

Mill Valley Affordable Housing Committee
40 Camino Alto #10102
Mill Valley, CA 94941
June 27, 2007

Strawberry Design Review Board
c/o Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Rm 329
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Board Members:

Our committee strongly supports the Habitat for Humanity development proposed for the four homes at the convergence of Lower Eagle Rock, Knoll Road and Bay Vista. These small homes are critically needed, intended as they are for families whose income is in the low and middle range of the county median. They are attractive in design, they meet stringent green standards, and they are of a size that will blend nicely with the architectural makeup of the neighborhood. Studies show that these homes, for this income level, will add little traffic to the mix, unlike the proposed mega-homes on the ridge above.

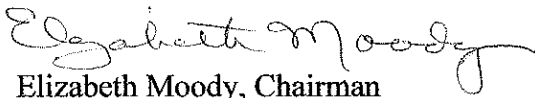
We hope that you will approve a reasonable and appropriate design and pass a positive recommendation on to the Marin County Planning Commission. HFH has an excellent reputation for its work. They are known for designing homes that fit into the neighborhoods in which they are built. Here in Marin many local volunteers have been working with Habitat to identify the site and work with the neighbors. Most of these same volunteers will stay committed right through the building process.

Please consider these additional points: The families who will eventually own the homes are carefully chosen and will work side by side with the volunteers in constructing the homes. That experience will tend to create a feeling of community and give the families an early sense of ownership. In turn, ownership generates a special interest and involvement in community. Finally, HFH maintains control over future sales of the homes, assuring that the properties remain in the affordable category for a meaningful period of time.

An historical footnote: In nearby Tiburon, Hilarita Homes and the Cecilia Way senior complex met great opposition, even lengthy court proceedings. Yet once built there was no effect on nearby property values. Today Tiburon can be proud of its affordable rental community. Let's follow their lead, but for ownership rather than tenancy. It will be a big step in the right direction to get these four homes built and owned.

Sincerely,

MILL VALLEY AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE


Elizabeth Moody, Chairman

Cc: Supervisor Charles McGlashan