

west
marin

C environmental
action
committee

ADVOCATE

PROTECTING AND SUSTAINING THE UNIQUE LANDS,
WATERS, AND BIODIVERSITY OF WEST MARIN SINCE 1971

ACTION ALERTS, PROGRAM NEWS, KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GIVING

WINTER 2020

Executive Director's Note

Greetings Community,

Reflecting on the journey of 2020, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish under such difficult circumstances. I am thankful to my team of staff, board members, interns, and volunteers who work to advance our mission under intense pressure.

Creating this year's Advocate highlights the stark contrast compared to last year's edition. Those pages were filled with our community. The smiling faces of the people who make EAC possible. People advocating for the environment; cleaning up trash from our watersheds, roadsides, and beaches; and roadsides; conducting MPA Watch surveys that collect valuable human-use information; enjoying the Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival; and the overall celebration of the biodiversity of West Marin habitats.

Like many of you, in the middle of March 2020, our team shifted to working remotely, which will most likely continue through the end of the year. This change has made a tremendous impact on EAC, as much of our work is grounded in our grassroots community partnerships. In addition, our staff faces diverse struggles as we shoulder isolation, balance work, and manage our families (including providing at home schooling for our young children).

So we persist! — firmly facing these challenges, adapting, and building on our strengths and partnerships to uphold EAC's mission and begin to plan for our future.

We look forward to creating safe gatherings in 2021 to breathe life into our community and volunteer opportunities, allowing us to reconnect with the people who have raised EAC so we can continue to engage, listen, learn, and grow together. This has been a year of tremendous transformation that highlights the importance of connection, life, and relationships — with one another, and with our environment. We all have a part to play in our relationship with the places we live and enjoy visiting.

The revolution of this year also includes a changing of the guard with retirements, the passing of environmental, legal, and cultural legends, and the rise of a new federal administration. We have our work cut out for us to rebuild what has been degraded, hold the line, and focus on proactive and creative solutions to environmental challenges we face from the climate crisis.

Collectively, we hold a great responsibility to recognize that the places we love in West Marin did not just happen. We all follow in the mighty footsteps of leaders who recognized the need to push back on irresponsible development, protect biodiversity, and build partnerships to strengthen our voices to ensure that parts of the natural world remain for future generations.

We are honored to have the opportunity to be mentored by so many who helped to shape our local environmental movement. Our team is proud to carry a banner honoring the work of the past, creating a future based on our guiding principles, and ensuring that we pass the knowledge and values entrusted to us to the next generation of advocates.



Thank you for supporting our work. Our mission is powered by our community, and we will continue to do all that we can to take on the challenges the environment faces now, and into the future.

In gratitude,

Morgan Patton | Executive Director | (415) 663.9312 | morgan@eacmarin.org

MISSION

To protect and sustain the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin.

VISION

To provide long-term protection and conservation of the unique ecosystems and rural communities of West Marin to serve as a foundation of environmental protection for future generations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ADVOCACY

Use grassroots strategies to research and publicize local environmental issues facing our community to inform, empower, and educate stakeholders and our members.

APPRECIATION

Respect the complex ecology and intrinsic value of the natural world.

COLLABORATION

Partner with local communities, organizations, governments, businesses, and members to ensure maximum public participation around local environmental issues.

EDUCATION

Provide opportunities to learn about the environment through events, community workshops, outreach, and publications.

ENGAGEMENT

Engage our community in activities that promote a healthy environment, including stewardship through membership, events, community science, and volunteer opportunities.

INTEGRITY

Use science, law, and policy to make ethical decisions around complex environmental issues in a dynamic environmental and political landscape.

VISION 2021

In 2021, we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary protecting the lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin. Our vision for the future builds on our strategic planning in four areas:

Community Engagement

Increase our outreach, education, and partnerships in our community to tackle environmental challenges.

Visitor Engagement

Celebrate West Marin's present, past and future environmental movements by creating a hub in Point Reyes with exhibits and workshops.

Teamwork & Growth

Build organizational capacity to expand our work, identify projects, and strengthen relationships to accomplish our mission.

