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# Assembly California Legislature

## JOE NATION

ASSEMBLYMAN, SIXTH DISTRICT  
*Representing Marin and Sonoma Counties*



January 8, 2002

Dan Ray  
Ecosystem Restoration Manager  
State Resources Agency  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ray:

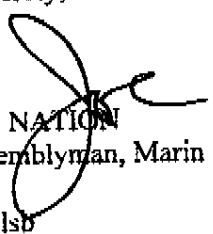
I am writing in support of the City of Petaluma's request for \$2,877,000 in grant funding assistance under the CALFED Bay-Delta Matching Grant Program 2002 to restore the McNear Peninsula located in the heart of downtown Petaluma.

The acquisition and restoration of the McNear Peninsula is a key component of the City of Petaluma's River Access and Enhancement Plan adopted in 1995. The City presently owns 10 acres of the 34-acre parcel, and has applied for a matching grant through the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District's 2001 Grant Program for the acquisition of an additional 20 acres. Once acquisition of the 20-acre parcel is finalized, the City has received indications from the owner of the remaining 3.5 acre McNear parcel that he is willing to work with the City in allowing the City to acquire the property or he would grant a permanent open space easement to the City.

Funding from the CALFED Grant Program would enable the City to begin the actual physical improvements to the Peninsula, including wetland restoration and biotechnical bank stabilization work. These improvements would greatly reduce the current deposition of sediment into the Petaluma River and provide significant wildlife habitat for aquatic species and other wildlife in an urban setting. Improvements would also be made to allow for low-impact, passive, recreational pursuits such as hiking and birdwatching. A nature study area for local school children and residents is also planned.

The McNear Peninsula Habitat Restoration Project is a truly unique undertaking strongly supported by the local community. I hope you will assist in doing everything possible to grant the City's funding request for this remarkable project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
JOE NATION  
Assemblyman, Marin and Sonoma Counties

JN: lsb  
C2h

Cc: E. Clark Thompson, Mayor  
Members of the Petaluma City Council  
Pamela A. Tuft, Director of General Plan Administration  
Frederick C. Stouder, City Manager  
Jim Carr, Director of Parks and Recreation