

## Community Marin: An Ongoing, Successful Collaboration

This newsletter's frequent references to "Community Marin" might lead you to wonder, "What is Community Marin and why is it so important?"

Community Marin is a longstanding project of Marin Conservation League and other of Marin's leading environmental organizations to define an environmental vision for the County.

The project and collaboration began in late 1990, when the County was beginning the second major update to the 1973 Countywide Plan (CWP). The year before, in 1988, a major transportation tax measure (Measure A) had been defeated through efforts by MCL and others who felt that the CWP should establish a land use framework that should precede, rather than follow, any transportation tax measure. At the suggestion of the County Planning Director, MCL formed a working group to develop its vision for future growth in the County—in effect, an "environmental alternative" for the upcoming Plan. This alternative was to recommend where and how much housing and commercial development would be appropriate; what areas should be protected; and a rate of development which would be consistent with resource capacity. MCL's working group led to the formation of an inter-organizational collaboration by MCL, Marin Audubon Society, Sierra

*Continued on Page 9*



Biologist Kathy Cuneo (foreground) explains the marsh ecology of the Corte Madera Shoreline to MCL's Walk Into History participants.

## Corte Madera Shoreline "Walk Into History" Proves Popular

MCL's Fourth Walk into History, "The Changing Corte Madera Shoreline," proved to be very popular! More than 65 people joined Corte Madera historian Jana Haehl, MCL President Nona Dennis, and wetlands biologist Kathy Cuneo for the March 27 and April 10 Saturday events! The walk explored the progression of filling and development—along with citizen efforts to preserve and restore the wetlands as they transformed the once-tidal reaches of the lower Ross Valley over a period of more than 100 years,

The changes began with the construction of the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad at the end of the 19th century, 101 Highway in 1929, diking of large areas of the shoreline in the late 1950s, subdivision construction in the 1960s, successful

tidal restoration as mitigation for the construction of the Larkspur Ferry Terminal in the 1970s, and the Village shopping center and establishment of Shorebird Marsh in the 1980s. Now called Corte Madera Ecological Reserve, the restored and preserved tidal marshes are home to the endangered California clapper rail, which needs continued protection.

Future Walks Into History are currently being planned. Watch your inbox for details.

### *In This Issue—*

President's Message—Page 2  
Status Updates—Page 3  
Annual Dinner Report—Page 4  
Meet MCL—Page 7  
Upcoming Events—Page 7

## A Message from the President— When is a House "Too Big"?



That question has vexed planners in communities throughout the U. S. as the average size of new single-family homes and remodels has more than doubled since 1950, even as the

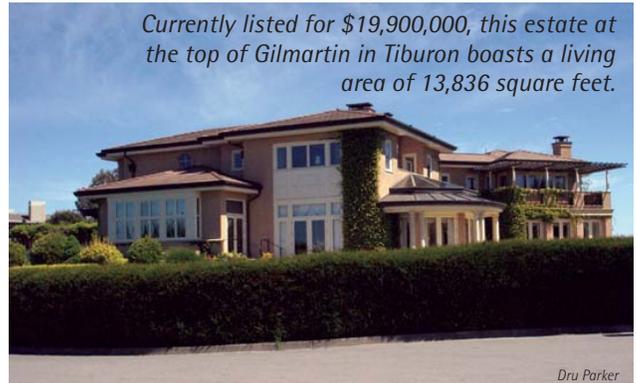
average family size has steadily shrunk, leading to a three-fold increase in living area per family member. In Marin, the average new residence is now around 3,500 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>), but recently some residences exceeding 15,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, including accessory structures, have been permitted by the County. Along Paradise Drive on Tiburon Peninsula, where preserving the "rural character" was once the vision, 8,000 ft<sup>2</sup> seems to be the new standard.

Communities in Marin are struggling to achieve some control over size—through maximum floor-area-ratios required, consistency with average existing home size, and regulation of bulk, mass, lot coverage, and design—generally under the rubric of preserving community or neighborhood character. "Too big" in central San Anselmo is different from "too big" in Kent Woodlands. Environmental factors such as the site's topography, drainage, and grading, can also dictate size. For example, San Rafael places a cap of 6,500 ft<sup>2</sup> on new construction located on slopes of 25 percent or greater and requires design review. And aesthetics may play a role: Does size matter if a very large home is somehow tucked "out of sight" or is "well-designed"?

In a County that prides itself on being environmentally progressive and boasts a Countywide Plan based on the theme of sustainability, most of these numbers strike me as too big. No level of LEED certification can offset the fact that larger houses are a larger environmental burden. But how does a community calculate that burden and

determine a "right size"? There is no single or simple answer. "Community Marin," featured in this Newsletter, has tried for years to address this question. The Community Marin document calls for energy efficiency and other resource-conserving measures in all aspects of construction techniques and materials, but generally leaves the designation of a size cap to community plans and city and town general plans.

