



Marin chapter
California Native
Plant Society



Via Electronic Submission

Kristin Drumm, Senior Planner
Community Development Agency, County of Marin
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903
kdrumm@marincounty.org

Planning Commission
Community Development Agency, County of Marin
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903
planningcommission@marincounty.org

On May 20, 2022, the County of Marin Community Development Agency (CDA) released a refined version draft of the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance for the San Geronimo Valley. The Ordinance aims to mitigate the adverse impacts on salmonid habitat and survival in the San Geronimo Valley that would be caused by increased buildout under the 2007 Countywide Plan. **The signers of this letter ask the Planning Commission to adopt County Development Agency staff recommendations for the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance in the San Geronimo Valley.**

This letter represents community groups and nongovernmental organizations in Marin County who advocate for solutions-oriented climate change policy, protection of biodiversity, and preservation of natural resources in the San Geronimo Valley. Although the signing entities may have some isolated differences, we all realize there are strong advancements to the regulations and support the necessary County Staff recommendations to the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance.

We first would like to offer our sincere gratitude for the CDA's hard work in developing a science-based Ordinance. The Stream Conservation Area Ordinance is an opportunity for the County to finally look forward and adopt legislation that is adaptive and not reactive to climate change. Central California Coast Coho populations have declined more than 95% from their historic levels. The fish are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act. San Geronimo Valley includes up to 50% of the entire Lagunitas Watershed Coho population, one of the largest Coho populations remaining in California. This Ordinance will improve the general riparian habitat beyond salmon, giving the native flora and the fauna of the watershed essential protections.

The San Geronimo Valley has historically experienced significant flooding, and major flooding events are expected to worsen with climate change. Placing limits on impervious areas along streams and preserving intact riparian regions can help absorb flood flows and limit damage to property from large storm events. It's time to end this almost 15-year effort and work together to adopt a science-based Stream Conservation Ordinance that both protect valley residents and gives Coho salmon a fighting chance toward recovery. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to working with the county to achieve this goal.

Eric Morey
Chair
San Geronimo Valley Planning Group

Morgan Patton
Executive Director
West Marin Environmental Action Center

Jerry Meral, Ph.D.
Director
NHI California Water Program

Barbara Salzman
Co-Chair
Marin Audobon Society

Laura Chariton
Director
Watershed Alliance of Marin

Jean Berensmeier
Community Activist
Lagunitas

Megan Isadore
Executive Director
River Otter Ecology Project

Scott Webb
Advocacy & Policy Manager
Salmon Protection And Watershed Network

David C. Long
Co-President
Marin Chapter California Native Plant Society

Judy Schriebman
Executive Committee Chair
Sierra Club Marin County Group