

January 22, 2020

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



Subject: Letter of Support for CLAM - Coast Guard Property Acquisition

West Marin boasts some of the most beautiful landscapes and open space in California, welcoming visitors from near and far. The beauty of West Marin, however, greatly affects housing affordability as protected lands leave less room for housing. Much of the housing stock in West Marin serves as seasonal vacation homes, many of which sit empty much of the year. Affordable housing is a major obstacle for recruiting staff for nonprofit organizations like ours. The newly acquired Coast Guard property offers a solution to housing the many other hard working people in our nonprofit sector who bring a variety of social, educational, and cultural services to the community.

Now that the transfer of ownership is complete, Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) strongly supports the selection of CLAM to repurpose this site for homes affordable to our community in perpetuity.

CLAM's vision of a neighborhood fully integrated into the Point Reyes Village, with housing available to a spectrum of incomes and with community uses on-site, has been born out of their ongoing process of grassroots organizing for input and participation, and reflects the coalescing of a shared community vision for this site. We at PRNSA, and many of our members and constituents, have worked with CLAM over the years in developing this vision.

The Point Reyes and West Marin communities are deeply invested in the disposition of this property to address the need for affordable homes along the rural coast. We believe that CLAM, as a community land trust with deep relationships with local residents and organizations, is uniquely positioned to shape the housing and community use on the site.

CLAM has partnered with nonprofit affordable housing developer Eden Housing to guide financing and construction if their joint bid is selected. CLAM's unparalleled community support, together with Eden's financial strength, experience, and track record, is a partnership of greatest strength for this most important opportunity for West Marin.

We support CLAM's bid for the redevelopment of the Coast Guard site. Furthermore, we encourage ongoing consideration that this property becomes community-owned land on a community land trust model, so this neighborhood will be seen and felt to be guided by local voices over the long term. We urge you to act within your power to assist in making this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Faure". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Faure
Executive Director, Point Reyes National Seashore Association