The County has adopted an energy ordinance that requires any single family residential building larger than 3,500 ft<sup>2</sup> not to exceed the (Title 24) energy use of the equivalent 3,500 ft<sup>2</sup> house. But energy, although a key component of resource use in the construction and operation of a home, is not the only consideration in the total environmental burden of a house. Board-feet of framing lumber, square feet of sheathing, tons of concrete, ducting and piping, embodied energy (energy consumed in manufacture of materials), construction debris, transport of materials, service needs, repair and replacement over the operational



Currently listed for \$19,900,000, this estate at the top of Gilmartin in Tiburon boasts a living area of 13,836 square feet.

Dru Parker

life of the structure—these are but a few of the resources consumed in large, complex homes.

Recognizing that many technical, environmental, and social and economic factors must weigh into determining house size, I would like to see a rigorous analysis focusing on the total environmental "costs" of new residences and substantial remodels – including construction, operation, related transportation, and full life-cycle on a per capita, not household, basis. In too many cases "green" is only skin deep. Little wonder that Marin County's "ecological footprint" is the largest in the nation and the world!

*Theresa B. Dennis*



©David Dugan / Flickr Creative Commons

A sign of spring: a baby elephant seal at Drake's Beach awaits its mother's return.

*Want newsletters via email? Email [mcl@marinconservationleague.org](mailto:mcl@marinconservationleague.org) with "ENews Only" or "ENews plus Paper" in the subject line.*

## Status Updates

### Lawson's Landing Resort to go before California Coastal Commission in July

The County of Marin approved a Master Plan for Lawson's Landing in 2008 after a decade of debate over environmental issues centering on the need for adequate protections for the sensitive dune and wetland habitats.

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC), led by Catherine Caufield, former EAC Executive Director, appealed the case to the California Coastal Commission (CCC), in whose jurisdiction Lawson's Landing lies. MCL and other environmental organizations have supported the appeal. The CCC will finally consider a Coastal Development Permit for Lawson's Landing at its July 7 to 9, 2010, meetings in Santa Rosa. Although there has been some progress in establishing a 50-acre conservation easement over sensitive habitat areas, three basic environmental issues continue to be of concern:

(1) Campground and access road in wetland areas: Existing campgrounds and access roads are located in an area dominated by wetlands and wetland buffers and should be relocated to less sensitive areas. Many State and private RV parks have been able to set camping areas back from the coastline with campers taking shuttles or walking to the beach. This is also possible at Lawson's Landing.

(2) Management of wastewater: Assumptions and models used in designing a new wastewater disposal system continue to raise questions as to the adequacy of the proposed system to protect Tomales Bay and groundwater. No alternative disposal systems have been proposed, such as providing hook-ups for RVs or travel trailers, thus eliminating the need for an expensive wastewater system and an elaborate pumping system. In the meantime, existing inadequate septic systems continued to be used.

(3) The California red-legged frog

conservation easement: Separate from CCC consideration is the pending decision by CalTrans to purchase a 204-acre conservation easement at Lawson's Landing to mitigate loss of habitat for the endangered California red-legged frog due to planned improvements to Highway 101 through the Marin-Sonoma Narrows. The easement would provide a significant benefit by protecting a whole complex of sensitive species and habitats at Lawson's Landing, in addition to the frog's habitat. An alternate mitigation site—Barboni Ranch—is also under consideration.

Watch the MCL web site [marinconservationleague.org](http://marinconservationleague.org) for further information on date and time for the CCC meeting in July and for updates on the frog mitigation easement.

### The 680 Trail

MCL continues to track planning for Marin County Open Space District's new 680 Trail. The proposed trail would connect the Terra Linda and Loma Alta Open Space Preserves and is being designed to accommodate hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. The District has focused planning on an alternative alignment that will make better use of the existing Luiz fire road but still involves new trail construction in unstable slopes. Interested persons are invited to hike the alignment on June 5, through the rough and steep terrain the trail will traverse. See page 7 for details.

MCL and others are urging a thorough environmental analysis—if necessary an Environmental Impact Report—focusing on soils and erosion, slope stability, stream-crossings (at least nine), wildlife disturbance, safety for different user groups, and cumulative impact of the trail given the existing "social trails" in the

vicinity and the observed tendency for new trails to invite more illegal trails.

For more information, visit [www.co.marin.ca.us/pos/MCOSD/home.asp](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/pos/MCOSD/home.asp).

### WECS-Wind Energy Conversion Systems

by Roger Roberts

Some call them "windmills," but at 200 feet in height or more, wind turbines are far more than the iconic windmills that once pumped water from farm wells. MCL has been tracking the County's efforts to establish a WECS ordinance since 2008. The ordinance will set standards for siting, design, and permit review for the installation of WECS throughout the County. The County's desire to put a WECS ordinance in place is motivated, in part, by the provisions of AB 45, which requires local governments to adopt its statewide WECS standards in January 2011. However, Marin County may adopt more definitive standards if it acts before that date.

