



Board of Directors

November 6, 2017

Bridger Mitchell, Ph.D.
President

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

Ken Drexler, Esq.
Vice-President

Terence Carroll
Treasurer

Via Electronic Mail

David Weinsoff, Esq.
Secretary

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

David Wimpfheimer
Director

Dear Supervisor Rodoni,

Jerry Meral, Ph.D.
Director

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.

Daniel Dietrich
Director

Cynthia Lloyd, Ph.D.
Director

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.

Staff and Consultants

Morgan Patton
Executive Director

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.
Conservation Director

Jessica Reynolds Taylor
Membership Director

Catherine Caufield
Tomales Dunes Consultant

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.¹ 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

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.

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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