



Conservation science for a healthy planet

3820 Cypress Drive, #11 Petaluma, CA 94954

T 707.781.2555 | F 707.765.1685

pointblue.org

November 2, 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 Point Blue Conservation Science, I am writing 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 wildlands will allow significant protection and restoration of riparian habitat. Riparian restoration has been shown to enhance ecosystem services including filtering out pollutants, carbon capture, groundwater replenishment, slowing impacts of floods, droughts, and other extremes, and supporting biodiversity including iconic fish species, birds and other pollinators.

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 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.

The purchase will have additional benefits for fish, other wildlife and the people of Marin by saving millions of gallons of municipal water each year, eliminating the use of fertilizers and pesticides adjacent to water sources, and re-creating floodplains that can help improve water quality and reduce flooding of homes downstream.

We thank you for taking this far-reaching action to secure a healthier environment for us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EMC", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellie M. Cohen
President and CEO

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