Clean, renewable power generation from



©Danny Perez/Flickr Creative Commons

*Raptors such as this Red-Tailed Hawk are very susceptible to fatal strikes at WECS sites*

WECS is attractive, but wind turbines are not without their environmental effects which must be addressed. Birds of many species, as well as bats, which serve our ecosystems in many important ways, are very susceptible to fatal strikes. The visual effects of individual WECS and wind

*Continued on page 10*

2010 Annual Dinner

# Sell-out Annual Dinner a Crowd-Pleaser

Marin Conservation League's 2010 Annual Dinner, which was held on April 23, was not only sold-out in advance, but well-received by all who attended. Held for the first time at the Key Room, the beautiful new event space at Homeward Bound's New Beginnings Center in Hamilton, the dinner featured an all-organic buffet catered by Fresh Starts Catering.

The festivities were kicked off by State Senator **Mark Leno** and closed by guest speaker **Clem Shute**, who reviewed the history of the landmark California Environmental Quality Act, which he defended in the early 1970s, and its ongoing significance in state land use planning today.

During the evening, Nona Dennis was re-elected MCL President and two new Directors

were elected to the Board: **Ann Thomas** and **Bob Spofford**. (See page 7.)

MCL's 2010 Awards for Environmental Leadership were presented. Retiring Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) Executive Director **Maurice "Skip" Schwartz** received the Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award for his thirty-plus years of expanding ACR's properties and nurturing its educational

and scientific programs. Social and environmental activist and one-time MCL Board member **Inka Benton** was honored with the Marin Green Award; the John M. McPhail, Jr. Green Business Award went to the **Muir Woods Trading Company** for its innovative and sustainable concession at the Muir Woods National Monument. The Ted Wellman Water Award was awarded to the **Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project** at the Point Reyes National Seashore and the Youth Award for Environmental Leadership was given to **Emma Feshbach** of San Domenico School. The Marin Conservation League Volunteer Award was given with gratitude to **Karen**

*Continued on next page*



*Clockwise from top: Sen. Mark Leno and Awardee Skip Schwartz; Youth Awardee Emma Feshbach; Sue Severin, Supervisor Susan Adams and San Rafael City Councilmember Greg Brockbank; Giacomini Wetlands Project Awardees Brannon Ketcham and Lorraine Parsons; Giacomini Wetlands Project Awardee (and new Yosemite National Park Superintendent) Don Neubacher; (center) MMWD General Manager Paul Helliker, Ken Drexler and Carson Cox.*

*All photos by Tim Rosenfeld*



*Annual Dinner 2010 from page 3*

**Nygren** for her many years of service to the Marin environmental community.

The dinner was sponsored by the environmental law firm **Shute Mihaly & Weinberger**, and environmental consultants **ESA, LSA Associates, and Zitney & Associates**.

Pianist **Michael McIntosh** set the tone for the dinner, as did the "The Singing Dogs," who paid tribute to the late **Doug Maloney** and his penchant for rewriting our favorite Broadway tunes.

MCL is grateful to all the local businesses (see page 11) who graciously donated to the raffle. Winners were **Melanie Mociun, Sylvia McLaughlin, Lynette McLamb, Dennis Fisco, Susan Stompe and Matt Sagues**. Congratulations!



*L-R from top: Supervisor Judy Arnold; Nona Dennis presenting Green Business Award to Tanya Ortega of Muir Woods Trading Company; Phyllis Faber and Green Awardee Inka Benton; Frank Egger and Karen Wilson; Speaker Clem Shute; Nona Dennis presenting Volunteer Award to John Nygren, husband of awardee Karen Nygren (inset); Ira Chin and Carla Bourque.*



*John Nygren*



*In Brief*

# Statewide Issues of Local Interest

## State Parks Initiative

Good news is hard to come by these days, but the news from the California State Parks Foundation is just that! Sufficient signatures have been gathered to qualify the State Parks Protection and Wildlife Conservation Trust fund Act of 2010 for the November ballot. This initiative, if passed by the voters, will establish a secure revenue stream, separate from the State budget, to keep State Parks open and maintained. Funding will come from an \$18 surcharge on California vehicle registrations that will, in exchange, allow free day-use access to all State Parks. MCL acted as "Ground Zero" for the local signature-gathering campaign, an effort that was aided by Mt. Tamalpais Interpretive Association members and others. Ann Thomas, returning this year to the MCL Board, coordinated the successful Northern California campaign, from Marin to Del Norte Counties.