50th Anniversary

Celebrate 50 years of environmental activism through engagement, storytelling, and recognition of our unique role in the community

After 20 years in our corner office along 3rd Street in Point Reyes Station, we made a big decision this summer to move to a larger space two doors down. This location will help us expand our capacity, and create an environmental engagement hub where we can share our work, and engage with our donors and community in new and exciting ways. We look forward to sharing this space with you in 2021!



Reimagine San Geronimo: Parks for Everyone

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is expected to release their visioning document for the former San Geronimo Golf Course property in December 2020. The visioning document is the result of community engagement and outreach to reimagine the future of the 157-acre San Geronimo property. TPL envisions a landscape that is safe, inclusive, and accessible-to-all. You can learn more about this process and read the visioning document at www.reimaginesangeronimo.com. In addition, we want to thank TPL for hosting the wildlands wildfire crews during the Woodward Fire, where hundreds of fire fighting personnel set up base camp to combat the wildfire in Point Reyes National Seashore in August 2020.



“...human involvement with the land is as important as saving the land itself. Acreage for open space is not enough. Involvement with the citizenry is needed to create permanence and a sense of stewardship.”

- Huey Johnson, a broad-spectrum environmental leader in Marin County for more than 50 years, and founder of Resource Renewal Institute and The Trust for Public Land. 1933 - 2020

Protecting West Marin Lands

When Bay Area counties are ranked by the acres they have permanently protected in parks, wildlife refuges, and open space preserves, Marin County comes in first with nearly 56% of its land protected. This unique land conservation legacy benefits wildlife, plant life, and human enjoyment and recreation. West Marin is shaped by tectonic plates, divided by the San Andreas Fault, and set along the Pacific Flyway and Pacific Ocean resulting in an extremely biologically diverse environment. However, the area continues to face environmental threats, including development pressure, pollution, tourism, and climate change, all of which pose a unique set of challenges.

Since 1971, EAC has been advocating for land preservation in the villages and outlying areas from Dillon to Muir beaches. Some of our prior successes have included opposing the Marin County-Wide plan that would have constructed a six-lane highway from the Golden Gate Bridge to Point Reyes (creating suburbs and subdivided agricultural lands), supporting the Point Reyes National Seashore, supporting environmentally responsible agriculture, stopping the West Marin landfill expansion, and protecting the Drakes Estero Wilderness. Our current lands campaigns center around Protecting Public Lands, Parks for Everyone, and Advocating for Environmentally Sustainable Coastal Communities.

Seashore’s Plan for Ranches & Wildlife

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of finalizing their General Management Plan Amendment that will update management policies within 28,000 acres of the 78,000 Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore). The Seashore provides public access to wilderness, beaches, dunes, wetlands, coastal grasslands, and forests. It also currently contains commercial beef and dairy operations subject to lease agreements, whose continued operation is a subject of dispute.

The Seashore was established for public benefit and inspiration, protecting a rugged and wild coastal peninsula and surrounding waters, connecting native ecosystems, enduring human history, and recreational, scientific, and educational opportunities along the diminishing undeveloped coastline of the Western United States.

Earlier this year, the Seashore released its Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) and selected Alternative B, that expands multi-generational ranching with 20-year leases, limits the number of native tule elk, and adopts a new zoning framework and new programmatic direction for the planning area.

In 2019, EAC submitted comments on the Final EIS with a long list of concerns and shortcomings, some of those included:

- Abusing discretionary authority by using

an expanded definition of agriculture to allow for commercial diversification activities beyond beef and dairy ranching. This would allow the introduction of new types of livestock (chickens, sheep, and pigs) and the planting of row crops in the ranch core.

- Setting population limits that will require the killing of native species (tule elk).
- Failing to consider holistic planning approaches for the park, using the current lease boundaries and allowed uses as the baseline of the plan, and developing guidance that prioritizes commercial operations over the protection of park resources like critical habitats, species, recreational, and visitor experiences.

