

The Redbud Audubon Society has deep concerns regarding the proposed Heron's Landing subdivision. With its present proposal we would recommend against a rezone approval and against allowing this development.

This is one of the last wetlands on Clear Lake. It is home to nesting Great Blue Herons, White Egrets, and Double-crested Cormorants. It is home to a nesting Yellow-headed Blackbird colony, a bird that is not found in great numbers anywhere else on the Lake. Redbud Audubon is also aware of a nesting pair of Black-shouldered Kites on the east side of the canal slated for development.

The fact that this area floods on a regular basis is also a concern. It is hard to believe that the County would allow another subdivision in one of the areas of the Lake where severe flooding is known to occur.

The whole of Reeves Point should remain untouched in perpetuity. It is very likely that the birds may leave after extreme construction disturbance so it seems a little silly to present a proposal that says no houses will be built unless the birds leave, when it can almost be guaranteed that they will leave!

I can't tell from the information that I have received what is to become of the tule and riparian habitat all along the areas where the homes will be constructed. Will the houses each have a pier?

The Redbud Audubon Society holds a wildlife festival every year. For the past two years, we have taken people to Reeves Point to view the beautiful wildlife there. The recent video made by Larry Arbanos (paid for by the County Marketing Department) includes extensive footage of this area of the Lake. We want people to come to Clear Lake as tourists and visitors to enjoy our beautiful area - we can't have it both ways - we can't develop every remaining inch of the Lake's shoreline, destroying habitat and wildlife - and continue to promote Clear Lake as a wonderful place to visit.

Again, Redbud Audubon urges a denial of the request for a general plan amendment. The owner of the property knew what this property was zoned when he purchased it. With the list of impacts given in your notice of preparation of a draft environmental impact report, it is impossible to see how any development of this area could occur without violating numerous policies and laws developed by the County and the State to protect Clear Lake.

I will be sending this information to our State Audubon office with the idea that they will be able to provide resources to our local chapter if we find the need to pursue this as a legal challenge.

Sincerely,
Roberta Lyons
Conservation Chair
Redbud Audubon Society, Inc.