

**From:** Cal Geographic [mailto:cal.geographic@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2023 1:13 PM

**To:** Honora.Montano@coastal.ca.gov; ibereket@marincounty.org; Jennifer Blackman

<jblackman@bcpud.org>

**Subject:** Tacherra Property Housing Development, Bolinas

In regards to the housing development and ecological issues concerning the Tacherra Ranch property in Bolinas:

As a 53 year resident of the Bolinas Mesa, professional geographer, field botanist and ecological researcher, I want to express my utmost concern regarding development on the Tacherra Ranch property in Bolinas, outside of the existing developed ranch areas, which will impact agricultural or open landscape.

In line with the State of California, Bolinas has lost the majority of its natural ecosystems, and at least 95% of its freshwater wetland habitats. These habitats include seasonal wet meadows, vernal pools, swales, springs, grasslands, scrublands and riparian zones. Most wetland flora and fauna in the Southern Point Reyes Peninsula, and Bolinas in particular, remains un-studied and un-described.

I have personally witnessed and surveyed the retreat and extirpation of these habitats and biota on the Bolinas Mesa over the past few decades due to human development, such as dirt and gravel road construction; road maintenance; drainage projects; and building construction.

We have already lost more rare and fragile wetland ecosystems on the Bolinas Mesa than is sustainable for the health of the environment, the health of the water supply, or the health of the community. While West Marin and Bolinas have a long and robust track record of addressing human issues and issues affecting the community, there is unfortunately an abysmal track record of understanding and protecting the local ecosystems and native landscapes.

With the large size of the Tacherra property, there is no reason that development of updated workers housing cannot occur on the areas of the ranch that have already experienced infrastructure and road development for decades.

This is a moment in time in the legacy of development and habitat destruction in West Marin, when the trend can be reversed, and the needs of both the community and the environment can be met simultaneously. With the development of updated workers housing on existing developed areas, while preserving the ag lands, open spaces, and wetlands, a new blueprint for development in Bolinas can be established, and held up as an example of compatible housing and ecological preservation for other communities facing similar issues.

For further reference and scientific citations, please see:

*Biogeography of California's Seasonal Wetlands*

<https://calgeographic.com/2023/04/28/biogeography-5/>

*Geomorphology of California's Seasonal Wetlands*

<https://calgeographic.com/2023/04/28/landforms/>

Regards,  
Rowena Forest,  
Cal Geographic

--

[calgeographic.com](https://calgeographic.com)