



January 5, 2020

Dear Mr. Coon and the College of Marin Board of Trustees:

As the new year begins, we need to urgently draw your attention to the ongoing issue of the Maintenance and Operations facility that the College of Marin is constructing on a former playing field adjacent to Kent Middle School, the MCOE's Grant Grover facility, and the Corte Madera Creek.

We are including this link to a [PETITION](#) signed by over 700 residents asking you to take immediate action regarding the construction of the M&O facility. The project, and COM's lack of disclosure and concern for the impacts it may create, is not acceptable to our community and the comments on the petition reflect the anger and frustration that many of us feel. The College of Marin is our neighbor and should be our partner in making decisions that can impact our children, our environment, and our neighborhoods for decades to come. As the administrators of COM and to fulfill your duty as elected officials on behalf of your constituents, we respectfully ask that you take the following steps:

- Direct an immediate stop of construction work at the site.
- Disclose the intended use of the facility, including:
  - Information about the substances planned to be stored at the site (and their quantities and relevant Material Safety Data Sheets).
  - Types and number of vehicles and equipment to be stored on site.
  - Information about types and frequency of typical daily site traffic.
  - Anticipated quantity and type of trash/recyclables to be stored there.
  - And any other information relevant to the activities planned for the facility.
- Retain an independent consultant to conduct a meaningful Environmental Impact Review of the project, including consideration of potential effects from the actual planned activities on the adjacent schools (and their students and faculty) and the Corte Madera Creek. Conducting an independent EIR, whether COM is legally required to do so or not, will help to rebuild trust for COM among our community and ensure that COM is not putting itself into potential legal jeopardy in the future if in fact significant impacts from this facility will result from its operations. An EIR will serve both as a means to predict those impacts and as a basis for a plan to prevent or mitigate them.
- Create a meaningful mitigation plan based on the EIR to ensure the long-term safety and unimpaired learning environment for the children of Kent Middle School and the MCOE's Grant Grover facility. And if necessary, relocate incompatible activities to another part of the COM campus. This plan should include the participation of all the relevant stakeholders, including the Kentfield School District, the Marin County Office of Education, and any local or state agencies that oversee the health and safety of our creeks and watersheds.

- Conduct a CEQA review of the rest of the COM Master Plan to ensure that any additional construction projects will move forward only after a thoughtful, public process to assess any potential impacts.

In addition, based on the public interest in this situation as shown in the petition, we respectfully ask that the Board add this item to its January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting agenda or create another public opportunity for COM staff to share information about the project with the community and for you to hear our concerns and answer questions. While Mr. Coon's recent statements to the Marin IJ provide some answers, they also raise additional questions about the process used by COM to locate and design this facility and the need to spend Measure B money on maintenance and operations rather than classrooms and learning spaces as it was originally presented to Marin voters.

The College of Marin is a public educational institution funded by tax payers and created for the benefit of the entire Marin County community. One of COM's Mission Statements is, "We will be accountable for our decisions and actions on behalf of the students, college and community. Our decisions will be academically, fiscally and environmentally responsible." You have an opportunity now, as the administrators for the school, to prove your accountability by addressing this project in a clear and transparent way. We need you to uphold the principles of being "academically, fiscally, and environmentally responsible" by responding to the concerns of the community who entrusted you with this duty.

Mr. Coon is quoted in the Marin IJ as saying, "I want to assure the community that the (COM) district remains committed to being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by taxpayers, Moving forward, I am also committed to improving communication with the community about important matters related to the college." We hope that this means that you will respond to these requests at the earliest possible opportunity. In the meanwhile, we strongly encourage each of you to visit the area in person to better understand why we are so concerned. We also invite you to visit our website at [www.kentfieldkidsandcreeks.org](http://www.kentfieldkidsandcreeks.org) to see the photographs and information we have gathered about this project.

Sincerely,

Friends of Kentfield Kids and Creeks

cc: Mary Jane Burke (MCOE), Liz Schott (KSD), Marin Supervisor Katie Rice, Heather McPhail-Sridharan (KSD), Keri Brenner (Marin IJ)