

October 1, 2013

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

Subject: Stream Conservation Ordinance

Dear President Arnold and Supervisors:

Marin Conservation League urges you to accept this staff report and proposed work program, conduct the recommended hearing, and direct staff to pursue the option of an interim countywide SCA ordinance. We especially compliment staff on their wisdom in recognizing the need for a year to carry out the work program, thereby gaining better understanding of ephemeral streams, completing mapping, and engaging in outreach and permit assistance.

It is critical that an ordinance work toward preventing further decline in the endangered Coho salmon in the Lagunitas Creek watershed, as well as protecting habitat for fish populations in other waterways around the county. In addition to this ordinance, the County needs to actively participate with other programs and agencies, including regional, state and federal efforts that are working to restore Coho populations to a sustainable level.

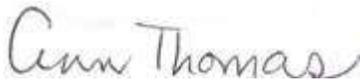
CWP Goal Bio-4.1 also underscores the importance of SCA protections to protect “water quality and flood control functions” as well as fish and wildlife habitat values. The SCA ordinance would be part of a fabric of administrative tools to address this through guidelines for bank retention and vegetation, sediment control and reduction of impervious surface. Flooding is a particular issue in areas such as Tamalpais Valley, lower Ross Valley, Santa Venetia and other low-lying areas. Staff notes the importance of regulating installation of “flatwork” not currently regulated and this added attention to hard surfaces would have positive implications for flood management.

We applaud the increased attention to plans for outreach and education. Coordination with the excellent work done by MCSTOPPP, the County’s watershed program and other agencies, e.g. water districts, will increase effectiveness of CDA resources and maximize service to the public.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



Priscilla Bull



Ann Thomas

Co-Chairs

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