

**From:** Kathleen Genelly kgenelly@comcast.net  
**Subject:** 17448 River Lane  
**Date:** November 6, 2019 at 11:15 AM  
**To:** Paige MacDonell rec.park@gmail.com



To whom it may concern,

The property in question, located at 17448 River Lane, Vacation Beach, Guerneville, Ca, was previously owned by my family since the early 1900's until 1953 when it was then sold to Citizens Utility. It has always been used as a right-away for anyone who lived at Vacation Beach so that they could access the beach for recreation.

Regards,

Herbert A Genelly Jr.

August 9, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Richard Deering and I have lived in the Russian River since 1966. The property at 17448 River Lane, Guerneville, Ca has been open to the public since I've been a resident. In addition, it has been open to the public since the 1940's.

Thank you,

Richard Deering  
17402 Neeley Rd  
Guerneville, CA 95446

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard H. Deering", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

From: "Nick Mironov" <nickvmironov@gmail.com>  
Subject: Russian River Sweetwater Springs River Access  
Date: October 4, 2019 at 2:03:45 PM PDT  
To: <rec.park@gmail.com>  
Cc: <Susan.Upchurch@Sonoma-County.org>

Nick Mironov  
826 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
San Francisco CA 94121

I am 66 years old. My parents, I, and my wife and children have been using the beach access since 1950. We would like to see the beach access remain as "public". We have never had a problem with denial of access in the past.

Attached are just a few pictures that show our times on the beach. We would like to have the access to this special place continue for us and for future generations.

*Nick Mironov*  
*Cell: (415) 680-0878*





October 7, 2019

From: Vera Mironov  
722 Balboa St.  
San Francisco, Ca. 94118-3727

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that beach access to the Sweetwater Springs Beach at Vacation Beach is being challenged.

I am writing to support that Beach access remain open to the public.

My family has used this beach for many, many years starting in 1950. My late husband, my children, my grandchildren and many, many friends have used this beach for many years.

It should definitely remain open to the public.

Sincerely,  
Vera Mironov

**From:** Katherine Meyer katherinemeyer4@gmail.com

**Subject:** River access at Vacation Beach

**Date:** October 2, 2019 at 11:04 AM

**To:** Susan.Upchurch@sonoma-county.org Susan.Upchurch@Sonoma-County.org

**Cc:** rec.park@gmail.com



Dear Susan,

It has been brought to my attention that the "Little Beach", as we call it, is in danger of being closed off for use by the public. I have been coming to this beach since a child growing up at vacation beach (born in 1946). Now even though I live in Colorado, my family still resides there and I come each summer on vacations. I have seen river access cut off as people purchase properties (Aldos, the Russian River Inn - all had beautiful beaches open to the public when I was growing up and are no longer available for people to use).

I feel we need to fight for the public use of land that has been traditionally open and not let it be closed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katherine Meyer  
411 North Pine St  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**From:** Xenia Zabelin xyzabelin@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Sweetwater Springs beach access at Vacation Beach  
**Date:** October 3, 2019 at 6:11 PM  
**To:** Susan.Upchurch@sonoma-county.org, rec.park@gmail.com



Xenia Zabelin

239-16<sup>th</sup> Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94118

To whom it may concern:

I am writing because I am concerned about the situation with the access to the beach on Vacation Beach on the Russian river.

My husband and I bought the property on Vacation Beach in 1951 and I own it still. Our family has been going to that beach ever since, that means my children my grandchildren and their many friends.

It is impossible to imagine being at the river and not having access to the river. Nature has given us this beautiful river and the access to it should not be limited to those who own a river front property. We always used the easement along the water company property not realizing it was private property. In older days there was a water pumping tower but it did not deter us from using that easement. In those days there was no actual trail, we were using the cascading rocks of the brook which in summer was dry. It was only comparatively recently that a trail has appeared through the bushes and blackberry growth.

Please do everything possible to keep this beach accessible to the public. Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to visiting the beach again next season.

