



via email

September 21, 2010

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 325
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: County Housing Element Work Plan

Dear Supervisors:

The Marin Conservation League supports the provision of affordable housing at locations that have minimal environmental constraints and where services and transit options are readily available; where essential resources, such as water, are in adequate supply; and as developed under highest standards of energy and other resource efficiency. We therefore agree with the basic intents and purposes of the State Housing Element requirements.

We recommend Option Two as described in the Staff Report. It would expand the analysis to include the 2014-2022 Housing Element cycle along with the current 2007-2014 cycle. This approach would save the County time and money and would be more realistic, considering that it would not be possible to complete the current cycle until 2014, at the earliest, anyway.

Option Two would also enable a citizens' task force to participate in the process, which should help to deal with the issues and controversies that impede the provision of affordable housing. The analysis should include how SB 375 and the Sustainable Communities Strategy will affect housing policies.

The County should also review the State Housing and Community Development responses to the draft Housing Element critically. For example, why is it not possible to take credit for more than 25 percent of the conversion of market-rate units to affordable? The use of the existing supply to meet low-income housing needs is a reasonable and the most environmentally sustainable approach.

We shall be following the preparation of the Housing Element as you proceed. If you have questions, please direct them to Marge Macris, Chair, MCL Land Use and Transportation Committee, 415-485-6257.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nona Dennis".

Nona Dennis
President
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