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April 25, 2007

Marin County Planning Commission
Civic Center Drive #328
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

Our Board of Trustees recently heard an alarming report concerning a proposed Housing Overlay Designation for Kentfield in the Countywide Plan. The development of the additional housing proposed by this Housing Overlay within the Kentfield School District would have a substantial impact on school enrollment, school funding, traffic and safety.

With 1,054 students currently using every one of our 52 classrooms, all of the classroom space at both Bacich Elementary and Kent Middle School is fully utilized and we do not have the necessary funds, or space, to construct additional buildings to accommodate any increase in enrollment. If any of the 4 Housing Overlay alternatives is adopted, we would not be able to maintain our traditional student/teacher ratio of 20-to-1, which is the basis of our ability to provide the quality of education that our Board of Trustees, and community, expect.

The resulting increase in student/teacher levels would not only seriously compromise our educational program, but would also jeopardize state and local funding, which provides necessary funds to the District as a result of our 20-to-1 ratio. Consequently, any increase in this ratio would reduce or eliminate these funds and have a significant effect on our District's budget.

We are also concerned with traffic and safety. The draft EIR reports that Sir Francis Drake Boulevard could not be increased to 6 lanes to accommodate the additional traffic generated by the proposed housing, and, therefore, the current congestion would be increased to an F level of service. This would raise safety issues for our children, and add to the current congestion at Bacich Elementary School during the morning and afternoon, when parents deliver or pick up their children.

Please convey our position at the hearing on April 30, 2007 that the District strenuously opposes the proposed Housing Overlay Designation for Kentfield.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Caine
Superintendent

cc: Supervisor Harold Brown
Anne Petersen, KPAB