



**PROCLAMATION OF THE MILL VALLEY CITY COUNCIL  
HONORING THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
HORSE HILL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**

**WHEREAS**, starting in the mid-1900's, Alto Sutton Manor landowner George Goheen allowed his hill to be used for the pasturing of some 20 horses belonging to young equestrian members of Mill Valley's 4-H Club; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's, numerous developers acquired various parcels that made up the Alto Bowl/Horse Hill, while horses continued grazing on the land, oblivious to the possible loss of their home to development; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1961, the Alto Sutton Manor District Association was founded by Aline McClain to fight proposed development of Horse Hill; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1980's the Coalition of Mill Valley Neighborhoods led by Garry Lion and Jim Parrinello challenged the proposed developments on Horse Hill and their legal densities, forestalling their approval; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1980's, the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) acquired the eastern 50 acres of this land as the Alto Bowl Open Space Preserve as a result of the City of Mill Valley requiring new homes (Salt Creek Meadows, later Mill Valley Meadows) to be clustered on the lower slopes of Alto Hill; and

**WHEREAS**, in the late 1980's, the City Council adopted a building moratorium and rewrote the City's General Plan, setting the housing densities and locations on all the large undeveloped residential parcels in eastern Mill Valley and reducing the maximum number of housing units on Horse Hill from 360 to 26; and

**WHEREAS**, due to effective local lobbying, State Proposition 70 designated \$21 million for preservation projects in Marin County and \$1.6 million for Mill Valley, the only City to receive a special designation; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 1988, the Mill Valley City Council initiated an eminent domain process to take the Horse Hill properties for public open space, offering an independently appraised fair market value for the most prominent hillsides and ridges; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1988 to 1990, the "Save Horse Hill" campaign, led by Chair Janis Bosenko, Tim Leveque, Daniel Shiner, and David and Suzy Cumming, generated tremendous community support, raising \$600,000 from 5,000 to 7,000 donors; and

**ITEM 1**



**WHEREAS**, Mill Valley donated the 37 Horse Hill acres to the MCOSD for permanent preservation as open space adjoining the 50 acres of Alto Bowl Open Space; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alto Bowl Horse-owners Association entered into an agreement with the MCOSD and the Mill Valley Meadows Homeowners Association to pasture 14 horses on 50 acres of Alto Bowl Open Space; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 26, 2015, it will be 25 years since the City of Mill Valley acquired the southern portion of Alto Bowl known as Horse Hill.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Mill Valley City Council proclaims October 26, 2015, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the successful “Save Horse Hill” campaign, whereby the community, City, and County came together to preserve Horse Hill for generations to come.

Dated: October 19, 2015

---

Kenneth R. Wachtel, Mayor