

February 25, 2009

Supervisor Judy Arnold
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

**RE: Bel Marin Keys Community Services District (BMKCSD)
Meeting Dated February 19, 2009**

Dear Supervisor Arnold;

On behalf of the BMKCSD I would like to personally thank you for taking time out of your schedule to discuss some of the issues our community is challenged with and the interaction and importance of working with you and the agencies within the County of Marin. Your presentation and perspective on the County finances was timely and very informative to our Board and residents alike.

We have already heard from the County of Marin Public Works Department following up on our request on information regarding the flood control gates adjacent to Pacheco Pond. Over the next few weeks we will be pulling information to further explore the Pacheco Pond issue. We appreciate your quick response and follow-up.

It was positive to hear that the County still has earmarked funds for participation in the Novato Creek Watershed Stewardship Program. As you are aware the BMKCSD has spent over two and a half million dollars dredging and placing materials from the lower four miles of the Novato Creek in 2005. Unfortunately, much of the dredging benefit was short-lived, as the dynamics and hydrology of today's Novato Creek has provided an environment of accelerate and rather aggressive silting of materials. On a more positive note; the BMKCSD has amassed quite an archive of data over the past decade studying the lower reaches of the Novato Creek including numerous hydrographic and topographic survey (our most recent was in November of 2008, photogrammetry, and water quality reports to name just a few).

The BMKCSD will be providing a strong letter of support to the City of Novato which will reiterate comments presented at the recent City Counsel meeting expressing our full support of a Novato Creek Watershed Stewardship Program. This undertaking is critical to the needs and future of our Community Services District. We recently undertook efforts to secure an EPA grant which would have allowed for improvements in and along the Novato Creek. Our application was unfortunately not selected and during a debriefing with the EPA we were informed that the lack of a comprehensive watershed program and or policy for the reaches of the Novato Creek area resulted in our

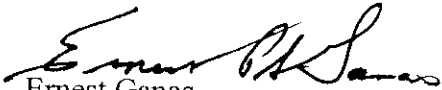
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application scoring significantly lower overall. This resulting fact is also present with grant and other funding opportunities with other federal, state and local potential funding sources. Whereas the BMKCSD would welcome any opportunities to further explore how we can assist with our resources, including financial support, in moving this very important project forward.

Again, thank you for taking time to attend the meeting and we look forward to working with you and the County of Marin staff over the coming weeks and months to move many of mutual concerns and issues into actionable items.

Sincerely;

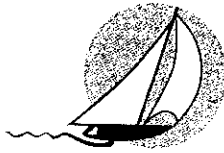
BEL MARIN KEYS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



Ernest Ganas

BMKSD Board of Directors, President

Cc: Board of Directors
Madeline Thomas, BMKCSD District Manager
P. Carey Parent, CLE Engineering, Inc.
File



February 26, 2009

Honorable Jim Leland
City of Novato, City Hall
75 Rowland Way #200
Novato, CA 94945

RE: Novato Creek Watershed Stewardship Program

Dear Mayor Leland;

On behalf of the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District (BMKCS D) I am pleased to provide this letter of support to you and your fellow council member's regarding the Novato Creek Watershed Stewardship Program.

Recently, Supervisor Arnold spoke at our Directors meeting and reflected on a recent meeting with the Novato City Council in which the County of Marin presented an outline for implementing this Watershed Stewardship Program. It was positive to hear from Supervisor Arnold that the County still has earmarked funds for participation in the Novato Creek Watershed Stewardship Program. It was also encouraging to hear the Novato City Council's general support for the program. Supervisor Arnold did reiterate at our meeting that time is of the essence in moving forward with the program as other communities are also looking into utilizing this source of County funding.

In 2005 the BMKCS D spent over two and a half million dollars dredging and placing upland, materials from the lower four miles of the Novato Creek. Unfortunately, much of the dredging benefit was short-lived, as the dynamics and hydrology of today's Novato Creek has provided a rather aggressive silting of materials. On a more positive note, the BMKCS D has amassed quite an archive of data over the past decade studying the lower reaches of the Novato Creek including numerous hydrographic and topographic survey (our most recent was in November of 2008), photogrammetry and water quality reports to name just a few.

As a waterfront community, we have been taking positive steps to become more involved in outreaching to other local, state and federal agencies with common interest in managing the Novato Creek and other adjacent areas to our community. In fact we recently joined the North Bay Watershed Association to more fully develop relationships and advance understandings that the Novato Creek area plays a significant role for many users, especially the City of Novato.

The Novato Creek Watershed Stewardship Program is a critical component to assisting all of the users of the Novato Creek with long term strategic management plans.

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City of Novato, City Hall
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I am acutely aware of the budgetary issues you face and the tough decisions that are being made at all levels of government to curtail costs and look for other revenue streams. Our District recently undertook efforts to secure an EPA grant which would have allowed for improvements in and along the Novato Creek. Our application was unfortunately not selected and during a de-briefing with the EPA we were informed that the fact that there was not a comprehensive watershed program and or policy in place for the Novato Creek area resulted in our application scoring significantly lower overall when compared to other applicants. This fact is also present with grant opportunities with other federal, state and local potential funding sources. The Novato Creek Watershed Stewardship Program is a critical building block to seize upon long term alternative sources of possible funding for work in and around the Novato Creek Watershed. It is a relatively small investment now for future payback.

The BMKCSO is committed to providing support and assistance for this program and would welcome an opportunity to further explore how we may be able to possibly assist the City of Novato with moving this very important project forward. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with any of the Council Members or city staff to work on getting this program started and do please let me know when this issue makes it onto the Councils agenda.

Sincerely;

BEL MARIN KEYS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



Ernest Ganas

BMKSD Board of Directors, President

Cc: Supervisor Judy Arnold, County of Marin
BMKCSO Board of Directors
Madeline Thomas, BMKCSO District Manager
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