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October 21, 2016

Brian Crawford
Director
Community Development Agency
3501 Civic Center Dr Ste 308
San Rafael CA 94903-5219

Dear Brian Crawford,

I heard from many MALT members in response to my April letter outlining MALT's support for continued sustainable farming and ranching in the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), and our opposition to a lawsuit filed in February that threatens the future of ranching in the Seashore. Without exception, the members who reached back to us agreed with our position. As promised, this letter is an update on the lawsuit and what MALT is doing to support the Seashore ranches.

As you may be aware, agriculture in the Seashore and GGNRA represents nearly 20% of Marin County's agricultural land base and production. If these ranches disappear, we face losing the critical mass necessary to sustain suppliers, processors, and other services crucial to the future of agriculture countywide. Such a loss could significantly affect the remainder of Marin's agricultural community, including the farms and ranches protected by MALT.

Today, 18 of the 24 ranching families in the Seashore do not have current leases but instead operate under one-year letters of authorization, which the Park Service has previously stated it will continue issuing until the Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan has been completed. The plaintiffs in the current lawsuit have asked the court through an injunction to prevent the Park Service from working on this plan. If the court accepts the request, the delay of the ranch planning process would put on hold the issuance of 20-year leases further jeopardizing the continuation of farming and ranching in the Seashore. (For more information on the lawsuit, please go to www.malt.org/parkranches).

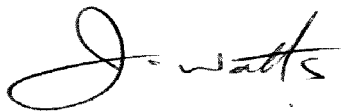
MALT has been working with the Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association to support the families who have farmed on the historic Seashore ranches for generations, recognizing the need for long-term leases from the Park Service—a critically important next step toward obtaining financing for ongoing operations and ranch improvements. On August 2 our Board of Directors voted to invest \$50,000 in a fund set up by the Point Reyes Seashore Ranchers Association to help in their defense against the lawsuit and the successful negotiation of long-term leases. The Board believes this support, along with our ongoing

education and community-building efforts is essential to support MALT's mission "to permanently protect Marin's agricultural land for agricultural use."

As a MALT supporter, I know you're committed to our mission and the investment we've made together over the last 36 years. This includes protecting ongoing agriculture in the Seashore and the families who have worked for generations alongside their non-Seashore neighbors to make farming and ranching an economically viable and environmentally sustainable industry in Marin.

Thank you for your continued support of MALT and Marin County agriculture.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Watts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jamison Watts
Executive Director