We are deeply concerned by the Final EIS, and are currently working on next steps before a Record of Decision is issued. Before the plan is finalized, NPS will need to obtain federal consistency determinations from other agencies, like: the California Coastal Commission, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board, United States Fish and Wildlife, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, before they file the Record of Decision.

Unfortunately, NPS is rushing the review of this plan, pushing for agency reviews to be completed before January 20, 2021 (before national leadership changes take place).

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Planning for our Future by Advocating for Sustainable & Resilient Coastal Communities

Part of our work to protect West Marin’s lands includes our advocacy for sustainable and resilient coastal communities, as we plan for our future together. This includes our tireless 10+ year-long dedication to the completion of a Marin County Local Coastal Program (LCP) update that will protect our coastal resources, as well as our more recent participation in Marin County’s Coastal Communities Working Group (CCWG). This working group is part of the implementation phase of the County’s past planning efforts including C-SMART (Collaboration: Sea-level Marin Adaptation Response Team).

Marin County is engaging with our coastal communities to identify potential solutions to adapt to the hazards of the climate crisis with the development of this working group. The purpose of the group is to provide local, community input on hazard and climate adaptation planning initiatives and projects in West Marin, including the Stinson Beach Nature-Based Adaptation and Tomales Bay Living Shoreline Feasibility Studies, finalizing the LCP environmental hazards sections (dealing with sea level rise), and the Stinson Adaptation and Resilience Collaboration Plan. These will include a range of sea level rise adaptation options for the natural environment (habitat) and built environment (houses and infrastructure), as well as for

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Protecting West Marin Waters

Marin County's water resources include a network of fresh and marine water systems that support globally significant and extraordinarily diverse onshore and offshore habitats. In rural West Marin, there are miles of county, state and federal trails and coastal public access points spanning from Dillon to Muir beaches where one can explore Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales Bay or the vast Pacific Ocean. Off Marin's shores one can experience the abundant biodiversity of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and the network of California's Marine Protected Areas.

Since 1971, EAC has protected and sustained West Marin's vibrant watersheds, including Tomales Bay and Bolinas Lagoon. We accomplish our work by protecting, preserving, and enhancing the unique and vulnerable marine and freshwater resources and habitats of these water bodies; restoring and maintaining water quality; and supporting policies and actions which employ precautionary principles to sustain the complex ecological functions of the watersheds. Our prior successes include protection of the Estero Americano and Estero San Antonio from land use development and sewage waste, banning the use of jet skis in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, protecting eelgrass habitat, securing a Marin County ordinance against offshore oil infrastructure, and the designation of Tomales Bay as the 19th USA Ramsar site, or wetland of international importance. Our current waters campaigns center around Ensuring Resilient Watersheds and Safeguarding our Coast and Ocean.

Safeguarding Our Coast & Oceans: Tomales Bay

Tomales Bay and its surrounding watersheds are ecological treasures that we are dedicated to ensuring remain healthy and vibrant. We work to protect, preserve, and enhance the unique and vulnerable marine and freshwater resources and habitats of the Bay, and support proactive policies and actions to sustain the complex ecological functions of the Bay and its watershed.

Although subject to a number of existing protections, the Bay and its shores face threats of ocean acidification, marine debris, and other environmental dangers. One of our roles is to monitor any commercial operations, including its primary industry, aquaculture (or shellfish cultivation).

We accomplish our work through a collaborative process with many stakeholders, and we closely follow the local, state, and federal aquaculture policies as they impact the Bay. 2020 has been a busy year for aquaculture with policy changes underway. This year, we formed an NGO coalition of coastal organizations to monitor key issues throughout the state. This includes new proposals for site operations in federal waters off the coast of California (outside of the state's jurisdiction), the development of statewide aquaculture principles by multiple agencies, problematic legislation that could limit regulatory oversight, a proposed moratorium on new aquaculture

leases in state waters, and the beginning of a statewide aquaculture plan (aquaculture plan) led by the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and informed by other state agency efforts including the development of a Commercial Marine Aquaculture Informational Report and Draft Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Guidance.

