

May 7, 2003

The Board of Directors  
East Bay Regional Park District  
P.O. Box 5381  
Oakland, CA 94605

Dear Board Members;

The East Bay Regional Parks are among the finest assets of our Bay Area. I have enjoyed horseback riding in several of them for many years. Unfortunately, today I had a very dangerous experience.

In Pleasanton Ridge Park, I was chased by a group of steers. My horse was a complete runaway, and it was very difficult to get him under control. As I rode through a field to avoid the steers, I saw them menacing a hiker. After warning him of the danger, I left the area. A mile further I again had to ride past another group of steers, and they too ran at us and bellowed. I was forced to ride cross-country and down a dangerous hill to avoid them.

While this was a frightening experience for me, I shudder to think what could have happened if there had been a family of hikers with small children, or a woman with a baby stroller, several of whom I have seen on the trails. Does the district have enough liability insurance to cover such a dangerous situation?

I have always been in favor of the grazing program in the parks, but you can now count me in the opposition group. I am angry that I can no longer use Pleasanton Ridge Park with safety.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent.

William L. Coburn