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April 29, 2013

General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) City of Mill Valley 26 Corte Madera Avenue Mill Valley, CA 94941

RE: DRAFT GENERAL PLAN - MV2040 ALTO TUNNEL

Dear Members of the GPAC;

It has recently come to my attention that it was decided at your last meeting to remove language in Mill Valley's Draft General Plan, which supported, "considering feasibility assessments" for reopening the Alto Tunnel. I am writing to request that you reconsider and restore this wording in the Draft.

It is essential that this tunnel be rebuilt as necessary to restore this key alternative transportation link between southern and central Marin. If we are ever going to succeed and in getting people out of their cars, we must provided a meaningful alternative mode of transportation. The Alto Tunnel is an important part of this objective.

The Alto Tunnel is an essential connection in the planned North/South Greenway, which will provide a wise and necessary means for bicyclist to commute to work and services. Few other than athletes can ride over the steep Camino Alto/Corte Madera grade. A level route the Tunnel offers will allow people of all ages and skill levels to travel by bike and on foot. At multiple hearings and in a petition signed by over 2,000 people, the public has demonstrated they want this tunnel reopened.

The General Plan sets the community's vision for the next 20 years. Mill Valley cannot seriously address climate change and responsible land planning without including multi-modal transportation measures in its vision for our future. A reopened Alto Tunnel must be part of Mill Valley's long-term transportation goals.

I urge you to put the Alto Tunnel back in the Draft General Plan.

Sincerely,

Michael Rex, Architect