## AB32

Other statewide news is less heartening. Attempts to roll back AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 that requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, are coming from both the legislature and the initiative process. These ballot measure are being cast as necessary means to protect jobs— "California Jobs

*Anyone who cares about climate change should oppose all efforts to undo AB32*

Initiative"—and are funded by Texas-based oil firms Valero Energy and Tesoro Corp. The measures would require the State to abandon greenhouse gas controls, including renewable energy and clean-fuel rules, until the State unemployment rate falls to less than half today's rate of 12.5 percent—which has not happened in the past 20 years. Rather than protect jobs, the initiative, if passed, would kill the momentum already building toward

investment in innovative technologies that have the potential to "de-carbonize" the California economy. Anyone who cares about climate change—and that's almost everyone!—should oppose all efforts to undo AB 32.

## Proposition 16

Proposition 16 is already well-known in Marin for its attempt to undermine Marin Clean Energy (MCE) as well as any other public power utility in California.

off competition." The lawsuit asks that the measure be removed from the ballot.

## California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA is under attack. This may sound like cold news, since rarely has a year gone by in the past almost 40 years when the California Environmental Quality Act has NOT been under attack. But this year the attack is different. The poor economy and

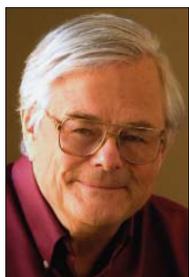


Even those who may not favor MCE understand that Prop 16 is a bad measure, one that is blatantly self-serving for PG&E. The beguiling mailers and TV ads funded entirely by PG&E, suggest that Proposition 16 is all about choice— "Taxpayer Right to Vote Act." In fact, it would rewrite the State Constitution to require a two-thirds super-majority before local communities or municipal utilities could expand or start up public power or buy wholesale from independent operators.

As of April 28, 2010, a coalition of locally owned public utilities, including Sacramento Municipal Utility District, has filed papers in a lawsuit alleging that PG&E Chairman had "admitted at a March 1 investor conference that Proposition 16 is designed to choke

jobs climate has brought CEQA detractors out in force. On the grounds that CEQA is stifling the economy, pending legislation to weaken CEQA would exempt, based on their jobs benefits, up to 125 projects over five years from judicial review. If adopted, opponents of projects selected for exemption would not be able to challenge the project EIR in court. Despite considerable debate on both sides, the notion of exempting some large projects from CEQA is far from dead this legislative session. Two separate ballot measures also attack CEQA One would prohibit citizen lawsuits based on CEQA inadequacy. Another, by an Orange County developer, would prohibit citizen lawsuits and make the state attorney general's office the sole enforcer of CEQA.

## Meet MCL: Your Neighbors Working to Make a Difference!



**BOB SPOFFORD,**  
Director, San Rafael.

Bob Spofford, a retired advertising executive with an electrical engineering degree and New Jersey native, has been a resident of Marin

County since 1996. He and his wife Sue are 2005 graduates of Environmental Forum of Marin. Sue was a co-founder of Sustainable San Rafael, and Bob is the point person for Sustainable San Rafael on Marin Clean Energy. Bob also volunteers as Financial Secretary and webmaster/newsletter editor for First Congregational Church in San Rafael. Bob is new to the MCL Board and will also serve a two-year term.

Bob is a Command Pilot with Angel Flight West, a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that arranges free, non-emergency air travel for children and adults with serious medical conditions. He keeps a plane at Gness Field.

**ANN THOMAS,**  
Director, Corte Madera.

Ann Thomas, who has been active on Marin County community and environmental issues for many years, returns to the MCL Board for a two-year term ending 2012.

Formerly a member of the Kentfield Planning Advisory Board, Ann is a current board member of the American Association of University Women/Marin Branch and the Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, as well as a member of Marin Baylands Advocates.

Ann headed up the Marin/Sonoma/North Coast portion of the recent volunteer signature-gathering drive to qualify the California State Parks initiative for the November 2010 ballot.



**JESSICA GRACE,**  
Operations  
Coordinator, San  
Anselmo.

Born in San Francisco, Jessica Grace lived her first year of life on Angel Island. She attended college

at San Francisco State University and graduated in 1996 with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in music. The daughter of a park ranger, Jessica learned to appreciate nature and the environment early in life and continued in her father's footsteps by working for California State Parks, as the Filming and Special Events Manager for the Marin District. She worked as the Administrative Coordinator at Slide Ranch where she managed both program and development departments. and was Marin Conservation League's Operations Manager for 2 years. Jessica is also currently the Volunteer Coordinator for WildCare and is performing in this year's Mountain Play.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SATURDAY, JUNE 5: "680 TRAIL" HIKE

Hike the proposed "680 Trail" project route with County Parks and Open Space District staff. The hike is very strenuous—up to 7 miles long on steep slopes and poor footing. To walk the entire route may take 5 to 7 hours. For meeting location and more details, go to [http://www.co.marin.ca.us/pos/MCOSD/os\\_680\\_Trail\\_Planning.asp](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/pos/MCOSD/os_680_Trail_Planning.asp) or call Chris Bramham at (415) 499-6387. You must RSVP to (415) 499-6387 for this hike.

