November 6, 2017

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

Via Electronic Mail

Re: Support for Marin County’s Acquisition of the San Geronimo Valley Golf Course

Dear Supervisor Rodoni,

Established in 1971, the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) is a member based environmental organization located in Point Reyes Station. EAC submits this comment letter in support of Marin County Parks’ acquisition of the San Geronimo Valley Golf Course property.

While there are many positive community aspects of this potential acquisition, this letter focuses on the many environmental benefits, which include opportunities for protection and restoration of endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout habitats, water quality improvements, elimination of the use of fertilizers and pesticides, significant water savings, protection of migratory birds and other native wildlife, and additional tree plantings.

To elaborate, Marin County’s potential acquisition of this golf course would be extremely beneficial to the upper watershed of Lagunitas Creek and would increase the potential for protection and restoration of endangered coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout habitats. An indirect benefit of enhancing creek and floodplain habitats is the capture of sediments, particles, and pollutants, which improves downstream water quality. The end of pesticide and insecticide use on this property will also have air and water quality benefits. The estimated water savings (49 million gallons of

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1 The property acquisition and resulting restoration within the Lagunitas Creek watershed has been identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service as a high priority for the recovery of the critically endangered coho salmon.
municipal water) are significant, as grass is highly water intensive. By improving the riparian habitat, the health and numbers of migratory birds and other native wildlife will likely improve. The additional tree plantings which will result as part of the restoration efforts will help to combat climate change by sequestering carbon.

We strongly support the opportunity to purchase the golf course, which will benefit generations to come, and we thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Morgan Patton
Executive Director

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs
Conservation Director

cc: Max Korten, Marin County Parks
    Supervisor Damon Connolly
    Supervisor Katie Rice
    Supervisor Kate Sears
    Supervisor Judy Arnold