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V 415 456 3469

F 415 456 9344

733 Center Blvd.

Fairfax, CA 94930

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June 17, 2010

Marin County Department of Public Works
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Craig Tackabery, Dan Dawson and Carey Lando,

On behalf of the Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC), we are writing to follow-up on our meetings on June 11 with Farhad and on June 14 with Craig.

We want to begin by letting the Marin County Department of Public Works staff know that the MCBC staff honestly appreciates and acknowledges your agency's extensive and high quality work throughout the County. Some examples of this include the implementation of Farhad's complete streets policy, the construction of the Cal Park Hill Tunnel, the Los Ranchitos Road and Alameda del Prado bike lanes, and the implementation of the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program, including DPW's leadership on the federal Working Group.

We deeply appreciate that Craig took the time to meet with the MCBC staff to discuss concerns and unresolved issues that have surfaced between the Marin County Bicycle Coalition and the Marin County Department of Public Works over the past months.

As we discussed, we are now very aware of the harm that resulted from the Transparency chapter in our *Closing the Safety Gap* report. While we do believe transparency is an important principle at all levels of government, we were in no way accusing County staff of any wrong-doing by creating that chapter. Our goal was simply to have a conversation about the study; our method to get that need met was clearly ineffective and, with 20/20 hindsight, counterproductive at many levels.

At our meeting with Farhad, we learned the extent of the issues and concerns between MCBC and the Department of Public Works. We sincerely apologize for not communicating with you before writing and releasing our *Closing the Safety Gap* report and for the content in the Transparency chapter that was perceived as being offensive. Again, offending you and your staff was absolutely not our intent.

We appreciate that you are helping us to gain a deeper understanding of the existing issues between our organizations as well as government constraints, and we are delighted with Farhad's offer for MCBC staff and Patrick Seidler to meet with Craig on a regular and ongoing monthly basis.

We look forward to a new way of working together where we have high quality communication and monthly meetings that allow for the sharing of information and ideas.

We also understand the Department of Public Works' request for MCBC staff to communicate with DPW staff directly and immediately when issues arise, as opposed to delivering reports to you in their final form.

We feel very optimistic about developing a renewed relationship with DPW staff that will be supported by our monthly meetings and enhanced communications. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Department of Public Works on our mutual goals, and look forward to improving trust through developing a more harmonious working relationship.

Thank you very much for your support and understanding, and for clarifying these issues for us.

Sincerely,



Deb Hubsmith
Advocacy Director



Andy Peri
Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator

Cc: Farhad Mansourian, Director, Marin County Department of Public Works