

October 9, 2024

Mayor William Kirchner and Town Council  
Town of Ross  
31 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard  
Ross, California 94957

**Re: Regulating Pickleball Courts on Private Property / Agenda Item #11**

Ross Town Council:

Our family resides at 4 Canyon Road. I am writing to support the regulation of pickleball courts on private property.

We love living in Ross for its community, limited housing density and relative privacy. Moreover, like many of our neighbors, we covet the indoor/outdoor lifestyle Central Marin allows and the opportunity to enjoy our outdoor space almost year-round.

To be clear, we certainly are not opposed to pickleball or those who enjoy the sport. In fact, we have played the game at a public park and understand its popularity. However, no one would dispute that the ball/racquet contact creates a distinctive 'ping' that can number in the hundreds during a game of doubles.

Our concern, particularly in a topography like the valley that frames Canyon Road, is our learned experience that sound travels great lengths, usually along unexpected vectors. This means that those exposed to noise pollution are not just next-door neighbors.

As I expect your staff has shared with you, media outlets are reporting increasing incidents of litigation filed by homeowners who live adjacent to public and private pickleball courts with claims that the noise generated by the courts exceeds reasonable standards and, in some cases, has impaired property values.

It is unclear if the California Association of Realtors (CAR) will require homeowners to disclose a property's proximity to a pickleball court as part of its standard Sale Disclosure Checklist.

For all these reasons, we hope the Council will acknowledge the legitimate noise concerns created by pickleball and prepares guidelines that respect the rights of Ross homeowners.

Best regards,

Mary P. McFadden  
4 Canyon Road