



August 7, 2012



Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903

Linda Dahl
DIRECTOR
GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO CONDUCT MERIT HEARING AND ADOPT AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TEMPORARY ONE-QUARTER CENT TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX TO BE USED FOR PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION; AND TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT THE ORDINANCE TO MARIN COUNTY VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 6 GENERAL ELECTION

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Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Conduct a merit hearing to solicit public comment concerning the proposed ordinance, sales tax and expenditure plan.
2. Adopt the attached ordinance.
3. Adopt the attached resolution.

SUMMARY: At a special meeting on July 25, your board conducted the first reading of an ordinance to impose a one-quarter cent transactions and use (sales) tax to support parks, open space and farmland protection. Approval of the recommended actions will enable Marin voters participating in the November 6 general election to decide whether they wish to follow in the footsteps of those in 1972 who elected to invest in the county's environmental quality by supporting the creation of the county's open space system. That system, which now comprises nearly 16,000 acres within 34 open space preserves, complements the county's system

of four regional parks, paved bike paths, community and neighborhood parks. Within four decades, these lands and facilities have become part of the fabric of everyday life in Marin County, receiving over six million visits per year. Indeed, one-third of county residents live within one-quarter mile of a county park or open space preserve.

Time and use, coupled with budget cuts to keep spending in line with reduced revenues, have taken their toll on our parks and preserves. They are in urgent need of the funding that would be provided with voter approval of the proposed ordinance. Attached to the ordinance is an expenditure plan that details how proceeds from the nine-year sales tax increase would be spent. In addition to the funding necessary to renovate county parks and protect open space preserves, the expenditure plan also provides financial support for the preservation of family farms in Marin, and for city, town and special district parks.

Development of the expenditure plan over the past three months has been a model of a collaborative and transparent public process involving your board; the Parks and Open Space Commission; representatives of many organizations; officials of Marin’s cities and towns, and special districts; and other stakeholders. Marin County Parks thanks each and every participant in this process for their interest, commitment, creativity and support.

FISCAL IMPACT: Approval of the recommended actions has no fiscal impact. The ordinance and sales tax increase would come into effect only if approved by two-thirds or more of the voters participating in the November 6 election.

REVIEWED BY:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Counsel | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dahl
Director and General Manager

