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## **Supervisor highlights accomplishments of 2016**

It is hard to believe we are wrapping up another year - 2016 proved to be a busy one! Looking back, together we have accomplished a lot. Thank you for your continued involvement, input and passion for the betterment of Marin. To highlight just a few of our 2016 accomplishments:

- Kicked off construction of an additional 3.2 miles of carpool lanes through the Marin-Sonoma Narrows, getting us one step closer to completing the carpool gap through this critical commute corridor.
- Opened Phase 2 of Stafford Lake Bike Park in Novato, providing for expanded age and skill opportunities for visitors.
- The Novato Theater broke ground in May and Phase 1 of construction is almost complete! With a projected spring grand opening, programming for 2017 is underway and we are continuing to work diligently to open this extraordinary cultural venue.
- Launched the opening of a new Marin County Free Library South Novato location - doubling the size of the former South Novato branch! The new location is located in the Hamilton neighborhood near the Hamilton K-8 public school, the North Bay Children's Center, the Novato Charter School and the SMART Hamilton rail station.
- We made a lot of progress this year in preparation for SMART passenger service coming this spring: fare structures have been set; Clipper ticket machines have been ordered; an Eco-Pass program has been established for businesses, educational and nonprofit institutions – where passes can be purchased in bulk with discounts up to 50 percent for employees and patrons; a comprehensive Marin Quiet Zone has been applied for; and rigorous testing efforts continue.
- Adopted a Source of Income Protection ordinance which prohibits discrimination against renters based on third party rental assistance, including: Section 8 vouchers, Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, Shelter Plus Care vouchers and Housing for People with AIDS. This ordinance is a meaningful step to expanding our fair housing goals.
- Working with the Pacheco Valle community, the Novato Fire Department and County Parks, we developed actions to provide additional fire mitigation measures to the Pacheco Valle neighborhood while balancing the need to protect natural resources. These actions include mowing a 50 foot buffer around the meadow, a larger buffer along Alameda del Prado on the opposite side of the road and a realignment of the trail through the preserve.
- Opened a Veterans Resource Center at the South Novato Library. This "one-stop shop" includes information on state and federal benefits for veterans including: housing, health care, education and employment; has a dedicated computer station, printer and phone available for free use by veterans; and drop-in hours for volunteer assistance.
- Improved Marin Transit bus service by increasing service levels by 19%, adding new express routes, establishing more direct connections to major destinations, adding service frequency and improving underperforming routes and scheduling efficiency.

- Adopted a Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan for County Open Space. This plan provides a decision-making framework aimed at reducing wildfire risks and saving indigenous wildlife from invasive species. The plan was developed to provide a science-based approach to our land management efforts.
- Completed needed safety improvements to the half-mile leg of Olive Avenue that connects downtown Novato to Highway 37, including: addition of a 4-foot-wide bike lane on both sides of the two-lane road, improved line-of-sight vision where the road curves at Club Drive, resurfacing of the road and drainage was improved at key points.
- Approved an implementation program to support the medical cannabis dispensary ordinance we passed in 2015 – which allows up to four medical dispensaries in unincorporated Marin County. The implementation program includes an internal review of applications (eleven are currently under review), an external advisory committee review process allowing for public comment, and ultimately a recommendation from the County Administrator. The goal is to provide regulated professional operations that provide safe and accessible medicine for patients who need it.

As we move into 2017, I look forward to continuing our work together and addressing items that are important to you. A few of my priorities this coming year include: completing construction and the reopening of the downtown Novato Theater; getting Phase 1 of SMART passenger rail service up and running as well as continuing efforts for Phase 2 service to Larkspur; and working with Marin County Veteran's to find a more appropriate site on our Civic Center grounds to relocate the Veteran's Memorials (they currently are situated in a parking lot at the Civic Center).

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