

February 23, 2005

Board of Supervisors  
Marin County

The undersigned organizations respectfully request the Board of Supervisors of Marin County to ask the Trust for Public Land to undertake a study of possible funding mechanisms to develop revenue for the protection of open space and agricultural lands, park establishment and maintenance, urban forestry, and habitat protection and restoration.

These programs lack a dedicated funding source in our county, yet the need is great. Efforts to protect and restore watersheds throughout the county are vigorous and diverse, but lack the funding needed to carry out their goals. Open space is being lost to development, and the county often lacks the ability to acquire critical parcels before they are developed. The habitat of many of Marin's unique bird and other species, and such endangered species as Coho salmon and a variety of native plants needs to be protected and restored. Invasive species threaten the habitat values of our open space lands. We have yet to protect all our agricultural lands from development.

We believe these goals are shared by a large majority of the residents and property owners of our county, and that they would be willing to consider small but important tax or fee increases to pay to maintain and improve the quality of life in our county.

The Trust for Public Land has undertaken similar studies in other counties, and has developed funding alternatives which are being seriously considered by these counties. Your staff has been provided with a copy of the study TPL has done for Alameda County. TPL does not charge to do these studies.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to working with you in this worthwhile effort.

Sincerely

s/ Bob Berner  
Marin Agricultural Land Trust

s/Catherine Caufield  
EAC of West Marin

s/Gordon Bennett  
Sierra Club Marin Group

s/Scott Feierabend  
Marin Conservation League

s/Bob Soost  
California Native Plant Society, Marin Chapter

s/Todd Steiner  
SPAWN

s/Barbara Salzman  
Marin Audubon

s/Ken Fox  
Tomaes Bay Association