### SATURDAY, JULY 24: MCL'S PICNIC ON THE PORCH!

Join Marin Conservation League directors and staff for our picnic and barbecue, held every summer on the porch of our lovely Craftsman office in downtown San Rafael at the corner of Fifth and F. The party runs from 3:00 to 6:00 pm and MCL provides the food and drink. Free to members and their families, \$5 for non-members. RSVP to 415-485-6257 or online at [marinconservationleague.org/events](http://marinconservationleague.org/events)

## Film Project Nearing Completion

### *Moments in Time: Saving the Marin County Coast*

MCL is eagerly looking forward to the completion of a project that will capture the saga of how a vision for the Marin County coast became reality. In production for several years, the hour-long documentary, *Moments in Time: Saving the Marin County Coast*, is being filmed by Kelly + Yamamoto Productions, in partnership with KRCB Public Television, Channel 22. *Moments in Time* promises to fulfill a long-recognized need to tell the epic story of how conservationists, ranchers, farmers, ordinary citizens, and government officials saw what could happen on the coast and said NO.

The themes of the film will be familiar to many who already know Marin County's conservation history, but to younger generations, newcomers, and the millions who visit Marin each year, it will be a revelation! The producers of the film provide this brief sketch of the "plot":

"In the 1950s and 1960s, the vision for the Marin County coast was of an extension of San Francisco—an urban community of 150,000 between Bolinas and Tomales Bay. An eight-lane freeway would connect the Richmond Bridge with Point Reyes Station; rural Highway One would become a multi-lane freeway; and harbors, marinas, hotels and boatels would cover Bolinas Lagoon, Limantour Estero and Tomales Bay. Little consideration was given to the impact of massive development on the area's scenic beauty or on its diverse wildlife populations. Agriculture would disappear as the county's long-time dairymen and ranchers became rich selling their land to real estate developers.

"That this did not come to pass is the compelling story of *Moments in Time*, which weaves together themes of conservation, ecology, development, finance, politics and sustainable agriculture."

Some of the stories the film will relate: the National Park Service's early interest in Point Reyes for a national seashore

park and its struggle to secure the land in the face of escalating prices; a key battle over Bolinas Lagoon; the 1968 shift in the balance of power in the county Board of Supervisors in favor of conservation; Supervisor Peter Behr's organizing of Save Our Seashore, a grassroots organization that reinvigorated federal support for Pt. Reyes National Seashore; the beginnings of People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area; a new agricultural zoning plan (A-60) created to preserve agriculture and restrict development in West Marin; the formation of Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT); and continued daunting challenges.

This important project is well-underway by a talented partnership. Writer/Producer/Director Nancy Kelly and Editor/Producer

Kenji Yamamoto have been making independent films for thirty years, and KRCB TV, Channel 22, has been the local PBS station serving Sonoma and Marin Counties for 22 years, supplying quality broadcasting to the viewing public.

*Moments in Time* is seeking additional funding, however. Marin Conservation League is just one of many sponsors, including the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, the California Council for the Humanities and the Kira and Bradley J. Haas Fund at the Marin Community Foundation. For further information, contact Nancy Dobbs, Executive Director, KRCB at [nancy\\_dobbs@krbc.org](mailto:nancy_dobbs@krbc.org) or Nancy Kelly at [nancy@kelly-yamamoto.com](mailto:nancy@kelly-yamamoto.com).

## MCL Welcomes Two New Leaders

Both the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and the County Parks and Open Space District have new leadership.



Tim Rosenfeld

### *Cicely Muldoon*

Sausalito resident Cicely Muldoon has been selected as the new superintendent of the PRNS and will take over as head of the Seashore in mid-May. Cecily is a Marin County native who has worked for the Park Service since 1985. She replaces Don Neubacher, who took over this year as superintendent of Yosemite National Park.

Another National Parks alumna, Linda



*Linda Dahl*

Dahl, has been appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to the position of Director of Parks and Open Space. Currently the Assistant Director of the Community Development Agency, Linda spent 18 years with the National Park Service, most recently at Yosemite National Park. Linda starts her new position on June 14th.

Marin Conservation League welcomes these two women to their posts and looks forward to working with them on open space and parks issues.

## Community Marin *from Page 1*

Club Marin Group, and the Environmental Forum of Marin. The group became known as "Community Marin."

