



January 15, 2013

Tom Gandesbery
State Coastal Conservancy
1313 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Transfer of Bel Marin Keys Unit V: Parcel 07 to Marin County Parks

Dear Mr. Gandesbery:

I am writing today to offer the San Francisco Bay Trail Project's strong support for the transfer of Bel Marin Keys Unit V parcel 07 to the County of Marin. The goal of the Bay Trail is a 500-mile walking and cycling path around the entire San Francisco Bay. 330 miles are currently complete and in use, and 37 of 96 miles are complete in Marin. In 2006, the Bay Trail provided a \$100,000 grant to the City of Novato/Marin County Parks to investigate potential routes for the trail between Pacheco Pond and the Petaluma River Bridge. Parcel 07 and the surrounding area figured prominently in this feasibility study. It is our firm belief that the transfer of this property from one public entity to another—both with public access and the completion of the Bay Trail as underlying goals—is a far superior option to private ownership for this small but integral piece of land.

As managers of recreational lands are well aware, easements on private property for trail or other public uses are often fraught with complications. If this parcel is sold and developed, it will be much more difficult to plan, design and build a new and important segment of Bay Trail in this vicinity when the time comes. The alignments studied in the Novato Bay Trail Feasibility Study are shown on the attached map. The dashed circle encompasses parcel 07, and shows how important this particular area is for a potential future Bay Trail alignment. This oak-studded knoll would also be a great location for a pocket park, offering future Bay Trail users the chance to rest, perhaps picnic, before moving on.

Please consider transferring parcel 07 to Marin County Parks. If you have any questions regarding the Bay Trail in Marin, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at maureeng@abag.ca.gov or by phone (510) 464-7909.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Gaffney". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Maureen Gaffney
Bay Trail Planner

Encl: 1

Exhibit 4: Letter from ABAG San Francisco Bay Trail Project