Respectfully,

Xenia Zabelin

**From:** lanaclemens@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Russian River Sweetwater Springs River Access  
**Date:** November 14, 2019 at 2:02 PM  
**To:** rec.park@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Susan.Upchurch@Sonoma-County.org



Lana Clemens  
1205 Echo Court  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

I was very disturbed to hear that access to the "Little Beach" at Vacation Beach is in jeopardy of being denied to the public.

I have been using this beach since 1955. I am 70 years old. I have many wonderful memories enjoying this beach as a child with my parents. My husband and I vacationed at Vacation Beach every summer and brought our children there. Although I have moved out of the Bay Area, I still go to the Russian River every summer and enjoy the "Little Beach" with my grandchildren.

I would hate to see public access suddenly denied after so many years.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Lana Clemens

**From:** Laura laurared01@sbcglobal.net  
**Subject:** Vacation Beach Sweetwater Springs Parcel with Beach Access  
**Date:** September 15, 2019 at 9:54 PM  
**To:** rec.park@gmail.com



Dear Russian River Recreation and Parks District,

I am writing to you regarding the Sweetwater Springs parcel that allows access to beach foot trail to the Russian River in the Vacation Beach neighborhood.

I understand the Sweetwater Springs may be selling the parcel and permission to use the trail may not be possible depending on the new land owners.

Our family has owned our home at 17754 Orchard Avenue since the 1930's. I am writing on behalf of myself, my Mother and Brother who have been using the trail from River Lane down to the Russian River Beach/riverbank every Summer our entire lives (over 50 years).

In the 1970's and 1980's the access was wider, full of boulders and to the right of the current, safer path. My father used to tie up his boat at the beach and we would swim, float, fish or take the boat for a ride. The tradition continue today with my nephews who search for rocks to skip and minnows to capture.

Personally we have never had a uncomfortable or bad experience using the trails or the beach. Even on days when the beach areas are full, everyone is kind and just enjoying a day at the river. I do hope we will be able to continue to access the river using the trail.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. We do not rent our home (long or short-term) and have always felt like the trail was our neighborhood gem.

Sincerely,

Laura, Sharon, Matt (and family) Giffether

17554 Orchard Avenue

Guerneville, CA

**From:** Margaret Dodderer dodderer3@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Support for Exception Permit and Sale of Sweetwater Springs Little Beach Access Area to Russian River Recreation and Parks  
**Date:** September 29, 2019 at 9:09 AM  
**To:** rec.park@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Susan.Upchurch@sonoma-county.org

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September 29, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Little Beach and the access area has been part of our family for over 60 years! As children, our grandparents and parents took us up there every summer for 2 months or more. We grew up swimming and playing at this beautiful little beach. We have also taken our children, who have taken their children to this wonderful place. We have many generations (5 at this point) of memories. The special smell of the plants and sand are etched in our memories even to this day! Access to this beach was very important to us since we carried our swimming mats, towels, umbrella and picnic snacks down the path to enjoy a wonderful day at the beach. The friends that we met there have been a part of our lives even to this day. It is a small area, but the happiness it brought us as children is priceless! We totally support Sweetwater Springs selling that area to the Russian River Recreation and Parks so that we know the traditions of many generations will continue in the future so that all can enjoy!

Thank you so much and the best of luck!

Margaret Dodderer & Family  
HCR 30 Box 92  
Las Vegas, NV 89124  
702-524-4376



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**From:** Victor Teshin vnteshin@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Russian River Sweetwater Springs River Access  
**Date:** November 14, 2019 at 1:21 PM  
**To:** rec.park@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Susan.Upchurch@Sonoma-County.org



***Vic Teshin***

2493 Deer Springs Dr  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

I am 66 years old. My parents, my friends and I and my sister and her children have been using the beach access since 1955. We would like to see the beach access remain as "public". We have never had a problem with denial of access in the past.

