

Submitted to Redwood City Council on March 18, 2019

Jerry Pierce

Redwood City Council

In 2014/15 Redwood City held a public out reach effort resulting in the “inner harbor specific plan.” This plan was not adopted nor rejected by the City Council however I think it represents a collective vision for the inner Harbor area, specifically regarding the recreational opportunities on the water’s edge. I urge the Council to protect these resources by intervening in the negotiations and preserving a larger part of the Cemex property to achieve these important goals. Current land swap negotiations between the County and the City endanger the primary goal of providing community recreation, water front access and water based recreation.

I attended many of these public meetings and contributed to the public process. I am an active with BIAC (Bair Island Aquatic Center) that leases space from Redwood City in the Inner Harbor. My focus is on Redwood City and our ability to provide opportunities to our community members.



Figure 1 - Site Plan Inner Harbor Specific Plan - October 2015

Since the time of that report (issued in 2015) a number of efforts have moved forward, some that align with the vision expressed in the Inner Harbor plan, others that would prevent the vision from being realized.

The Strada development has been approved and takes up space originally envisioned for public access and replaced with buildings near the confluence of Redwood Creek and Steinberger Slough. The Ferrari property is now for sale. There was a land swap with the State for part of Steinberger Slough in exchange for land for the Bradford project. (This last land swap should not impact Redwood City's use of the land/water for recreational activities.)



Figure 2 - The current vision for the area. This shows the Strada Development, Area 1 the open area is county owned. Area 2 (Cemex Property) is Redwood City owned.

Subject of this document: There is a land swap underway between the City and the County for two pieces of property in this area. Area 1 is about 2 acres which is needed for the Blomquist Extension on the corner of the Strada development. It currently houses the women's jail and the shelter. The Blomquist extension will benefit both the city and the county. Area 2 is the Cemex property (about 5 acres) that was considered for a soccer field and open space as envisioned by the inner Harbor precise plan. The County wants ALL of the Cemex property in exchange for Area 1 for an expanded shelter.

I would like the City Council to review and influence the negotiations between Redwood City and San Mateo County for the Cemex land. **I strongly recommend Redwood City retain control/ownership of a significant part of the Cemex property near the shore** - perhaps 200 feet from the state owned land *or more*. Redwood City should be able to develop options for this prime recreational opportunity. I still hold hope that Redwood City can create a waterfront based recreation destination for our community. I am concerned that since the Inner Harbor discussions there has been and is under consideration a significant reduction of open space, which is limiting our community's options. It was forward thinking of the City to purchase this property and engage the community in developing a waterfront vision. I am concerned that this is being lost.

