July 13, 2017
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont St. #1900
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

RE: Item F11a
Chair Bochco and eligible Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to request that your Commission reject the draft Findings associated with the Marin County LCP as presented by staff in two critical aspects because they do not reflect the Commission's actions on November 2, 2016, instead attempting to reintroduce their own preference that was rejected by the Commission. The video recording of the hearing confirms that both Commissioner Groom and I spoke explicitly about the uncertainty that would accompany any future agricultural change if a producer was required to document that all prior activities had been properly permitted, and our request that the language, “existing, legally established” be removed from the definition of Ongoing Agriculture was supported in the Commission's subsequent action.

Secondly, the Commission took specific action to amend the staff recommendation so that conversion of grazing lands to row crops would not be an ambiguous proposition, regarding both grading and water use. Again, the draft Findings attempt to reintroduce the staff's preference rather than reflect the Commission's actions.

I encourage those Commissioners eligible to vote on these Findings to adopt the recommended language proposed by the Marin County Community Development Agency. It is disappointing that Coastal staff has not produced an accurate record of the Commission's actions, because it will break down trust at a time when your Commission is working to expand its working relationship with local governments. Please act to prevent that.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsey
Former California Coastal Commissioner