



Protecting Marin Since 1934

January 25, 2019

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Dr. # 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

RE: Initiative Measure re: San Geronimo Valley Golf Course Land

Dear Supervisors:

Marin Conservation League (MCL) supports the Office of the County Counsel's recommendation in favor of performing a report (Option C, Staff Report) and then placing the measure on the March 2020 ballot. You will be taking action on this Initiative Measure at your January 29 meeting, under Item 14. This action is important to fulfill the Board's commitment to transparency and the public deserves an independent analysis of this measure and its impacts.

We believe this initiative measure sets the wrong precedent for land use planning in Marin, through an impractical and excessively costly process. Ultimately, MCL supports the acquisition of the San Geronimo Golf Course land for public benefit.

With regard to the study, MCL suggests that the report include an assessment of:

- Environmental impacts/benefits of maintaining the land as a golf course, considering pesticide and fertilizer use, water allocation from Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) that might be used for other purposes, water drawn from Larsen Creek, and invasive plant species infestations.
- Environmental impacts/benefits of conserving the land in a more natural condition, i.e. restoring riparian zones, meadows, forested areas, and wildlife corridors.
- Impact on the land should the property not be purchased by a golf course operator, possibly leading to the land's environmental degradation.
- Public benefit of the property considering its location amidst several Marin County Open Space Preserves.
- Impact which this measure might have on other Community and/or Area Plans that special interest groups might potentially seek to change.
- Impact to public access possibilities and to land use planning practices in Marin.

MCL continues to support the transition of the San Geronimo Golf Course land toward becoming a county-wide public benefit and its environmental conservation for present and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda J. Novy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Linda J. Novy
President

