

CONSERVATION TRUST OF THE NORTH BAY

February 26, 2023

Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Petaluma
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

Re: Kelly Creek Property – “Scott Ranch” – City Council Agenda, February 27, 2023

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

It appears there may be an opportunity to pursue full conservation of the Kelly Creek property. Conservation Trust of the North Bay (CTNB) is a new land trust incorporated in July 2022 in the State of California. An application for 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit designation is in process with the Internal Revenue Service.

The new land trust's purpose includes acquisition and conservation of land, habitat protection, species support and preservation, wildlife corridor preservation, plant-based agricultural opportunities with a priority for members of historically under-resourced communities, and farmed animal and wildlife sanctuaries.

The Kelly Creek property is land in South Sonoma County that would be of interest to CTNB for participating in fundraising and securing full conservation. A sale of the land by the owner/developer could be achieved if the developer/owner decides to become a willing seller for open space.

We would be pleased to engage in a conversation with the developer/owner regarding such a path.

In South Sonoma County, the remaining lands such as the Kelly Creek property with significant habitat and connectivity realities need to be prioritized to save life-giving features for wildlife and aesthetic appreciation for community members. With these bases, then additional volunteer and educational opportunities, caring for the land in a variety of ways, would be included.

We are aware several conservation entities would like to partner in this effort to establish a new paradigm of expanded open space conservation in Petaluma. We share the news of the new land trust with you and encourage you to consider recommending a path toward full conservation for this exceptional land.

Sincerely,

Susan Kirks

Susan Kirks, Trustee
Conservation Trust of the North Bay

P.O. Box 2862, Petaluma, CA 94954