

MAY 13 1963

L58-R

Memorandum

To: Under Secretary
Through: Assistant Secretary, Public Land Management

From: Director, National Park Service

Subject: Coyote Hills area, Alameda County, California

Our Western Regional Office has forwarded the following information about the Coyote Hills area that you discussed recently with Representative Don Edwards:

Coyote Hills are accessible by road from the east, west and south. The roads in the hills are generally dirt and are all privately owned and maintained. The hills are low, rolling and barren and are less than 300 feet in elevation. A few eucalyptus and oak trees are scattered in the area. No fresh water of any consequence can be found and drilled wells only produce brackish water. A privately owned duck pond is located just east of the hills.

At present there is an active Nike site located on the hills and it is not known how long the facility may remain. Some gravel is being removed from pits at the foot of the slopes and cattle graze the upper slopes. We understand that most if not all of the Coyote Hills area is owned by Leslie Salt Company and the Patterson ranch.

Mr. Watkins [Harlan B., of the Corps of Engineers, 180 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California] said that in 1958, when the Corps was negotiating for purchase of some of the land for a Nike site, the value per acre was estimated to be about \$2,500. Mr. Watkins estimates that the land values have now gone up to at least \$3,500 per acre. He said the landowners did not want to sell the land and he expected it could be obtained only by condemnation.

The Newark-Fremont City area near Coyote Hills is a rapidly growing suburb in the southern portion of the East Bay and open space is becoming scarce. The Alameda County Master Plan for 1958 shows Coyote Hills area as a major park and recreation area. However, insofar as is known, none of the lands have been acquired for that purpose.

(SGD) CONRAD L. WIRTH

Director

cc:
Assistant Secretary, Public Land Management
Resource Planning

BHThompson:aet 5-9-63