We generally support the concept of OPC's aquaculture plan, and we will continue to actively monitor concerning legislation including opposition where necessary. We also organized a group of partners to submit joint comments in general support of the Draft CDP Guidance.

We want to thank Richard James (the Coastodian) for his tireless advocacy and efforts to clean up Tomales Bay and the Bay Area and for his time and efforts on our Waters Committee.

We will continue to monitor local and state aquaculture and ensure the policies, regulations, and plans are coordinated and reflect conservation and environmental protection of West Marin's unique waters and marine resources. We remain committed to consistent state aquaculture regulation and a coordinated effort and look forward to sharing more on the Healthy Tomales Bay campaign in 2021, including ways for you to get involved.

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/tomalesbay

Marin Adopts Restrictions on Offshore Oil & Gas

When the Trump administration announced their terrible plan to expand offshore oil and gas development in 2018, we teamed up with the Ocean Foundation, and other coalition partners along the West Coast to Protect the Pacific! We thought these battles were over when the National Marine Sanctuaries were created; unfortunately, the last four years have reminded us that ensuring local control of our coastline and health is essential.

In August 2020, we successfully advocated for the unanimous adoption of a Marin County ordinance banning the development of onshore infrastructure for offshore oil and gas without a vote from Marin residents.

The county ordinance is particularly meaningful, as it provides a binding regulatory framework in opposition to offshore oil and gas exploration along our coast. While there was a string of these ordinances enacted in the 1980s, Marin's recent ordinance is the first of its kind in California since then! The ordinance builds on Marin County's past work to oppose fracking and the 2018 resolution to support Protection of our Ocean and Coast from Offshore Drilling and Fracking. Since 2017, more than 97 resolutions in opposition to offshore drilling have been adopted along the West Coast following the federal administration's plans to drastically expand

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Point Reyes National Seashore Water Quality Testing

In 2020, EAC announced our partnership with Marin County Environmental Health Service's Ocean and Bay Water Quality Protection Program, Surfrider Marin, and Point Reyes National Seashore to collect water quality samples in Point Reyes National Seashore at Drakes Beach and Drakes Estero, where testing has not occurred for many years.

This program will help to fill a critical gap in data along Point Reyes National Seashore beaches, and help inform the National Park Service and Marin County on the health of our ecosystems, and ensure safer recreational beaches in our public lands.

We have raised \$3,400 of our goal, thanks to the generosity of our donors, including Rudi Dundas, Bob Johnston and Peggy Bannan, Ron and Amanda Mallory, Deborah Moskowitz, Don Reinberg, and Charles and Susan Savage!

We still need to raise \$3,100 in order to complete our testing objectives. I want to personally ask you to join this community effort by making a special tax-deductible gift today!

Donate | www.eacmarin.org/water

Healthy Freshwater Systems for West Marin Watersheds

We are excited to launch a report on the State of Marin's Groundwater: A Proactive Analysis Exploring State and County Groundwater Regulations and Management in a Changing Climate.

With increasing impacts of changing climate and other water-related challenges, we want to ensure Marin County and our communities are prepared for these challenges. This report, which is the first of its kind locally, explores the current regulations in the context of a changing climate. The analysis concludes with recommendations related to possible local and state actions related to water resiliency.

Stay tuned for our upcoming Our Coastal Climate webinar, that will dive into this report.





Duxbury Reef, State Marine Conservation Area

Duxbury is a long, shallow reef at the southernmost end of the Point Reyes peninsula in Bolinas. The reef hosts abundant and diverse marine species that are easily observed by visitors at low tide among an intertidal complex of tidepools. It is one of the 124 Marine Protected Areas in California where hand collection of intertidal species is not allowed. Our Marin Marine Protected Area Volunteer Watch program reported increased visitation and poaching in the summer of 2020. We alerted the relevant county, state, and federal agencies and have been working to coordinate our volunteers with the agencies and enforcement officers to increase patrols and station volunteers on high-use visitation days at the trailhead. In November, we partnered with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and provided on-site docent services. A win for the reef, our educational efforts at the trailhead prevented multiple potential poaching activities from happening. We look forward to future collaboration with our agency partners. Thank you to our volunteers who helped provide outreach and education: Kent Khtikian, Frederic Leist, Silvana Montagu, and Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook.

