

# BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BCPUD

BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS CALIFORNIA 94924

415 868 1224



August 7, 2023

Marin County Office of Equity  
County of Marin  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 325  
San Rafael, California 94903

Re: Bolinas Civic Group's Bridging Bolinas Initiative

Dear Marin County Office of Equity,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District ("BCPUD"), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Bolinas Civic Group ("BCG")'s Bridging Bolinas Initiative.

Since its inception earlier this year, the BCG has fostered enhanced community discourse in Bolinas via monthly civic engagement events that provide a regular forum for many different groups to engage with their fellow community members on a variety of local initiatives and challenges. In particular, the BCG's focus on increased and intentional accessibility through Spanish language translation and inclusion of Bolinas's under-served residents has added an important piece of progress to our civic health here in Bolinas. The BCG's active collection, organization and structured presentation of local initiatives in a neutral clearinghouse fashion each month facilitates participation and promotes civility around problem-solving.

We applaud the BCG's Bridging Bolinas Initiative and its efforts to foster community unity, facilitate dialogue, and promote racial equity within our diverse Bolinas community. The BCPUD Board of Directors strongly supports this initiative and its mission to broaden community engagement and enhance discussions about important town issues. The BCPUD Board of Directors also fully supports the BCG's effort to secure grant funding, including from the Marin County Office of Equity, to pursue its goal of meaningfully and positively impacting our community's ability to address complex challenges together.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for the Bridging Bolinas Initiative.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Blackman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left and another extending to the right.

Jennifer Blackman  
General Manager

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August 7, 2023

**VIA E-MAIL: [vpearson@marincounty.org](mailto:vpearson@marincounty.org)**

Veronica C. Pearson  
Senior Ecological Restoration Planner  
Marin County Parks  
Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260  
San Rafael, California 94903

Re: Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project.

Dear Veronica:

On behalf of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District (“BCPUD”), I am writing to convey the comments expressed at the regular monthly meeting of the BCPUD Board of Directors on July 19, 2023 following your update on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project (“Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project”). Thank you again for taking the time to present a comprehensive and detailed update about the Initial Study and this important proposed restoration project so close to our town, and for engaging so thoroughly with our community members about their questions and concerns. We truly appreciate your outreach and the opportunity for stakeholder involvement.

The BCPUD Board of Directors and community members speaking at the July 19, 2023 meeting generally were very supportive of the comprehensive environmental and ecological restoration objectives of the proposed Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project. As you know, long-time Bolinas community members Ralph Camiccia and Rudi Ferris have been deeply involved with this project (and proposed predecessor projects) for many years as members of the Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council and have provided invaluable input on behalf of our community. The BCPUD would like to thank Marin County Parks and its partner agencies for listening and responding to community input and concerns as work has progressed on various proposed projects at the Wye.

That said, the public comments made during the July 19, 2023 BCPUD Board meeting made clear that the community is very concerned about the public safety implications for the newly-configured single intersection proposed as part of this project for Highway 1 and Olema-Bolinas Road once the cross-over road is eliminated. Community members speaking at the meeting said they believe the traffic study conducted by CalTrans was fundamentally flawed because it was conducted at a low-traffic time of year (December) and, most importantly, because it did not analyze the proposed new configuration of a single-intersection at Highway 1 and Olema-Bolinas Road (i.e., the study did not analyze the implications of changing the traffic flow from two separate “entry points” to Olema-Bolinas Road into only one entry point to Olema-Bolinas Road). Community members offered a number of ideas about how to reduce the potential for accidents at the new single intersection, including: the installation a left-turn “pocket” lane on Highway 1 for north-bound traffic; the installation of flashing lights at the intersection to alert drivers arriving from either direction to the upcoming intersection; and, the

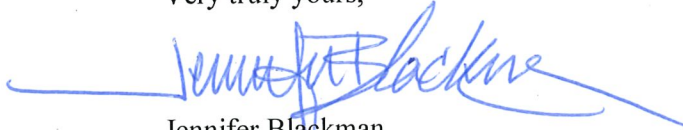
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installation of a four-way stop or roundabout at the intersection to sufficiently slow traffic and reduce the potential for accidents. In response to these concerns and suggestions, you noted that the CalTrans is responsible for Highway 1, not Marin County Parks or Public Works, and Caltrans would need to evaluate and approve the installation of any of these safety measures. Community members said CalTrans therefore should do so, and suggested that the Bolinas Fire Protection District may have historical data from their accident response records that could be helpful to CalTrans in this regard.

In light of these important public safety concerns about the proposed newly configured intersection at Highway 1 and Olema-Bolinas Road, the BCPUD Board of Directors urges Marin County Parks to convey the community's comments to CalTrans and to work with CalTrans in a collaborative fashion to incorporate as many of the suggested safety features as possible for the final design of the new intersection at Highway 1 and Olema-Bolinas Road.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project. Please contact me if you have any questions about our comments or would like to discuss them with me. Thank you very much for your dedicated work on this important project.

Very truly yours,



Jennifer Blackman  
General Manager

cc: Ralph Camiccia, Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Committee  
Rudi Ferris, Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Committee  
George Krakauer, Fire Chief, Bolinas Fire Protection District