For Immediate Release

July 31, 2012

Marin County will engage public to develop Multi-family and Mixed-use Design Guidelines

San Rafael, CA - Marin County Community Development Agency is working with the planning and design firm Dyett & Bhatia to develop Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Design Guidelines. The guidelines will define positive design attributes and set clear expectations regarding the character of new multi-unit buildings in unincorporated Marin County communities. They will be used by designers and builders as they generate new ideas, and will be used by County officials and community advisory groups when evaluating and responding to development proposals.

Development of the guidelines will occur between August 2012 and December 2012, with the final draft presented to the Planning Commission in January 2013.

The guidelines will benefit from extensive community input. Two community meetings will be held to elicit design preferences and provide feedback on what residents think is appropriate and desirable.

Thursday August 23, 2012       6:30pm – 8:30pm
Bolinas Fire Department, 100 Mesa Road, Bolinas

Monday, August 27, 2012       6:30pm – 8:30pm
Connection Center - Health and Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd. San Rafael

Community input is also being sought through a design survey, available at the Marin Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 308, San Rafael, CA 94903, and on-line at www.marincounty.org/multifamily.

A Working Group is being formed to provide technical and community input as the guidelines are being developed. Members will be invited to participate by Community Development Agency Director Brian Crawford, and will include architects, developers, and members of design review boards, and other community representatives.

"These guidelines are both timely and relevant to the County’s commitment to support sustainable development patterns in Marin” said Mr. Crawford. “They should
clearly set out the County’s expectations for creating vibrant and environmentally responsible places where residents live, work and socialize. They are intended to improve the predictability and outcome of the County’s development review process.”

The guidelines are paid for by a $55,000 Technical Assistance grant awarded to the County of Marin by the FOCUS Program, a regional development and conservation partnership among the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and two other regional agencies.

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