Attached are just a few pictures that show our times on the beach. We would like to have the access to this special place continue for us and for future generations. Thank you!

***Vic Teshin***

H: 805-286-4675

C: 925-330-3333

[vnteshin@comcast.net](mailto:vnteshin@comcast.net)







To: Paige MacDonell, Administrator Russian River Recreation and Parks District

CC: Russian River Recreation and Parks District Board

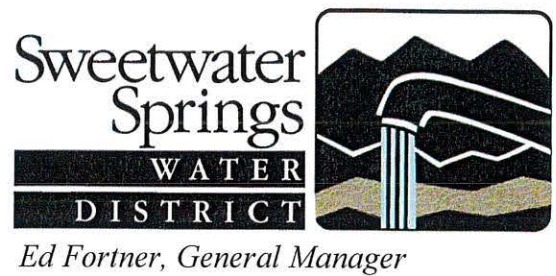
Dear Ms. MacDonnell,

I began working for Citizens Utilities Company of California in 1988. From 1988 until today, the Utility owned lot at 17448 River Ln. that was used as a groundwater well site, was also always used as a casual neighborhood path to Vacation Beach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Bushgen", written in a cursive style.

Jack Bushgen  
Senior Crew Supervisor  
Sweetwater Springs Water District  
707-869-4000



To: Russian River Recreation and Parks District Board of Directors

CC: Paige MacDonell, Administrator

Dear Board of Directors,

Sweetwater Springs Water District (SSWD) owns a parcel on 17448 River Lane, Guerneville, CA that the Russian River Recreation and Parks District (RRR&PD) desires to purchase. This lot is located in the Vacation Beach area and the lot borders the Russian River. The lot was the site of a groundwater well that SSWD purchased with all other Citizens Utilities property in 1992. Historically, and to our knowledge certainly from 1992 to present, the lot has been used as a neighborhood pathway to Vacation Beach and the Russian River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ed Fortner", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Ed Fortner  
General Manager  
Sweetwater Springs Water District  
[efortner@sweetwatersprings.com](mailto:efortner@sweetwatersprings.com)  
707-869-4000

**From:** Hans Bruhner hbruhner@pcmloan.com @

**Subject:** Sweetwater Springs Access

**Date:** September 11, 2019 at 6:27 PM

**To:** Susan Upchurch Susan.Upchurch@sonoma-county.org, lynda.hopkins@sonoma-county.org, rec.park@gmail.com

**Cc:** John Harreld harreldj@gmail.com



To Whom it may concern:

My family has been visiting and enjoying the beach at River Lane in Guerneville since the summer of 2000 right after we moved to Guerneville. We moved to Orchard Avenue in Vacation Beach in 2003 and this became our main beach. Our neighborhood beach was a big factor in choosing our home, and we have spent many days picnicking, napping, paddling and swimming there. We look forward to seeing our neighbors, vacationers, and members of the public who have discovered this treasure, and to paddling with many of them. It is our understanding that this access has been here for a very long time.

We access the beach via the path on the Sweetwater Springs property (at the fishing sign). This path has always been available to us, and we have never received any notice to the contrary. We usually carry our kayaks or paddleboards down the path too, so that we can explore the river. We have searched up and down the river, and have discovered limited public access paths to the beach, and very few that are safe and easy to negotiate when carrying a kayak or paddleboard. Our public access is a rare treasure.

It is in the public interest to maintain access to safe neighborhood entry points to the river. The river and our public beach have drawn homeowners and vacationers like us to our region and neighborhood for over 100 years, and we understand from our neighbors who have been in the area for generations that this beach access has always been public. It is the responsibility of elected officials to protect the public interest by ensuring any land sale protects public access to our beach in perpetuity, so that future generations of vacationers and homeowners can continue to enjoy this natural resource.

