



Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed

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January 26, 2016

Marin County Planning Division, CDA
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 308
San Rafael, CA 94903
Attn: Senior Planner Jocelyn Drake
Email: JDrake@marincounty.org

Re: Marin Catholic High School Use Permit
Amendment and Design Review, # P1123

Ms. Drake:

Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed requests that prior to consideration of merits, an Initial Study be conducted for this project to determine any potential adverse impacts the proposed lighting and attendant game noise could have on birds and wildlife at Hal Brown Park at Creekside.

Wildlife evolved with a regular schedule of natural daylight and nighttime darkness, and artificial night lighting of their habitat can cause physical and behavioral responses harmful to their well-being. For example, wildlife that use the cover of darkness to forage for food can be more vulnerable to predators in a lighted environment. Soundscape changes also may have an effect.

Hal Brown Park at Creekside includes about 21 acres of tidal wetlands and is valuable wildlife habitat in the midst of a highly developed area. Considerable work has been done to enhance the marsh habitat and high-tide *refugia* for resident and migratory birds and wildlife. These include Ridgway's rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, both federally and state-listed endangered species.

In addition, it would be helpful if the site plan, which only shows the applicant's property, could be revised to show the location of the creek and park, including its marshes.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,

Gerhard Epke, President

c: KPAB