November 25, 2014

TO: Kathrin Sears, Board President
    Susan Adams, Supervisor, District One
    Judy Arnold, Supervisor, District Five
    Katie Rice, Supervisor, District Two

FROM: Steve Kinsey, Supervisor, District Four

RE: Resolution supporting the “The Point Reyes Coast Guard Housing Conveyance Act”

Dear Colleagues,

Please join me in approving the endorsement of our Board President on the attached resolution supporting “The Point Reyes Coast Guard Housing Conveyance Act.”

An extraordinary, unique opportunity to create affordable housing in West Marin is before us. The US Coast Guard is about to sell its 30 acre property in Point Reyes Station, which includes 36 housing units and other community facilities. Normally this sale would go to the highest bidder, through an auction by the US General Services Administration.

As we know well, the current market forces and the coastal permit process combine to make constructing new affordable housing in West Marin almost impossible.

Recognizing that an opportunity like this one may never happen again in West Marin, I have been working closely with County staff and Congressman Jared Huffman to pursue this unique property for the benefit of Marin residents. Congressman Huffman has taken a leadership position in drafting “the Point Reyes Coast Guard Housing Conveyance Act,” which would require that the Coast Guard convey the property to the County of Marin, based on a value to be determined by a real estate appraiser to be selected by the County, and with consideration of equity and fairness, reflecting the depth of need for affordable housing in West Marin.
Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein have expressed strong interest in sponsoring similar legislation during the upcoming “lame duck” legislative session.

The Community Land Trust of West Marin (CLAM) is an active partner in the pursuit of this property, and, should it go forward would be a logical partner to the County in supporting the acquisition of the property, its conversion from military use, as well as the future management of affordable housing on the property. An extraordinary level of support has been expressed by the community for the project, as you will see from the attached list of supporting organizations.

Please join me in sending a resounding message of support to our Congressional Representatives for the proposed bill, as well as our great appreciation for their efforts to enable this critically important acquisition via direct negotiation, versus a GSA auction. The success of this project would be a legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsey