



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

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By email and U.S. Mail

June 12, 2024

Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 329
San Rafael CA 94903

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR MEASURE A \$1 MILLION GRANT FOR ACQUISITION OF THE WALL PROPERTY, FAIRFAX

Dear President Rodoni:

As Mayor of the Town of Fairfax, I am writing to respectfully request that the Board and the Marin County Open Space District award the full \$1 million Measure A grant request to the Marin Open Space Trust (MOST) for acquisition of the Wall Property.

As you know, MOST is leading the efforts to purchase the property. The community has long sought to permanently preserve this beautiful, 100-acre undeveloped property in the heart of Fairfax for habitat protection, passive recreation and scenic open space. Until about a year ago, it was planned for development; the owner/developer went into bankruptcy and the property was sold back to the original investors at auction in mid-2023. On November 3, 2023, MOST entered into a sales agreement with the investor group which has October 29, 2024, (or earlier) as the final purchase completion date. In September 2023, the Fairfax Town Council designated a subcommittee comprised of Councilmember Cutrano and I, to work with MOST, and Marin County (including the Marin County Open Space District staff, MCOSD, and our District 2 Supervisor, Katie Rice) on matters related to the Wall acquisition. You may be aware that recently, upon completion of our intensive due diligence, the Town entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MOST whereby the Town agreed to accept title to the property in return for MOST delivering \$2.8M in escrow on or before October 29, 2024. You may also know that the Town has been working with your MCOSD staff on a mutually acceptable management agreement whereby MCOSD would agree to manage certain trails and limited other aspects of the property once it is owned by the Town. We sincerely appreciate your staff and Supervisor Rice's close working relationship with us on the Wall Property.

Recent news! Pursuant to a grant application submitted by MOST (and with extensive assistance by Jack Judkins, a member of the Town's Open Space Committee) on June 6, 2024, the State Coastal Conservancy approved a grant award of \$500,000 to MOST for the property acquisition. MOST has also developed and recently submitted a Measure A grant application for \$1 million to the MCOSD for acquisition of the property.

Fundraising began many months ago in earnest. Residents of the Town, the Town of Fairfax's Open Space Committee and businesses of our local Chamber of Commerce strongly support MOST's

current campaign to purchase the property and donate it to the Town. MOST's Chair Bill Long, with his many years of preserving open space, has stated that he has not seen this level of enthusiasm among a community for open space preservation. Three significant fundraising events have been held to date, along with MOST collecting checks and website donations. The Town has posted updates about the Wall Property (with links to MOST's donation page) and the fundraisers through our newsletter (with ~1800 recipients) and on its website. Despite our many differences on issues in our Town, potential acquisition of the Wall has brought our community together with a common goal, to save this "Jewel of Fairfax."

As Mayor of the Town of Fairfax, I respectfully request that you award a grant to MOST for the acquisition of the Wall Property for the full \$1 million requested in its application. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have questions at bcoler@townoffairfax.org or by phone at (415) 450-7860.

Sincerely,



Barbara Coler
Mayor Town of Fairfax

cc: Bill Long, Chair
Marin Open Space Trust P.O. Box 4133 San Rafael, CA 94913
and by to: wclo88@comcast.net

Fairfax Town Council
and by email

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 329
San Rafael CA 94903
and by email

Max Korten, Director,
Marin County Open Space District, Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center
Drive, Room 415, San Rafael, CA 94903
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