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9 October 2017

Supervisor Dennis Rodoni

Marin County Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive,  
Suite 329 San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Supervisor Rodoni,

On behalf of the supporters of Turtle Island Restoration Network and its program Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN), I write to express our support for Marin County's acquisition of the San Geronimo Valley Golf Course.

We believe restoration of this land to park and wildlands will pay dividends for current and future generations of Marin residents.

The acquisition and restoration of this property has been identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a high priority for the recovery of the critically endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout.

Permanent protection as public open space will preserve the more than \$1 million of creek enhancement actions that have already occurred on the property and will permit current and future salmon enhancement actions to continue and expand, including more than \$2 million of proposed enhancements that have already been designed and engineered and are currently awaiting final funding decisions.

It will also have additional benefits for the people of Marin including:

- Saving over 49 million gallons (>\$200,000) of municipal water each year,
- Eliminating the use of fertilizers and pesticides that get into our water and air,
- Re-creating floodplains that may reduce flooding of downstream houses built along the creek;
- Enhancing creek and floodplain habitats will capture sediments, particles, and pollutants, keeping water quality clean for downstream users;

- Allowing for the planting of trees, especially redwoods that sequester carbon and help to fight climate change;
- Protecting of wide host of wildlife species dependant on riparian habitat, most of which has been eradicated or highly degraded throughout the County; and
- Providing for a safe and healthy walking connector between San Geronimo Valley villages while maintaining the rural character of the San Geronimo Valley community.

We thank you for taking this far-reaching action on behalf of the environment on which all of us depend.

Sincerely,



Todd Steiner  
Executive Director

cc: Supervisor Damon Connolly  
Supervisor Katie Rice  
Supervisor Kate Sears  
Supervisor Judy Arnold