

5/14/14

County of Marin – Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Dr. Room 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Proposed Marin County Alternative Building Code Ordinance

Dear Supervisors,

As members of the Building Board of Appeals, our role is to determine the suitability of alternative materials and types of construction and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors concerning amendments to the Marin County Code. Over the past year we have had the opportunity to review the development of the proposed Marin County Alternative Building Code Ordinance and are writing in support of its adoption. We believe that adoption of the ordinance will have multiple long-term benefits for the citizens of the County.

The proposed ordinance aligns with the County's mission to "support healthy, safe and sustainable communities; preserve Marin's unique environmental heritage; and encourage meaningful participation in the governance of the County by all."

Several of the proposed measures will make the planning and permitting process more open and accessible to constituents. This will serve to increase the level of their confidence and "trust in the system" and in turn will allow county government to operate more effectively and efficiently in the future.

In addition, we believe that the proposed ordinance will:

- Support cutting edge environmentally friendly design and construction methods, while retaining effective County oversight to ensure adequate structural, fire and life-safety standards are observed.
- Support economic stimulation around the use of environmentally friendly native and/or recycled construction materials.
- Support increased constituent participation in the building permitting process due to greater flexibility to allow the use of alternative designs, materials and methods of construction.
- Make it more financially feasible to convert underutilized commercial structures into live-work dwelling units that reduce daily transportation demand.

- Make it more affordable for local ranchers and farmers to maintain and improve their dwellings and residential accessory buildings.
- Preserve, protect and support Marin's present and future architectural heritage.

We live in an era of rapid policy change and the pace of change in the building industry is as rapid as it is in any field. We believe that the proposed ordinance will provide powerful tools to manage that change effectively into the future and we urge you to adopt it.

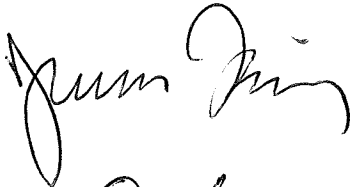
Sincerely, and on behalf of the board.



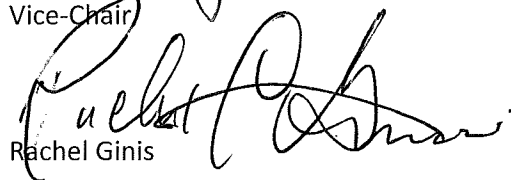
Peter Daly

Building Board of Appeals Chair

Bruce King



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Member



Penelope Livingston

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