

College of
Environmental
Design **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

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April 16, 2021

Mayor Seo Cheol Mo
Hwaseong City
159, Sicheong-ro, Namyang-eup, Hwaseong-si,
Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea, 18274

Dear Mayor Seo Cheol Mo,

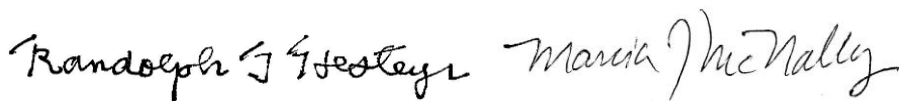
We write with concern about the proposal to build a hotel in close proximity to the Maehyangri Tidal Flats because of its predicted impacts on waterbirds, on landscape and on potential wise use of the area. When we were in Hwaseong in 2019 for the International Symposium we visited these tidal flats with your staff and others. At that time we were told that the area next to the tidal flats was being developed as a peace park. The tidal flats are part of the Hwaseong Wetlands, an area that we understand Hwaseong City is committed to designating as a Ramsar site. In our opinion, a hotel such as the one currently being proposed is incompatible with Ramsar's wise use goals.

As you know, in addition to being professors from U.C. Berkeley, we are co-founders of SAVE International. As such we have been involved in protecting the Black-faced Spoonbill in East Asia since 1997. More than 200 of these globally endangered birds use the Hwaseong Wetlands, over 3% of the world population. SAVE uses a combination of land-planning, science, and democratic design to create sustainable alternative plans that benefit people, spoonbills, and the larger ecosystem along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Hwaseong Wetlands and its tidal flats are among the most important wetlands on the entire flyway.

The wetlands are also essential to a sustainable city economy. Maintaining the healthy tidal flat ecosystem is important, not just for fisheries and wildlife, but for the beautiful, natural coast that high-dollar tourists seek. This requires a high-quality environment and facilities to succeed as long-term, sustainable developments. Thus we strongly urge you to consider an alternative for this site – a world class nature center. Such centers have been built elsewhere along the flyway and have become major tourist destinations. Each of the ones we know about has become a landmark for their city, stimulating economic development, entrepreneurial advancement, and jobs. Each provides cultural and environmental education, local identity, and pride in the place.

Meeting you in 2019 convinced us that these outcomes would be of the highest interest to you, your staff, and your city. SAVE and the research team at U.C. Berkeley offers our continued assistance in developing sustainable development concepts for the Maehyangri Tidal Flats area.

Sincerely,



Randolph Hester and Marcia McNally
Professors Emeriti, University of California, Berkeley
Co-founders, SAVE International