

# Comments on the opening of the Marin County Health & Wellness Campus

Thank you for the opportunity to add my voice of praise and appreciation on this special occasion. Many of us have looked forward to this day for a long, long time. At a time when some communities are building barriers to protect themselves, I am thankful to live in a place that is taking them down.

Today is a day to acknowledge the vision, the will, and the weaving of partnerships that have moved us from a righteous dream to this striking reality.

I want to pause on the word **Partnership** for a moment. Previous speakers have beautifully recognized the numerous partners that can each take pride in this achievement.

But, let's pause for a moment to reflect on a key ingredient in successful partnerships....**Clarity**.

Clarity is essential to withstand the many forces at work against successful partnering.

There is an ever-present risk of **distraction** from many other worthy needs crying for attention.

Partnerships have **unique** communication challenges.

There are **limitless ideas** but **limited budgets**.

And there is an **inherent resistance to change** itself, something that often stalls the journey before it is done.

**Clarity** defined this project at its conception. Clarity built, it, and now, each of us can play a part to insure that clarity continues to guide our use of this treasure going forward.

Going Forward....

Today is a “fulcrum point” celebration. On one side is **Achievement**. It has brought us to this point.

On the other side is **Opportunity**. It represents all that we can do with this achievement going forward.

The challenge to each one of us, is to stay committed to this campus over time so that the steady weight of our conviction allows us to leverage far beyond the effort it has taken to get here.

This campus has many stories to tell, from its fabled prior life to the agonizing political sensitivities that came with choosing the fountain etchings. A piece of the history here that I feel especially good about was keeping automobiles out of these inviting courtyards. It took some time, some insistence, a touch of pouting, and some benevolence from the Code Gods who oversee these things. But the autos stay outside!

I didn't do as well in my effort to get Larry to choose some new age double entendre name for the campus that would roll off the tongue as easily as Candlestick or ..... Big Pink.

I think he went the other way. The Health and Wellness Campus. No one can accuse HHS of not being honest and accurate. But that's a good thing...especially in government.

The Health & Wellness campus is actually a powerful name for this cluster of services, because it confirms the interrelationship between our body and our spirit. It also reflects our aspirations as a whole community.

A healthy community respects all people, cares for its most vulnerable, and champions education as a powerful agent of change.

At the root of wellness is WELL. Visualize the kind of well that is a water source. Place it in the heart of the village. Make it the source of fresh, safe water that sustains life, allows the fields to grow, and brings people together in toil and in leisure.

That is what this campus can be. And if it is, I may just get my way regarding the name of this campus, because on the street it will be known as "El Pozo"... the Well.

Thank you.