Task Force Members Present:
Frank Croft; Bill Konle; Richard Von Bargen; Fadi Saba, Jan Webb, Michael Patterson; Brent Bear; Brian Seifert

Task Force Members Absent:
Alicia Borowski; Doug Reynaud; Carla Ruigh; Mary-Lou Fitzpatrick; Kathy Rairden

Project Update
A project update was provided on items since the last meeting:

- The Board of Supervisors unanimously supported HLUET’s recommendation for Alternative C for the West Flat Area, which included the golf course and 200-person events pavilion. Lee mentioned that the Supervisors were particularly intrigued with the concept of an environmental model golf course. They also directed staff to include study of Alternative B (no golf course and 500-person events pavilion) in the EIR, and thanked all involved, especially the Task Force, for their hard work on this project.

- County staff completed CEQA review and a negative declaration for trails design and construction related to the $200,000 grant for the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

- Approval of the Master Plan and EIR is anticipated for August 2003, with Phase One trail and staging area construction to begin soon thereafter. Park opening for public use is scheduled for 2004. This will allow trails to settle and stabilize over the 2003-04 winter season.

- Upcoming meeting dates:
  Community meeting on Draft Master Plan and Draft EIR, May 22, 2003
  PRC Review of Draft Master Plan and Draft EIR, June 4, 2003
  HLUET Review of Draft Master Plan and Draft EIR, June 19, 2003
  Anticipated Board of Supervisors Review of Draft Master Plan and Draft EIR, August 5, 2003

- A Draft of the Natural Resource Management Plan has been completed and the Draft EIR is in progress.

Changes to the Master Plan
The following changes to the Draft Master Plan were noted:

- A hang gliding/paragliding expert only launch site was included in the northern area of the park. No landing would be permitted in the West Flat Area, but an emergency bailout area has been identified on a plateau between the ridge and the West Flat Area. Access would be by trail only from the northern end of Coyote Lake -- no vehicular access to the launch site. A launch site is also proposed along the southern ridge south of Mummy Mountain. A secondary landing site has been noted in the southwest corner of the Mendoza Area. All of the launch and landing areas would be accessible by trail only to/from the public staging area. There would be no loading zones along Roop Road due to safety and visibility concerns.

- A bicycle park has been included in the West Flat Area. Dual slalom use has not been included.

- The fishing pond in the southern Mendoza Area has been proposed as an interim location for the County’s annual “Fishability Day” which provides a fishing experience for disabled youth. The permanent location for this event would be the pond proposed for the West Flat Area, which is included in Phase 2.

- The Master Plan matrix previously mentioned that horse rentals and overnight stables would not be included at the equestrian/agricultural education center. County staff recommended deleting this statement to allow for future flexibility, since current stabling locations offered by the County may be closed, and options for replacement are limited. The County is not proposing that stables be included, but would simply like to keep the option open for the future.

These changes were accepted by the Task Force, with the following comments:
The EIR should carefully review the potential impact of the hang gliding launch sites. The northern launch site may be in a sensitive habitat area. These areas should be protected and solutions should be found that do not require “mitigation” of habitat. The southern launch sites may have slide and erosion problems that should be considered. There should be no loading/unloading along Roop Road. A concern was also noted that prevailing winds may take pilots to the west instead of to the east, toward residential areas in the Valley. It was noted that the hang gliding association will be making some test flights.

Add some language to the temporary pond use indicating that the pond should be restored to natural conditions once the new pond is built. Also consider that vehicles not be allowed to park right next to the pond while still providing ADA access.

Master Plan Review
Task Force members provided comment on additional changes they would like to see in the Master Plan:

Brian Seifert suggested that if the arena is covered, lighting should be considered provided that there is a curfew for lit use. This would allow the arena to be used for extended hours in the winter and for special events. County Parks staff mentioned that there may be operational problems since the park is open from dawn to dusk, and rangers would have to be available after normal park hours if there was regular evening use of the arena. It was decided to change the wording to say: “If the arena is covered, consider lighting for potential extended use in winter and special events, taking into account park operational issues of extended use and the need to eliminate glare into adjacent residential uses.”

Bill Konle mentioned his concern that native grass areas next to the fairways will be problematic for golfers, extending play time looking for lost balls if the “rough” areas are not mowed. It was mentioned that the West Flat Area design is very conceptual in nature, and that detailed golf course design will be undertaken at a later date. The design needs to address the Board of Supervisors direction that the golf course be an environmental model, while also being functional for golfing. Most of the Task Force members present did not support a change to the current golf course description in the Master Plan.

Fadi Saba recommended that the language related to the environmental aspects of the golf course should be strengthened. Most of the Task Force members present were comfortable with the current language, but it was suggested that specific text suggestions be sent to Lee or County Parks staff for further consideration.

Richard Von Bargen suggested that some of the native grass improvements for the West Flat Area be reduced in scope with the cost savings used for additional improvements along the lakeside beyond those recommended in the Master Plan. After discussion, most of the Task Force members present supported the current level of lakeside improvements and did not want to reduce the native grass buffer areas in the West Flat Area. It was agreed that the proposed self-launch areas should be shown on the Master Plan Map.

Fencing issues were discussed with Task Force members noting problems with perimeter fencing and neighbors adding unauthorized gates. It was noted that fencing and gate improvements will be addressed in Phase One. It was also noted that the cattle chutes and corrals will need to be incorporated into the detailed design for the West Flat Area. Specific management of cattle grazing issues, such as what happens when a sick animal needs to be brought down from grazing during public use, will need to be addressed as part of park management and operations.

This was the last Task Force meeting. Thank you’s were distributed all around, and a party to thank Task Force members for their hard work was discussed. Details will be distributed to Task Force members.