

September 19, 2006

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Request to Support Proposition 84, the "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006" on the November 7, 2006 statewide ballot

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation: It is recommended that your Board support Proposition 84, the "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006," on the November 7, 2006 statewide ballot. Adopt the attached resolution supporting the measure.

Summary: The State operates a variety of programs to conserve natural resources, protect the environment, provide flood control, and offer recreational opportunities for the public, and provides grants and loans to local governments and nonprofit organizations supporting natural resource conservation, safe drinking water, flood control, water quality and water supply projects, and State and local parks.

Since 1996, voters have authorized approximately \$11 billion in general obligation bonds for these purposes. Of this amount, only \$1.4 billion is projected to remain available for new projects, primarily for water-related purposes. Proposition 84 would allow the State to sell \$5.4 billion in new general obligation bonds for projects relating to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, State and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and water conservation efforts – including \$1 billion dollars for the continuation of the Integrated Regional Water Management grant program.

Projections by the California Department of Finance show that the State's population will exceed 45 million by 2020, a 21% increase over the State's current 37.2 million residents, with up to 25 million new residents by 2040. Local government funding capacity for these purposes will very likely be inadequate in the face of such growth, necessitating a significant investment at the State level.

Because Marin County could benefit from awards provided by Proposition 84, if approved by voters, it is recommended that your Board indicate its support by adoption of the attached resolution.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Dan Eilerman of my staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Hymel
County Administrator