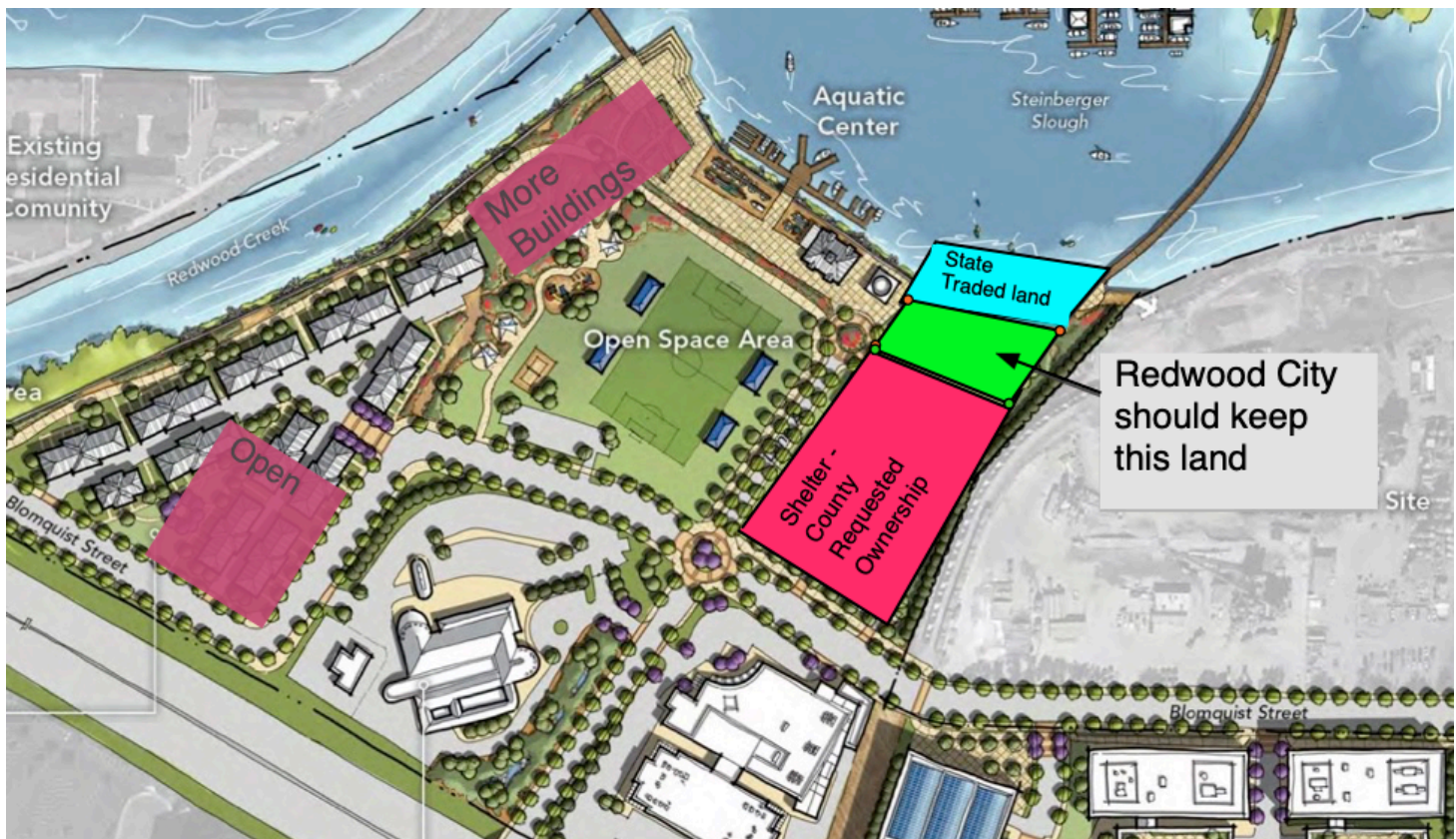


Figure 3 - Inner Harbor Specific Plan with known changes near water's edge

Redwood City is unique in having such access to the Bay and it is vital that this access be preserved. I hope Redwood City council embraces the concept of a recreation opportunity with access to our bay. Current land swap negotiations between the County and the City endanger the primary goal of providing community recreation, water front access and water based recreation.. We need to have human powered access to the water. This location is on the "Bay Trail" and would be an excellent destination for access for walking, running, biking on the Bay Trail, not to mention access for kayaks, SUP (stand up paddle boards), canoes and rowers. It is critical that Redwood City retain control of the waterside access for this property.

Redwood City has an opportunity to provide a special and important recreational opportunities to our community members. I hope the Council will review and influence this important decision. This can be a legacy for this Council.

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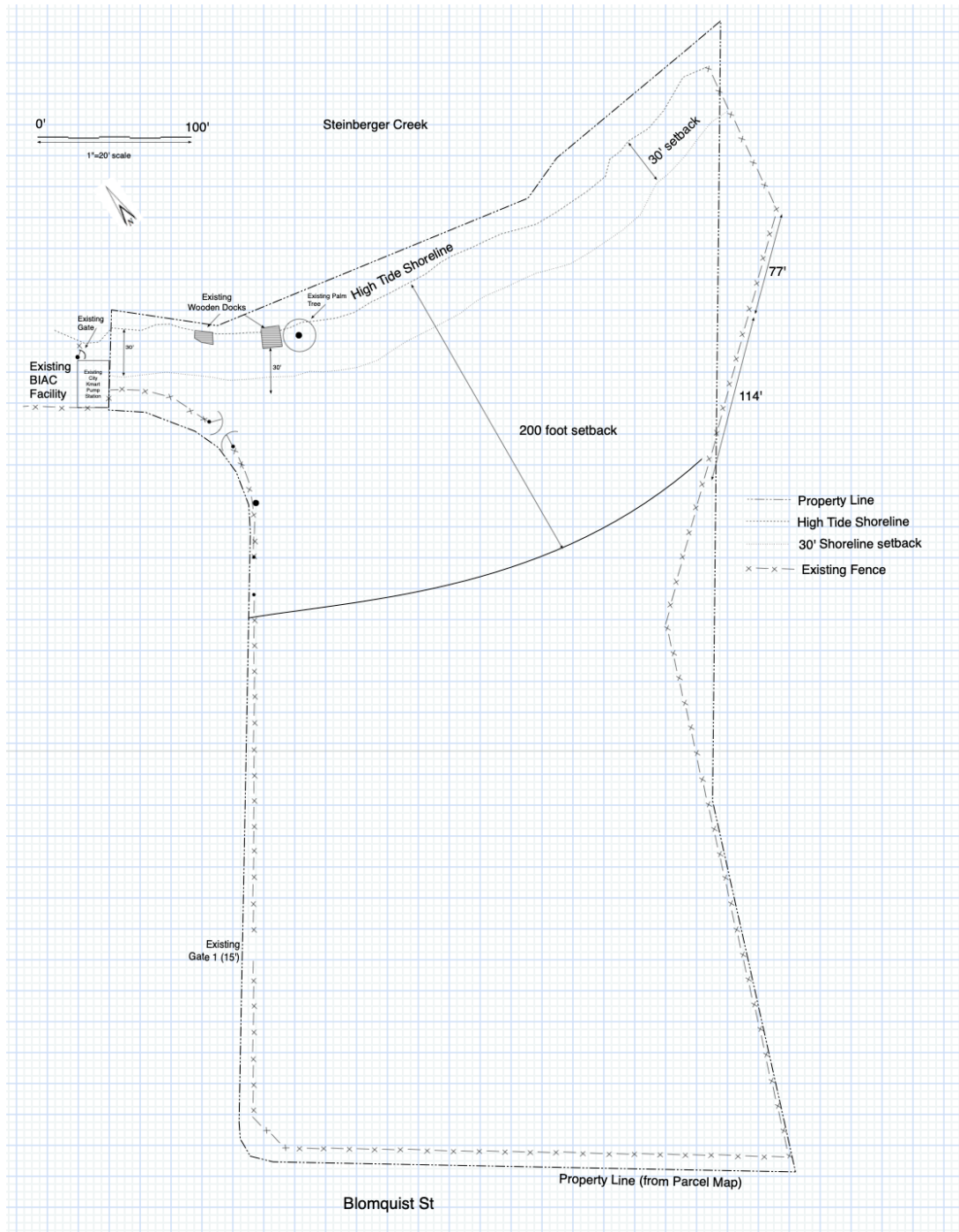


Figure 4 - Cemex Property with ≈200' setback from high tide shoreline