August 19, 2014

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Proposed Ordinance to amend Title 19 of Marin County Code and adopt alternative building code provisions in support of sustainable construction methods.

Dear Supervisors,

RECOMMENDATION:
1. Conduct public hearing
2. Consider adopting proposed ordinance effective October 1, 2014

SUMMARY: The proposed Ordinance will amend Title 19 in Marin County Code (MCC), as currently provided by Ordinance 3607 (2013), and establish provisions to support the use of alternative construction design, materials and methods that provide enhanced protection of our environment; improve the economic viability of sustainable construction methods; aid affordability when performing construction improvements, increase participation and consumer protection through promoting lawful construction activity; and enhance owner equity in the improvement of property.

The proposed Ordinance will remove permit barriers to streamline approving the application of alternative materials and methods for construction, maintenance and improvements to:

- Limited density owner built rural dwellings
- Joint living and work quarters
- Strawbale residential structures
- Historical or architecturally significant structures and features;

The proposed ordinance will also establish a local architectural commission to qualify, register and inventory architecturally significant structures and architecturally significant features determined to have local importance to the history, architecture or culture of areas within unincorporated Marin County pursuant to the State Historical Building Code, and structures deemed of present or future importance to the history, architecture or culture of Marin County. This ordinance will preserve the regulatory oversight of other reviewing departments.
REVIEWED BY:  (These boxes must be checked)
[ ] Department of Finance  [ X] N/A
[ X] County Counsel  [ ] N/A
[ ] Human Resources  [ X] N/A

SIGNATURES:

William Kelley  Brian C. Crawford
Deputy Director  Director

ATTACHMENTS:  Proposed Ordinance amending MCC Title 19 (Attachment 1)
Text of proposed code changes (EXHIBIT A of Attachment 1)