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Bill Keene, General Manager  
Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District  
747 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

October 4th, 2018

Re: Proposal to Fund Kelley Creek Acquisition/ Putnam Park Extension Project

Mr. Keene and Ms. Kuszmar:

We are writing in support of the application of Earth Island Institute's Kelly Creek Protection Project (KCPP) for a \$800,000 matching grant during the Ag & Open Space District 2018 program cycle.

Sonoma County Conservation Action supports the acquisition of land for the extension of Helen Putnam Park and encourages the District to make the grant award to KCPP with the understanding that it may be used for either the full or partial buyout.

We appreciate the numerous public benefits that would flow from KCPP's acquisition of 3/4 or all of the old Scott Ranch at D and Windsor in Petaluma and transfer to Sonoma County Parks. For example:

- conversion to public access trails,
- completion of link for Bay Area Ridge Trail,
- preservation of wildlife habitat and corridors,
- protection of scenic views,
- protection of Kelly Creek watershed,
- nature study for local school children,
- easy walking access from west side of Petaluma,
- healthy outdoor exercise,
- open space gateway at western edge of town,

instead of excessive suburban development with no extension of Helen Putnam Park.

We want to make sure that the full buyout option remains on the table. Private fund raising may be able to make up the shortfall between the full and partial buyout options. If this is not possible and the city regulatory process does allow for some homes on the perimeter of the property, then the partial buyout would be sought. This might be the only way to ensure that the undeveloped portion of the land could be used for park purposes.

We reserve judgment on the issues that may arise if the partial buyout is the only result of the fundraising effort now underway. We will address those issues in the public

comment process as the proposals submitted by KCPP and Davidon Homes come before the City of Petaluma, the lead agency conducting the CEQA environmental review. We submitted a public comment letter to the City in 2017 and would expect to do so again when a revised EIR has been released, probably in 2019.

Sincerely,

Daisy Pistey-Lyhne, Executive Director  
Sonoma County Conservation Action

Neal Fishman, President  
Sonoma County Conservation Action

CC: Jennifer Kuszmar  
Matching Grant Coordinator, Sonoma County Ag & Open Space District