



# MARIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

ALEX HINDS, DIRECTOR

August 16, 2004

Marin County Planning Commission  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, California 94903

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing on the Draft Marin Countywide Plan, *Socioeconomic* Element

Dear Planning Commission Members:

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Review the administrative record and conduct a public hearing
2. Continue the public hearing only if additional time is needed to complete the initial review.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Background**

This meeting is the twentieth hearing on the draft Marin Countywide Plan and the second for the Socioeconomic Element in which your Commission is receiving public input and providing staff initial direction to assist in further defining the “project description” of the Plan for environmental review purposes.

Today’s hearing will focus on the Parks and Recreation section of the Socioeconomic Element to be followed by a summary of recommended initial changes to be considered in the environmental impact report.

### **The Socioeconomic Element**

The Socioeconomic Element focuses on the interactions of people including economic vitality, social and environmental justice, cultural opportunities, and overall welfare of the residents of Marin. Although not required by State planning law, the topics covered in this Element address the economic, social and cultural issues in Marin County and provide policy direction to address them.

The **framework and vision** presented in the Socioeconomic Element is of a diverse and vital economy that is increasingly less dependent on fossil fuels, hazardous chemical and manufactured substances that accumulate in nature. In addition, affordable choices for housing and child and elder care would complement high-quality education and services available to people of all ages, cultures and income levels.

## **Parks and Recreation**

Marin County has multiple roles and responsibilities concerning parks and recreation. It is a direct service provider at County-owned parks and coordinates with cities and special districts to identify community park needs and ways to enhance park and recreation services and facilities. Through the development review process, the County must also ensure that new projects provide adequate recreational opportunities for their residents.

Nearly half of the county land is dedicated to parks and recreation use and/or open space including 500 miles of trails. This section of the Plan focuses on augmenting and improving active recreational facilities in Marin. Policies and programs in this section center around one key goal as follows:

**A High-Quality Parks and Recreation system.** Provide park and recreation facilities and programs to meet the various needs of all County residents.

A brief summary of several of the key changes contemplated by the Commission will be provided under separate cover at the August 16, 2004 public hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Agency Director

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Principal Planner

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