**Proposed Capital Improvement Projects**

**2015-16 Grazing Year**

**Orinda Horsemen’s Association**

1. Rotational Grazing Support/Native Grass Protection

Supplemental feeding of hay supports EBMUD’s tiered rotational grazing plan by allowing horses to stay in pastures for the recommended amount of time, particularly at the end of the dormant season and the beginning of the growth season, without causing damage from overgrazing. In addition, feeding on areas infested with invasive weeds results in hoof churning by the horses which discourages the non-native species and encourages native grass growth; we have had great success with this technique in recent years in areas infested by teasel.

* 1. Feeding Station Hay Protection
     1. In most supplemental feeding locations, the hay is stored outdoors in a fenced enclosure and covered with tarps. Feeding is done by hand from these enclosures when it is too wet to drive trucks up the hill. We have experienced loss of hay due to adverse weather conditions (in one recent year we lost $3K worth of hay in one storm), and would like to try different methods of protecting the hay from rain and wind without erecting permanent structures. We propose purchasing a tent that can be erected over a hay stack in one location, to serve as a “pilot project” for effectiveness of this method. If successful, we can purchase additional tents in the future for other locations. The tent can be taken down and stored during non-feeding months.
     2. Specs for Feeding Station Hay Protection:
        1. 14 x 16 Wilderness tent with a rain fly from  [http://www.walltentshop.com/](http://www.walltentshop.com/" \t "_blank).  With the fly the life expectancy will be about 10 years.
        2. The cost is $1120 for the tent and angle kit and $205 for the rain fly including shipping.
        3. Poles (obtained locally) estimated at $375
        4. Estimate total cost at **$1,700**
  2. Red Hay Barn Repairs
     1. The red hay barn (located just off El Toyonal road inside the bar gate at the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Rd.) is a main hay storage facility, and the most weatherproof hay storage on the property. The barn was originally built over 20 years ago and needs maintenance, particularly repairs to the roof where a leak damaged hay last winter.
     2. Flashing and waterproofing sealant on new valance over sliding door (valance was installed in October 2015)
        1. Materials = $40
        2. 4 hours labor x $24/hour = $96
        3. Total estimated cost = $136
     3. Repair leak in roof
        1. Materials = $225
        2. 10 hours labor x $24/hour = $240
        3. Total estimated cost = $465
     4. Total Red Barn Repairs **$601**

1. Control of Invasive Weeds

OHA has had remarkable success in controlling invasive plant species that threaten to choke out native grasses as well as plants that are toxic to grazing animals. For example, our pasture is one of the few grasslands in northern California which has not been overtaken by yellow star thistle, thanks to aggressive manual removal by our members for many years. We appreciate EBMUD’s support of our weeding work through capital improvements and suggest we continue these efforts in the coming year, through a combination of mowing and whacking hemlock, and manual removal of teasel, yellow and purple star thistle, and Italian and milk thistle.

* 1. 23 hours of weed control at $24/hour = **$552**

1. Water Resource Management

We propose two projects to support the responsible use of the limited water resources at the pasture.

* 1. Install shut-off valve for Upper Sullivan trough
     1. $10 for ball shut-off valve and approximately $75 for labor (3 hours) = **$85**.
  2. Install gutters on compost bin roof; catch rainwater in tank and use to moisten compost piles
     1. Use an existing water storage tank owned by OHA
     2. Galvanized steel gutters $50, Downspout pipe $40, gutter end caps $3, downspout hooks $9, gutter hangers $1.50, gutter outlet to downspout $4, miscellaneous hardware/fasteners $10 = **$117.50**.

**Total Capital Improvement Costs = $3,055.50**