

October 10, 2018



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Marin County Planning Commission
c/o Marin County CDA, Ana Hilda Mosher
3501 Civic Center Drive, S. 308
San Rafael, CA 94903

Via email: planningcommission@marincounty.org

Dear Chair Biehle and Members of the Planning Commission:

The Marin Conservation League (MCL) has participated actively in the lengthy process of developing the agricultural provisions in the Marin County Local Coastal Program Amendment that is before you for review. During this process, MCL facilitated community meetings to explore the full range of agricultural issues in the coastal zone with Community Development Agency and California Coastal Commission staff. MCL also provided analysis and recommendations at numerous steps of the process to your Commission, the Marin County Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission.

In the provisions before you, considerations concerning protecting the environment, retaining flexibility in making farming decisions, and the public's ability to participate in the coastal planning process are clear and seem reasonable. We particularly appreciate the addition of "grazing and the raising of animals" in the definition of "Agriculture, ongoing" (Section 3.1) and feel that the increased role of the Community Development Agency Director in identifying agricultural production activities that will have significant impact to coastal resources provides safeguards to important natural resource values.

The goal of MCL's Agricultural Policy Statement is "To continue to support the role Marin's agricultural community plays in maintaining open space, protecting wildlife corridors, protecting water quality, managing carbon, preserving a valuable local heritage, and contributing to food security and the local economy." The County of Marin has been effective in leading efforts to achieve this goal through its LCP Amendment process. We urge you to support the staff recommendation.

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
Marin Conservation League

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