

19 October 2017

California Trout
360 Pine Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

Supervisor Dennis Rodoni
Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive, Ste. 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Supervisor Rodoni:

On behalf of California Trout, I write to express our support for Marin County's acquisition of the San Geronimo Valley Golf Course and its planned restoration for the benefit of Marin's citizens, water resources, and wildlife.

The acquisition of this land and its planned restoration to a public park and healthy, functioning ecosystem will ensure critical habitat is protected for critically endangered Central California Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and threatened Central California Coast steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*).

The acquisition and restoration of the San Geronimo Valley Golf Course 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 these species, which are at historically low levels of abundance (www.caltrout.org/sos/).

Acquisition of the golf course land and repurposing it as public open space will preserve future recreational opportunities for Marin residents and investments made by numerous organizations that have worked for decades on creek enhancement actions in the San Geronimo Creek watershed. In addition, acquisition by the County has the potential to:

- Save millions of gallons (> \$200,000) of municipal water each year,
- Reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides adjacent to water sources,
- Restore valuable floodplains that help improve water quality and reduce flooding,
- Provide a safe walking path between San Geronimo Valley villages, and
- Protect riparian and upland habitat that is valuable for a variety of species

Thank you for taking this action to benefit of the people of Marin and its valuable natural resources.

Sincerely,

Patrick Samuel

Patrick Samuel, M.A.
Bay Area Program Manager



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