

March 4th, 2021



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Mayor Pat Eklund and Councilmembers
Novato City Council
City of Novato
922 Machin Avenue
Novato, CA 94945
novatocouncil@novato.org

Dear Mayor Eklund and Councilmembers:

The Marin Conservation League has reviewed the application and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Costco Fuel Facility and finds the project directly in conflict with the city's recently adopted Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency. The cumulative worldwide impacts incremental greenhouse gases (GHGs) inflict are serious and deserve more local attention than a few electric fleet vehicles and an otherwise ignored Resolution. As the Resolution states, "young people will inherit the legacy of our decisions on climate" and "common sense and morality indicate that humanity can no longer emit GHGs..."

The Novato General Plan 2035 acknowledges the on-going threat of climate change (pages 3-21 to 3-25) and the responsibility to actively do as much as possible to reduce GHG emissions. Table ES-3 in the Plan illustrates that the largest contributor, by far, is transportation. A 28-pump gas pump facility, the largest in Marin, would violate the General Plan, our long-range future, and common sense.

The General Plan 2035 recommends that we "improve infrastructure for low emission vehicles" and "Support a local Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption campaign" because "Electric Vehicles are much more efficient than standard internal combustion engine vehicles..." It also states, "Require new/modified commercial and civic developments to provide charging stations for low emission vehicles" (General Plan 2035, page E-23).

This is not to mention the threats the proposed facility poses to the Bev Ehreth Ecological Preserve across the street, and possibly to other areas of the historic marshlands, by storing and dispensing thousands of gallons of a toxic chemical on land subject to liquefaction. (IS/MND page 50)

The site of this facility was not identified as a satellite pad in the original environmental impact report for Vintage Oaks shopping center--those satellite pads had additional geotechnical information provided over areas identified as parking lot. This site deserves thorough geotechnical research *before* a Use Permit is issued. The staff report indicates that a geotechnical study will be required before a building permit is issued. It should be done before a Use Permit is issued while the public process will allow public review and comment.

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Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.

According to the California Air Resources Board, “To meet California's health-based air quality standards and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, the cars we drive, and the fuel we use, must be transformed away from petroleum.” The proposed gas pump facility promotes values that go against not only Novato’s own planning documents but also Federal, State and Local efforts to quickly transition transportation to zero-emission alternatives.

We urge you to deny this Use Permit and proceed in the direction stated in the recently adopted General Plan 2035. Leave a legacy that young people will appreciate, not one that compromises their future.

Sincerely,



Robert Miller
President



Susan Stompe
Chair, Land Use, Transportation
and Water Committee



Doug Wilson
Chair, Climate Action
Working Group

P.S. Please reference our letter of 2/18/21 to the Planning Commission on the inadequacies of the IS/MND.