



November 5, 2017

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

Dear Supervisor Rodoni, Connolly, Rice, Sears, and Arnold,

We, the Marin County Young Democrats write to express our support for Marin County's acquisition of the San Geronimo Valley Golf Course.

We believe the acquisition and restoration of this land to a public park and healthy wildlands will allow significant protection and restoration of habitat for endangered Coho Salmon and threatened Steelhead Trout.

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 investments made by numerous public and non-profit organizations that have worked for decades on creek enhancement actions throughout the property. The acquisition of the property by Marin County will also expand the opportunity for stream habitat restoration and watershed enhancement actions that can provide extraordinary benefit to the recovery of listed salmonids and other wildlife.

The purchase will also have additional benefits for the endangered salmonids and people of Marin including:

- Saving millions of gallons (>\$200,000) of municipal water each year,
- Eliminating the use of fertilizers and pesticides adjacent to water sources,

- Re-creating floodplains that can help improve water quality and reduce flooding of homes downstream,
- Protecting of wide host of wildlife species dependent on extensive riparian and upland habitat, 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 would also like to request if at sometime in the future the possibility of transferring a portion of the land to be used as affordable housing that you strongly consider this option. We as young leaders and residents of Marin would greatly appreciate your consideration of expanding our affordable housing opportunities.

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

Sincerely,

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