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CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 1985

LETTER RECEIVED
FROM STOCKTON AUDUBON
SOCIETY ASKING THAT
LODI LAKE WILDERNESS
AREA NOT BE ELIMINATED

cc 2/10

City Clerk Reimche presented a letter that had been received from the Stockton Audubon Society asking that Council not eliminate the wilderness area at Lodi Lake Park.



STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

940 N. Argonaut Street
Stockton, CA. 95203
December 5, 1985

Lodi City Council
Lodi City Hall
Lodi, CA. 95240

Re: Proposed elimination of wilderness area at Lodi Lake

Gentlemen:

We of Stockton Audubon Society (including members in Lodi and throughout the entire county) have long used and appreciated the wilderness area by Lodi Lake. Our members have birdwatched, picnicked, bicycled, and otherwise enjoyed the area in an informal way. Additionally, our group has sponsored one or two birding field trips each year for study, identification and enjoyment of the wildlife in the wilderness area. It is also part of our official Christmas Bird Count area for which our club gathers annual statistics on birdlife and provides these for publication in the year's volume of American Birds. As you may be aware, these Christmas Count statistics are used by researchers nationally as indicators of species and habitat patterns and health.

Each time Stockton Audubon has sponsored a field trip to the area, we have noted that there are a large number of other people also in and enjoying the wilderness area. Our members report that they also have noted heavy usage of the area when they have been there informally. At the times we have observed the area, it would seem to be used more heavily than many other such areas in our county.

This beautiful riparian wilderness area, despite heavy use by joggers, cyclists, hikers, fishermen, nature lovers, etc., provides one of the few habitats in the entire county where birds such as the Western Wood Pewee and the Wrentit actually nest. Because of the diversity and lushness of vegetation nature lovers can almost always see Western Pond Turtles, Muskrats and many common birds and insects. But uncommon insects, such as the PipeVine Swallowtail Butterfly, and uncommon birds, such as the Osprey and Black-Crowned Night Heron, have also been seen here.

Four of the bird species on the State of California's rare/endangered list have been observed here: Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Long Eared Owl and the Willow Flycatcher. In fact

Swainson's Hawks have been observed nesting in this wilderness area. If the area were cleared and grass planted, these species would probably be lost to the county and perhaps soon to the state.

The following is a list of birds which our members have observed in the Lodi Lake Wilderness area. The asterisks indicate birds which have been observed to nest in this riparian area.

Pied-billed Grebe*	Great Blue Heron	Great Egret
Snowy Egret	Green-backed Heron	Black-crowned Night Heron
Tundra Swan	SnC ? Goose	Wood Duck*
Mallard*	Common Merganser	Turkey Vulture
Osprey	Northern Harrier	Black-shouldered Kite
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Red-shouldered Hawk
Swainson's Hawk*	Red-tailed Hawk	American Kestrel
Merlin	California Quail*	Common Moorhen
American Coot*	Killdeer	Black-necked Stilt
Greater Yellowlegs	Least Sandpiper	Long-billed Dowitcher
Dunlin	Ring-billed Gull	California Quail
Mourning Dove*	Great Horned Owl*	Long-eared Owl
Anna's Hummingbird*	Costa's Hummingbird	Black-chinned Hummingbird*
Rufous Hummingbird	Belted Kingfisher	Acorn Woodpecker*
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Downey Woodpecker	Nuttall's Woodpecker
Northern Flicker	Western Wood Pewee*	Willow Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher	Dusky Flycatcher	Western Flycatcher
Black Phoebe*	Say's Phoebe	Ash-throated Flycatcher*
Western Kingbird	Horned Lark	Tree Swallow*
Violet-Green Swallow	Cliff Swallow*	N. Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow*	Scrub Jay*	Yellow-billed Magpie*
American Crow	Plain Titmouse*	Bushtit*
Brown Creeper	Bewick's Wren*	White-breasted Nuthatch*
House Wren*	Winter Wren	Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Swainson's Thrush	Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Hermit Thrush	American Robin*
Varied Thrush	Wrentit*	Northern Mockingbird*
Water Pipit	Cedar Waxwing'	Phainopepla
Loggerhead Shrike	Starling*	Solitary Vireo
Hutton's Vireo	Warbling Vireo	Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler	Yellow Warbler	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Townsend's Warbler	Common Yellowthroat	Black-throated Gry Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler	Wilson's Warbler	Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak	Blue Grosbeak	Lazuli Bunting
Rufous-sided Towhee*	Chipping Sparrow	Lark Sparrow
Fox Sparrow	Lincoln's Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird	Western Meadowlark	Brewer's Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird*	Hooded Oriole*	Northern Oriole*
Evening Grosbeak*	Purple Finch	House Finch*
Pine Siskin	Lesser Goldfinch	Lawrence's Goldfinch
American Goldfinch	House Sparrow	

As you can easily see from the list, there is a great deal of birdlife in the Lodi Lake wilderness area for us to watch. The diversity of birds and other wildlife is a direct result of the diverse and lush vegetation in this area. We hope you will consider

the effect on wildlife before you consider any plan to eliminate any of the plants in this area.

We have a genuine interest in this area and request that you inform us of any upcoming hearings regarding any changes of any sort to it. Moreover, if there are any public papers or documents regarding any such changes, we request to be furnished timely copies of these. Conversely, if you would like any more information which we might be able to provide on the area's wildlife, we would be delighted to assist you.

Thank you for your consideration of this and future notification of our group about any planned developments affecting the wildlife of our county.

Yours truly,



Kathy Schick,
Conservation Chairman

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cc: Lodi Department of Parks and Recreation
Lodi News Sentinel
Lodi Unified School District