The group's first work in 1991 was a report—"Community Marin, Our Future...Our Choice." It provided policy recommendations to guide planners, elected officials, and citizen groups in making environmentally sound decisions about complex issues of transportation, housing, community development, environmental protection, agricultural preservation, and the economy. It also served as a tool for

### *"Community Marin 2003" played a key role in the 2007 Countywide Plan*

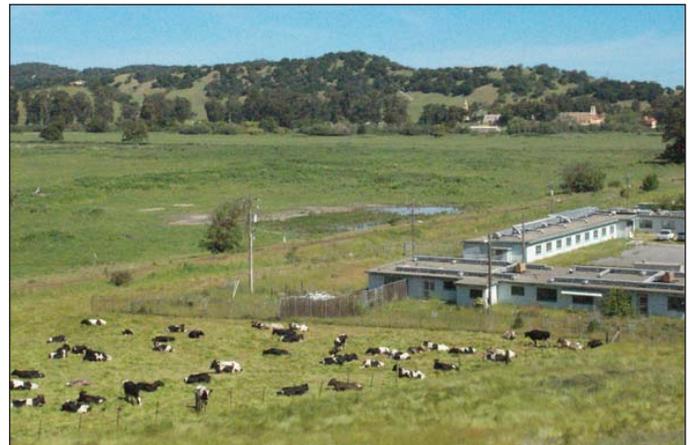
ongoing education and discussion about the county's future growth, and established a set of common environmental planning principles focusing on the eastern urban portions of the County, which were supported by the four organizations. The report played a significant role in shaping the 1994 CWP update, even though not all of its recommendations were adopted by the County.

After the County's adoption of the 1994 CWP update, the Community Marin group continued to meet and disseminated their report to other decision makers (including city council members) throughout the County. In 1997, the group began revisions to "Community Marin" to reflect changing conditions and needs. In addition to updating recommendations for housing,

the economy, transportation, and community facilities, the revision took an ecosystem approach to land, water, air, agriculture, and wildlife issues. The revision also added a Strategic Action Plan Program—a set of specific recommendations for implementation over the next five years. Chief among the strategies was a continued push to incorporate a "fourth corridor"—a Baylands Protection Corridor—into the Marin CWP and, if possible, into the general plans of Marin's cities that share the San Francisco and San Pablo Bay shoreline.

The 1991 Community Marin report had identified several major planning areas and planned projects that involved major planning entitlements and/or zoning decisions. Among them were the Buck Center on Aging, redevelopment of Hamilton Air force Base, the Renaissance Faire site at Black Point, urban growth north of Novato, Bel Marin Keys Unit V, LucasFilm at Skywalker Ranch and other ranches, and the St. Vincent's/Silveira properties located between San Rafael and Novato.

By 1998, most of these planning issues had been resolved, not necessarily as hoped, but nonetheless no longer needing attention. The Buck Center had been approved and constructed (it celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2009). In 1997, Novato had successfully passed an Urban Growth Boundary to contain development from going north, after a strong campaign by MCL's North Marin Unit and others. The first homeowners had moved into



*The St. Vincent's/Silveira properties today*

*Dru Parker*

the redeveloped Hamilton Field, the Black Point battle had been lost, and LucasFilm had won approval for another phase of development, in spite of serious zoning and CWP issues. Bel Marin Keys' Unit V 1,600 acre expansion site, after many years of attempted development, was purchased by State Coastal Conservancy for eventual tidal restoration. The most vulnerable area—the St. Vincent's/Silveira Ranch—remained at risk. All of these changes were reflected in a revised "Community Marin 1998" report.

In 2001, as the County began its third major update of the CWP, the group again undertook to revise "Community Marin," reiterating the need for a Bayfront Protection Corridor and protection for major undeveloped lands such as St. Vincent's/Silveira. The document also recommended reducing the amount of planned new commercial retail and office development in the county so as to reduce the serious imbalance between affordable housing and jobs and to curb growing traffic congestion. The revised report, "Community Marin 2003," played a key role in what became the County's 2007 CWP.

When the 2007 CWP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, it reflected some of the key ideas from Community Marin: After more than 20 years of advocacy for baylands protection, the 2007 CWP added a fourth corridor to the three-corridor CWP framework dating from the 1973 CWP: "Baylands." And it placed a reasonable cap on development of St. Vincent's/Silveira



*Hamilton redevelopment as seen through the hangars*

*©Russell Darling/Flickr Creative Commons*

*Continued on page 11*

## WECS *from page 3*

farms are well known. Whether these aesthetic impacts are seen as “positive” or “negative” may depend on the eye of the beholder. However, the issues go beyond subjective measures. Siting, size, and design criteria must be considered. Additionally, the avoidance of impacts to wildlife, the implications of near-by visual, noise, and safety concerns, particularly in residential community settings, are vitally important.

At present, the lack of County WECS guidelines causes uncertainty and delays in permitting appropriate WECS projects. For example, the McEvoy Ranch wind turbine, installed after a number of years of review, was reduced from a total height (including rotor) of 210 feet, as originally planned, to a permitted total height of 149 feet. This experience indicated the need for a WECS ordinance.



