
35	acres	500 /Ac	17,500
		Total Value	$ 952,500

F. Dean Bailey

F. DEAN BAILEY
Senior Land Agent
Program Management

FDB:DGP:gs
Attachment

3720-203
Murchio
x 6370-06-00417

Mr. F. Dean Bailey, Senior Land Agent
Program Management Branch
Real Estate Services Division
Department of General Services

March 31, 1977

Mt. Diablo SP
DBP-324 (Parcel 2262)
Land and Water
Conservation Fund Project
No. 06-00417

Acquisition of 1,350 acres of the Murchio property at Mt. Diablo State Park was accomplished by Chapter 129/76, item 350 (VV) and by Chapter 1484/74, item 410.7B(s). In addition to this appropriation, $517,650 (one-half of approved amount) is available to us through Land and Water Conservation Fund Project for reimbursement. This assistance is only available for the 222 acres of land within the Murchio property. Enclosed are legal description and maps which indicate this area. In order for us to submit final billing to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, we request that you provide the following documentations:

1. Settlement Summary
2. Statement of Just Compensation
3. Summary of Relocation
4. Summary of Valuation (222 acres)

Your prompt attention for this request would be greatly appreciated.

Original Signed By
Richard A. May

Richard A. May, Manager
Acquisition Branch

Enclosure

RAM:EM:sr

SURNAME				
	Wilde 3/31/77			

DPR-199 (5-65)