

Petaluma Wildlife and Natural Science Museum

201 Fair Street · Petaluma, California 94952 · (707) 778-4787

August 16, 2010

Dear Community,

The Petaluma Wildlife and Natural Science Museum is an outstanding facility, providing interpretive opportunities and environmental education for children, young adults and the public. The Museum is well established and recognized as the nation's largest student operated museum. The program's mission is dedicated to providing teens and young adults the opportunity and facility to develop career skills by operating and maintaining a world-class museum.

In October of 2009, concerns over the Museum's financial oversight and bookkeeping procedures were brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. At that time, an internal review was conducted that evaluated past expenditures and accounting practices. The investigation recognized a need for greater financial accountability, transparency and oversight of its programs and facilities.

After financial review and program evaluation, the Museum's Board of Directors removed the former Curator/Executive Director, relieving her of management and financial responsibilities. New accounting standards and policies were implemented to ensure greater fiscal transparency and accountability. The Petaluma City School District will maintain the former Director's position as instructor and teacher for museum related classes.

The Museum is dedicated to building trust and relationships. The program will continue to play an important and active roll within the community. We will demonstrate responsible leadership with new management, increased oversight and commitment to you.

We encourage the local community to engage with us to help the program move forward. We welcome your questions and hope to address your concerns.

The Wildlife Museum will be open this Saturday, August 21st, from 11:00am to 3:00pm to provide a special public forum for questions and concerns from the community. The new interim Executive Director, Neal Ramus, will be on hand to update you and discuss the present situation. Please stop on by and participate in the development of this vital program.

Sincerely,

George Grossi
Board President, Petaluma Wildlife & Natural Science Museum