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November 29, 2017

Dear Mayor Peters:

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Noyo Center for Marine Science, I would like to formally request transfer of the 11.5-acre property on the Fort Bragg Headlands purchased by the City of Fort Bragg for the Noyo Center development. As you know, we have been building our nonprofit organization over the past 3 years, and now have an active and engaged Board, talented staff, and a growing stream of supporters of our efforts. Our education, research and stewardship programs are also growing annually. We see the property transfer as timely now for the following reasons:

1. The Noyo Center would like to begin restoration of the property—removal of invasive species and improvements to the wetland swale—and we will be more competitive in obtaining restoration grant funding for these activities if we own the property.
2. Once improvements are made to the property (including safety improvements), we plan to develop a spur trail for public use and to begin using the property for Noyo Center events.
3. The Noyo Center has begun cultivating larger donors that may one day participate in our capital campaign to build the Noyo Center for Marine Science facility. We believe that ownership of the property at this time will enhance those conversations.
4. We would like to extend our commitment of stewardship by getting school children and other community volunteers involved in native plant restoration and ongoing monitoring using the property.

City staff and Noyo Center staff have begun discussions about possible modifications to the Noyo Center and Coastal Trail parcel boundaries that could be recorded as part of this transaction. My understanding is that the topic has been discussed, at a conceptual level, with State Coastal Conservancy legal counsel (the Conservancy holds restrictive covenants on both properties) and they have offered their preliminary support for the boundary adjustments and property transfer. Please let Sheila Semans, our Executive Director, know what we can do to help facilitate the property transfer. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at (707) 813-1687. On behalf of the Noyo Center Board, I would like to thank you and the entire City Council for your ongoing support and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter O'Donohue".

Peter O'Donohue  
Board President

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