Marin Conservation League supports the efforts of the County to establish a WECS ordinance to protect Marin’s environmental values and, at the same time, clarify where and how WECS projects can proceed. MCL has focused on three particular needs in the ordinance: (1) adequate biological surveys prior to permitting; (2) provisions for discretionary review and opportunity for public comment on all but very minor WECS installations; and (3) review of post-installation performance to determine effects on birds and bats, the most vulnerable wildlife, and an ability for the County to require change in operation where warranted.

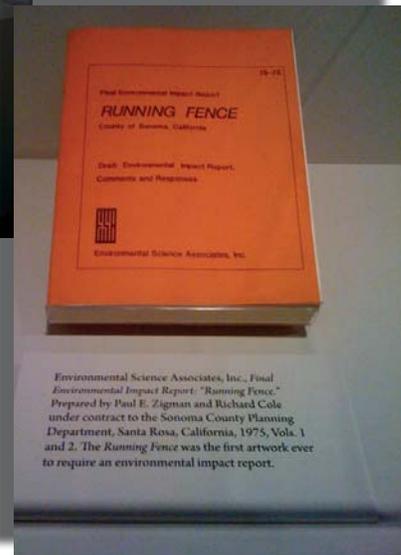
The WECS ordinance will set County standards for wind turbines varying from small (under 40 feet) to large WECS (over 200 feet). The draft ordinance was reviewed by the County Planning Commission on April 26th and sent back to staff for more fine tuning. A public hearing for the final WECS Ordinance is scheduled for June 14th and MCL will attend.

# Running Fence EIR Displayed at the Smithsonian

In MCL’s March–April Newsletter, we recounted the story of County Environmental Coordinator Tim Haddad’s review of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the *Running Fence*. The story coincided with the opening of a commemorative exhibit in the Smithsonian Institution of American Art: “Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Remembering the *Running Fence*”. Among the 350 artifacts in the exhibit—sketches, photographs, and pieces of the 24½ mile construction, displayed for two weeks in September 1976—is the EIR. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates, the report is presented in a glass case as the first EIR ever prepared for a work of art. The exhibit runs until September 26, 2010.

As a post-script, a lavish memorial for Jeanne-Claude, Christo’s wife, who died recently, was held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on April 26. In attendance, as a long-time friend of both Christo and Jeanne-Claude, was San Rafael’s **Don Dickenson**, a County Planning Commissioner, former MCL Board member, and former Planning Director of Mill Valley. Don was a young planner with Marin County when the permit application for the Marin portion of the *Running Fence* was pending. Don’s work in the planning process earned him the enduring friendship of Christo and his

*The exhibit plaque reads, “The Running Fence was the first artwork ever to require an Environmental Impact Report.”*

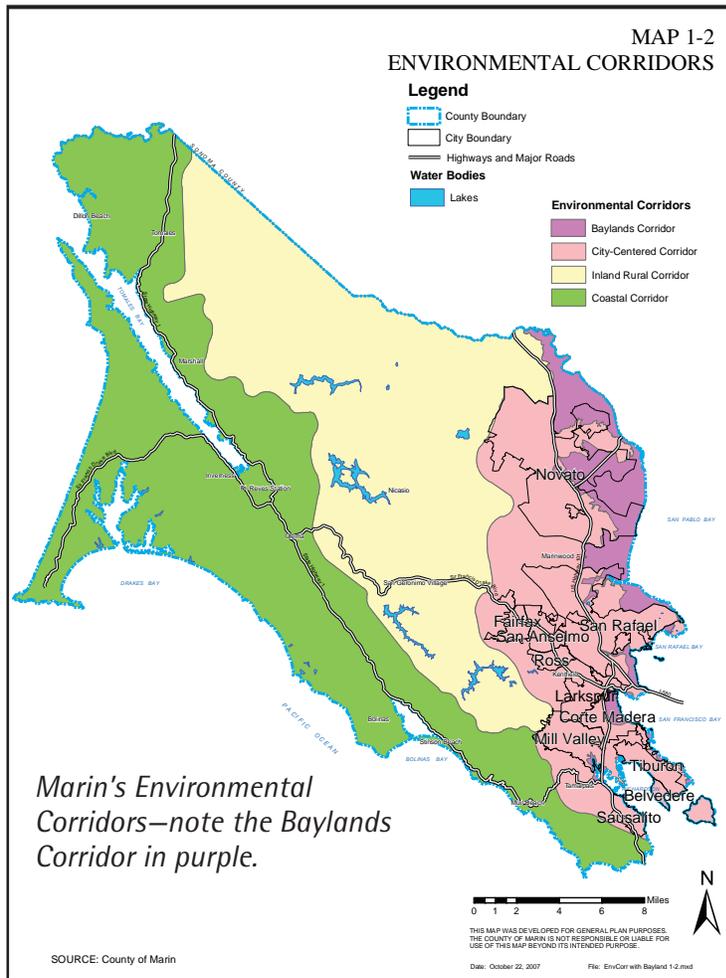


*Lisa Crosset*



*Don Dickenson and Christo at Jeanne-Claude’s memorial service*

wife and a seat of honor among the 1,700 in attendance at Jeanne-Claude’s memorial.



