

July 18, 2012

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Proposed Residential Development in Santa Venetia

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports the application of Thompson Development Inc. for approval of a residential development in Santa Venetia. The San Rafael Chamber currently represents more than 575 Marin businesses with over 12,000 employees.


We encourage you to consider the Marin County zoning limits with regard to this development. The proposal fits within the zoning limits and provides 10 acres of open space. The project will create new jobs for Marin County as well as construction jobs for local contractors. All of this will generate badly needed additional tax revenues for county and local governments.

By requiring the applicant to reduce the density to below the level of density specified in the applicable zoning law, the County is creating an atmosphere of uncertainty that discourages future economic activity. Entrepreneurs who cannot rely upon written ordinances and regulations to determine the rules under which they can operate will look elsewhere to undertake projects and build businesses; they must know in advance know with a reasonable degree of certainty the cost of doing business.

Particularly in light of the recent abandonment of Lucas Film from the Grady Ranch project, we encourage you to provide that degree of certainty for Thompson Development Inc. By doing that, you will also be sending to those who in the future will look to invest in Marin County the positive message that this is a place where they will be welcome and will be treated fairly and reasonably in the development process.

The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce believes that a healthy business community is invaluable to the community as a whole. We urge the Board of Supervisors to consider the reasonable and mutually beneficial needs of business when evaluating this project.

Sincerely,



Rick Wells
President and CEO

cc: Chamber Board of Directors