

San Rafael Chamber

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Chamber Expresses Importance of Ressurecting of Skywalker Grady Ranch Project

SAN RAFAEL – The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce expressed their continuing support of any possibility of resurrecting the Grady Ranch Phase of Skywalker Properties' Master Plan development in Lucas Valley. The company announced its plans to abandon the project earlier this week.

Chamber CEO, Rick Wells stated in an email letter to area officials and various media outlets, "If there is any chance we can do something to save this project, we should work together to do so immediately. Without question, it has a far reaching and significant impact on the health of our economy and our entire county."

The proposal promised to be extremely beneficial to Marin County and its residents. It offered substantial and carefully designed community enhancements, including, by way of example, spending \$70 million to restore Miller Creek. The new project was scheduled to create nearly 700 jobs, including over 250 permanent jobs and would generate millions in new tax revenue that Marin County desperately needs.

In 2004, the County of Marin commissioned a *Targeted Industries Report*. The purpose of the study was to develop a set of economic, social and environmental criteria that would help Marin County evaluate which types of industries should be encouraged. Multimedia was identified as an industry Marin should support. Targeted Industries are critical because they are drivers of prosperity, generating job growth, economic activity in all local sectors. The Grady Ranch project would add the exact type of jobs to the Marin economy that were targeted in that report.

Board Chair, Richard Kalish added, "Skywalker Properties has proven to be a responsible business and a great neighbor. Businesses like this are critical to a thriving community. The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce believes that a healthy business community is invaluable to the community as a whole and supports any way possible to salvage this project."

The San Rafael Chamber represents over 560 members with over 11,000 employees. The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce is a member-based business advocacy organization providing a strong voice in support of the economic vitality of our community. For more information visit www.SRChamber.com

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