**THANK YOU, 2010 ANNUAL DINNER RAFFLE DONORS!**

- Bank of Marin
- Blue Water Kayaking
- California Film Institute
- Cibo Sausalito
- Comforts
- Fish Restaurant
- Gold's Gym
- Jackson's Hardware
- Lark Theater
- Las Camelias Mexican Restaurant
- Marin Coffee Roasters, San Anselmo
- Mill Valley Express Car Wash
- Mill Valley Health Club
- Mountain Play Association
- Piccolo Teatro
- Pelican Inn
- Pleasures of the Heart
- Sausalito Foundation
- Slide Ranch
- Vicki Nichols
- West Point Inn

**Community Marin**

from Page 9

lands. The 2007 CWP also established a new planning framework based on sustainability principles that were threaded throughout the 2007 CWP.

Starting in 2009, the Community Marin group once again began revising "Community Marin 2003." This process is likely to stretch into 2011. In this round, the Environmental Forum of Marin is no longer involved. Instead, several West Marin environmental non-profits are participating, including Environmental Action Committee (EAC) of West Marin and SPAWN. As it has since 1991, the revision

process is slow and deliberate: each section must be drafted, discussed by the group, revised, and eventually approved by each of the constituent organizations.

Today, the Community Marin group meets regularly with, or testifies before, County supervisors and planning commission to participate in the ongoing Local Coastal Program (LCP) update; reviews and comment on current projects with countywide significance; and monitors implementation of 2007 CWP policies.

Community Marin and its collaborative approach has been a success. Working mostly behind the scenes, Community Marin, now in its 20th year, continues to be effective and successful promoting sound planning in the County.

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

Nona Dennis, Mill Valley, President  
Brett Powell, Mill Valley,  
First Vice President

Roger Roberts, San Rafael  
Second Vice President

Vicki Nichols, Sausalito, Secretary  
Kenneth Drexler, Fairfax, Treasurer

**Directors**

Betsy Bikle, Mill Valley  
Priscilla Bull, Kentfield  
Joe Bunker, San Anselmo  
Carson Cox, Mill Valley  
Bruce Fullerton, Mill Valley  
Jana Haehl, Corte Madera  
Marge Macris, Mill Valley  
Amy Marr, Mill Valley  
Michelle Passero, Mill Valley  
Tim Rosenfeld, Mill Valley  
Larry Smith, Nicasio  
Daniel Sonnet, San Rafael  
Bob Spofford, San Rafael  
Susan Stompe, Novato  
Ann Thomas, Corte Madera  
Periann Wood, Mill Valley

*Board of Directors meetings are held  
the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30  
PM and are open to the public.*

**Staff:** Dru Parker, Operations Manager  
Jessica Grace, Operations Coordinator

**Contact Information**

1623-A Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael CA 94901

415.485.6257 TEL  
415.485.6259 FAX

mcl@marinconservationleague.org EMAIL  
marinconservationleague.org WEB



**Monthly Committee Meeting  
Schedule** (subject to change):

*Land Use and Transportation:*  
1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of the month, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

*Parks & Open Space:*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

*North Marin Unit (NMU):*  
Call 415.485.6257 or see our website  
for meeting details.

*Meetings (except for NMU) are at  
1623-A Fifth Avenue, San Rafael*

Marin Conservation League was founded in  
1934 to preserve, protect and enhance Marin  
County's natural assets.

MCL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.  
All contributions and memberships are tax-  
deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Printed by Mill Valley Services on recycled  
paper with soy-based inks. Please  
share and recycle.



# NEWS FROM MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 151  
San Rafael, CA

May-June 2010

1623-A Fifth Ave.  
San Rafael, CA 94901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Haven't Renewed for 2010? This May Be Your Last Issue! *Renew Today to Continue Receiving the League's Newsletter, Event Announcements and Other Important Updates!*

Name(s)

Address

City/State/ZIP

Phone

Email

Please renew my membership for calendar year 2010 at this level:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Steward    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Redwoods                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Creeks     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Peter Behr                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Baylands  | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional contribution \$_____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business  | <input type="checkbox"/> Send my newsletter via EMAIL only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Woodlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me both paper and eNews      |

Mail to MCL, 1623A Fifth Ave., San Rafael, CA 94901 or RENEW ONLINE!

Secure renewals at [marinconservationleague.org](http://marinconservationleague.org)

All contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.