

December 11, 2017

Supervisor Damon Connolly
Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Memorandum of Understanding between County of Marin and San Rafael Airport, LLC

Dear Supervisor Connolly:

The Marin Conservation League appreciates your efforts to inform the community and provide opportunities for public comment on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the owners of the San Rafael Airport. We recognize that the County has attempted to clarify ownership, responsibility and maintenance of properties around the San Rafael Airport for many years. Certainly clarifying ownership and resolving conflicting boundary information will be to everyone's benefit.

We are, however, concerned that achieving the other two objectives you have stated for this action -- namely transferring levee maintenance to the owners of the airport and restoring the marshes on the peninsula point -- could have unintended consequences.

Under statements #1 and #2, on page 2 of the MOU, the Airport will apply for permits for the repair and maintenance of the levees. To respect the community's desire to retain the wetland habitat values along the levees, these permits should be part of a public process that enables the public evaluation of the work to be done. Annual reporting of work that has been done along with associated field inspection reports, as well as plans for future levee work, would provide community assurance that environmental protections are implemented.

We are concerned that plans for restoration of the land east of the runway or for raising any levees surrounding the Airport not impact adjacent marshlands, conflict with the County's restoration efforts of McInnis Marsh, or inhibit future adaptation planning for sea level rise along Gallinas Creek. Although it is put out as a public benefit, it is highly speculative that the public will gain any benefit after the levee near the end of the runway is relocated west on Airport property. With restoration of Miller Creek and the need to raise the marsh along the McInnis Park shoreline, the availability of dredge material from county maintenance of the south fork of Gallinas Creek should be directed to these county projects when needed.

Sincerely,



Kate Powers
President

cc Craig Tackabery, Chief Assistant Director Public Works