

California State Senate

SENATOR
MIKE MCGUIRE

SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



May 21, 2015

Jamison Watts
Executive Director
Marin Agricultural Land Trust
PO Box 809
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Mr. Watts:

I am writing in regard to MALT's proposed acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement from the Gallagher family in West Marin.

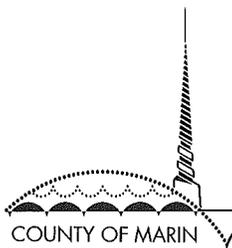
Over the past 35 years, MALT has become a Marin County institution, leading the way in agricultural land preservation by protecting 74 Marin family farms and ranches on approximately 47,000 acres of land. It is my understanding that the Gallagher family ranch is located adjacent to more than 106,000 acres of contiguous land protected by MALT, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, Samuel P. Taylor State Park and the Audubon Society's Martin Griffith Preserve.

I believe that acquiring this easement will protect the agricultural values and natural resources of the ranch which has been owned by the Gallagher family since the late 1800's, and keep it as a family asset for the next generation. I know that this is a priority that both MALT and I share.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MIKE MCGUIRE".

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator



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May 26, 2015

Jamison Watts, Executive Director
Marin Agricultural Land Trust
PO Box 809
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Mr. Watts:

I am writing to offer my support of Marin Agricultural Land Trust's (MALT) acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement from the Gallagher family near Point Reyes Station in Marin County, which will permanently preserve 330 acres of land with an agricultural conservation easement.

MALT's pioneering work in agricultural land preservation over the last 35 years has permanently protected 74 Marin County family farms and ranches on approximately 47,000 acres of farm and ranch land – about half of the agriculturally zoned private land in Marin County. I support this project because acquiring this easement will protect the ranch's agricultural values as well as its diverse natural resources including oak woodlands, about 2 miles of habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead trout as well as river otters on Lagunitas Creek, and terrestrial habitat for mountain lions and northern spotted owls. Protecting this ranch is important for regional conservation goals because of its location adjacent to more than 106,000 acres of contiguous land protected by MALT, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, and the Audubon Society's Martin Griffith Preserve. Protecting this land with an easement will allow the Gallagher family to avoid a sale to an estate buyer and continue its nearly 150-year history as a viable agricultural asset for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Katie Rice