There is no question that this beach itself is available to the public as I have seen the study by the California Lands Commission. This is purely a question of access and the parcel currently owned by Sweetwater Springs Water District has provided that access for a very long time. It is the perfect thing for the Parks Department to acquire this parcel so that the neighborhood and the public can enjoy this gem of a beach now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Hans Bruhner**

**Mortgage Advisor | Branch Manager**

MLO 243484

cell/text **707.529.9951**

office/fax 707.887.1275 or 415.843.0142

**PINNACLE  
CAPITAL**



**From:** John Harreld harreldj@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Beach access  
**Date:** October 4, 2019 at 9:46 AM  
**To:** Palge MacDonell rec.park@gmail.com



To whom it may concern,

My name is John Harreld, and I have been a homeowner and full time resident in the Vacation Beach area of Guerneville for over 15 years. Throughout this time and without interruption or exception, my experience has been that the path running from River Lane to the public trust beach on the Russian River has been available to myself and the general public to use as a means to access the river. My understanding is that the lot through which the access trail runs corresponds to APN # 071-220-068, currently owned by Sweetwater Springs Water District.

This beach and river access trail is very important resource to full-time locals as well as vacation renters, and my opinion is that the use of this property should remain as it has been for many decades, regardless of current or future ownership of the lot.

Regards,  
John Harreld

17455 River Lane  
Guerneville, CA 95446  
707-318-6002

**From:** Heather S. Howard, PhD, MPH Dr@heatherhoward.com  
**Subject:** Vacation Beach Public River Access  
**Date:** September 12, 2019 at 2:04 AM  
**To:** rec.park@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Susan.Upchurch@sonoma-county.org

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Heather Howard & Jorge Sanchez Suarez  
17537 Orchard Avenue  
Guerneville, CA 95446  
(917) 650-6765

September 12, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

Our family has been visiting Guerneville and enjoying the beach at River Lane since the summer of 2013. We fell in love with the area and purchased our home in Vacation Beach in 2014, so that we could spend more time there as a family. Our neighborhood beach was the main reason we chose our home, and we spend most days picnicking, napping, paddling and swimming there. We look forward to seeing our neighbors, vacationers, and members of the public who have discovered this treasure, and to paddling with many of them. Our home is a vacation rental, and our guests also select our home due to the easy access to this neighborhood beach.

We access the beach via the path on the Sweetwater Springs property (at the fishing sign). This path has always been available to us, and we have never received any notice to the contrary. We usually carry our kayaks or paddleboards down the path too, so that we can explore the river. We have searched up and down the river, and have discovered limited public access paths to the beach, and very few that are safe and easy to negotiate when carrying a kayak or paddleboard. Our public access is a rare treasure.

It is in the public interest to maintain access to safe neighborhood entry points to the river. The river and our public beach have drawn homeowners and vacationers like us to our region and neighborhood for over 100 years, and we understand from our neighbors who have been in the area for generations that this beach access has always been public. We are relying on our elected officials to protect the public interest by ensuring any land sale protects public access to our beach in perpetuity, so that future generations of vacationers and homeowners can continue to enjoy this natural resource. We appreciate the work you are doing on behalf of our community.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Heather Howard and Jorge Sanchez Suarez

October 21, 2019

Russian River Recreation & Parks District  
P.O. Box 195  
Guerneville, Ca 95446

My name is Angelina T. Lavroushin. I am 83 years old and three generations of my family have enjoyed the Russian River beach which appears to be in danger of being closed to the public.

When my four children were young, we spent every summer at Russian River, renting a small cabin and enjoying swimming and playing at this beach.

Every evening groups of families walked up and down Orchard Ave, socializing and having fun. Many long-term friendships were formed there and still exist today.

My daughters continued the tradition and brought their children to the same beach.

It seems unfair that one person can deprive so many of the pleasure of enjoying the beauty of the River, the surrounding mountains and this wonderful beach.

Please keep it open to the public and the future generations to enjoy.  
Thank you. Angelina T. Lavroushin



Angelina Lavroushin  
PO Box 523  
Nice, CA 95464