

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX**

**COUNCILMEMBER MEMORANDUM**

**To: Mayor and Town Council**

**Meeting Date: October 3, 2012**

**From: Councilmember David Weinsoff / Fairfax Open Space Committee**

**Subject: Adoption of Resolution No. 12-66, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax in Support of the Marin County November 6, 2012 Ballot Measure A, "Marin Parks, Open Space and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance"**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 12-66, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax In Support of the Marin County November 6, 2012 Ballot Measure A, "Marin Parks, Open Space and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance"

**BACKGROUND**

On August 7, 2012, the Marin County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt an Ordinance known as the "Marin Parks, Open Space and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance," to be effective upon its approval by a two-thirds majority of the electors voting on the measure on the November 6, 2012 Marin County Elections Ballot.

The Town of Fairfax and its Council have continuously supported the preservation and maintenance of undeveloped land in and around the Fairfax Planning Area, as demonstrated by the creation of the Fairfax Open Space Committee, and the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the Fairfax General Plan.

The wording of the proposed Resolution considered for adoption includes all other necessary information and background.

**ATTACHMENT**

Resolution 12-66 for consideration.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-66**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX IN  
SUPPORT OF THE MARIN COUNTY NOVEMBER 6, 2012 BALLOT MEASURE A,  
“MARIN PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION  
TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX ORDINANCE”**

**WHEREAS**, In 1972, the voters of the County of Marin created the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) and, at that time, foresaw a total of some 28,000 acres of permanent open space in Marin County; and

**WHEREAS**, while MCOSD has now protected some 15,500 acres, there are still an estimated 12,500 acres at risk of development in the County, a figure which does not include areas targeted for preservation by local groups, such as the Town of Fairfax; and

**WHEREAS**, neither MCOSD nor local groups such as the Town of Fairfax have the funding they need to protect all these remaining threatened acres; and

**WHEREAS**, On August 7, 2012, the Marin County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt an Ordinance known as the “Marin Parks, Open Space and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance,” to be effective upon its approval by a two-thirds majority of the electors voting on the measure on the November 6, 2012 Marin County Elections Ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, Measure A is anticipated to raise an estimated \$10 million annually for nine years, \$2 million of which will be used annually to help keep Marin County family farms in business, \$6.5 million of which will be used annually to protect or restore natural resources, maintain existing county parks and open space preserves and preserve natural lands within the County, and \$1.5 million of which will be used annually to assist Marin’s municipalities and applicable special districts in the acquisition and management of parks and open space preserves, and to manage recreation programs, and vegetation to promote biodiversity and reduce wildfire risk; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Fairfax and its Council have continuously supported the preservation and maintenance of undeveloped land in and around the Fairfax Planning Area, as demonstrated by the creation of the Fairfax Open Space Committee, and the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the Fairfax General Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, within the Town of Fairfax and its Planning Area there are a number of large privately held underdeveloped lands that are within critical viewshed areas along ridgelines, that provide needed wildlife corridors, and contain significant plant and wildlife resources and habitat and that, absent funding for preservation and maintenance, may be subject to development; and

**WHEREAS**, The anticipated impact of the proposed quarter-cent sales tax that will generate the anticipated funds will be off-set by the benefits to the residents of the County and the Town of Fairfax through maintaining property values by ensuring parks, farms and open space are protected, as well as the increased quality of life to County residents and visitors;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Town of Fairfax declares support for the November 6, 2012 Ballot Measure A, the “Marin Parks, Open Space and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance.”

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 3rd day of October, 2012 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

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PAM HARTWELL-HERRERO, MAYOR

Attest:

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Town Clerk