



**Novato
Community Garden**

Novato Live Well Network

February 29, 2016
Cathy Capriola, Interim City Manager
City of Novato
922 Machin Avenue
Novato, CA 94945

RE: Follow up to February 2, 2016 Meeting regarding The Novato Community Garden

Dear Cathy,

Thank you for meeting with us on February 2 to discuss the status of Novato Live Well Network's (NLWN) Novato Community Garden Project. We appreciate your time and efforts in maintaining communication with us and appreciate your openness and spirit of collaboration.

We understand that the City hopes to acquire the property on Hill Road that could be a potential site for a community garden. We appreciate being informed of this possibility. This would be a great location for a community garden, and we are interested. But, with the uncertainty of its acquisition and without any written agreement, we have no guarantee that the NLWN Community Garden will be at this site.

Because of the uncertainty of the Hill property, we would like to maintain our current site at O'Hare Park adjacent to the Dogbone Meadow Park. Since 2007 many members of the community and our board have invested time and money into developing the site plans for the garden at O'Hair Park. This has included thousands of volunteer hours as well as over \$20,000 to cover City fees, variance fees, an archeological report, insurance expenses, costs associated with the well we had dug for the garden, and other related expenses. We also have received over \$30,000 in in-kind donations to meet the city requirements for the community garden (www.novatocommunitygarden.org/thank-you). Our supporters include Kaiser Foundation, the County of Marin, Presbyterian Church of Novato, Rotary of Novato, local businesses and many individuals, community leaders and local organizations. With all of the partnered efforts of many individuals and groups over the years, including the City of Novato, we see many benefits for continuing our project at O'Hare Park and are not ready to abandon it.

We understand that there have been staff changes at the City of Novato and that there is new leadership. We look forward to continuing this discussion and working together on our Novato Community Garden Project.

Sincerely,

Veronica Valero
Executive Director/Board Member

And,
Diet Stroeh, David Selzer, Sunita Stablein, Charlotte Torgovitsky
Novato Live Well Network Board Members

CC: Novato City Council
Pam Shinault, Dir. Parks & Rec
Julian Skinner, City Engineer