



Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative

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PO Box 9633
San Rafael, CA 94912
415-686-5204

March 6, 2007

Charles McGlashan, Supervisor, District 3
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Habitat for Humanity Project

Dear Supervisor McGlashan;

The Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative (MEHC) is happy to support the four-unit Habitat for Humanity Development (the Habitat development) in the Eagle Rock area of unincorporated county land near Tiburon. MEHC is a partnership that includes affordable housing, environmental, and social justice advocates. MEHC works collaboratively to build public support for projects that advance affordable housing, environmental integrity, and social equity—which are equally essential to a livable community.

Balancing the need for environmentally friendly affordable housing with the need to protect the environment requires efficient use of in-fill land in Marin. The Habitat development is ideally located in close proximity to public transportation, shopping, and other services. The decision by the land owner to dedicate a portion of the land, rather than pay the inclusionary fee, is laudable.

At this time, there appear to be no significant environmental constraints for the Habitat development. The developer appears willing to work with area residents and County staff to minimize the impact of the entire 7-unit development on traffic circulation and perhaps even to make modest improvements in traffic circulation.

The Habitat development will provide much needed opportunities for four low-income families to live close to transportation and services. MEHC encourages Habitat for Humanity and County staff to work together to develop resale restrictions which will balance the need for long-term affordability with the need to allow some appreciation to households who build their own homes.

We recommend swift approval of the Project. Delay in the approval of the Habitat development will increase the cost of the Project and would be contrary to the goal of providing in-fill affordable housing and a more sustainable community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Katie Crecelius, Chair
Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative
cc: Strawberry Design Review Board