Protecting West Marin Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the general variety and variability of life on Earth. Variation is measured at the genetic, species, and ecosystem levels. No feature of Earth is more complex, dynamic, and varied than the layer of living organisms that occupy its surfaces and its seas, and no other feature is experiencing more dramatic change at the hands of humans. California is one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world, with the highest number of unique plant and animal species of all 50 states and also the greatest number of endangered species. West Marin has been identified as being a part of the California Floristic Province, an internationally recognized botanical hotspot, with some of the most concentrated biological diversity and severe threat of loss.

Since 1971, EAC has been working to protect the incredible and irreplaceable biodiversity of West Marin. We work with agencies and partners who manage a wide range of parks, open space, and agricultural lands to provide long-term protection for the unique ecosystems supporting our species-rich environment. We continue to conserve coastal biodiversity by advocating to protect habitats for endangered, threatened, and special status species, including our work to protect the Tomales Dunes, nesting and migratory birds, and Marin’s western monarch, and through youth environmental education.

Marin’s Monarch Movement

The western monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) in coastal West Marin is in trouble. This population of butterflies spends its spring and summer west of the Rocky Mountain ranges, and in the fall it migrates to the California coastline (from Mendocino to Baja), where it seeks moderate temperatures and protection from storms by clustering in tree groves.

In the 1980s, it was estimated that more than 4 million butterflies migrated to California to overwinter. Today, for every 160 monarchs there were 30 years ago, only one is left flying. This is a 97% decline in population and places the butterfly on track for a probable extinction in the next 20-50 years (Xerces Society).

In 2018, EAC and Xerces Society volunteer (and former EAC board member), Mia Monroe, visited overwintering sites in Bolinas. At a location where more than 10,000 butterflies clustered in 2015, only 30 individuals were counted. In 2020, we only counted 15 butterflies. The decline in population is a signal of an overall decline in our environmental health.

Butterflies are markers of a healthy ecosystem; as they suffer, so do we. Constantly changing environmental conditions and pressures from human population (destruction of habitat, pesticides, and well-intentioned, but inappropriate actions) have created a dire

situation for the butterfly population. To address this situation, we partnered with Xerces Society, Salmon and Watershed Protection Network, Marin Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, and Marin Master Gardeners over the past two years to identify gaps in our response efforts and create a list of actionable items for individuals, communities, nonprofits, schools, land managers, and government agencies to act on in order to help support the monarchs.

With the help of our generous donors, we have completed our report entitled, *Marin’s Monarch Movement*, a needs analysis, where we conducted a regional survey of work being done to support the population of western monarch butterflies, and compared this against the five action steps designed by Xerces Society to provide overall support for the population.

Our report is set for publication on December 16th, the day after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife makes a determination whether to list this butterfly as an endangered species. The report will be available on our website.

A big thanks to our members whose tax-deductible donations made this work possible: Cynthia Lloyd, Mia Monroe and Stephan Meyer, Karen Culler and Thomas Weidinger Claire Eschelbach, Gail Grasso, and David and Patty Wimpfheimer.

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/western-monarch

Reducing the Impact of Future Wildfires in Marin

Understanding the complex ecological role that wildfire serves and how to cope with negative consequences of catastrophic wildfire on human communities and wildlife habitat has been part of EAC’s work since the 1995 Vision Fire ignited along Inverness Ridge. In 1996, EAC’s Phoenix Team, published the Phoenix Report on the Vision Fire, that provided a framework for habitat and human community restoration, public safety, and stewardship for the communities impacted by the Vision Fire.

Now, 24 years later, and on the heels of three years of disastrous fires in Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Napa, Paradise, and Healdsburg, among others... our community experienced the Woodward Fire, within the Point Reyes National Seashore’s Philip Burton Wilderness.

Marin County is facing the difficult truth that our communities are at increased risk of catastrophic wildfire due to the changing climate conditions and decades of fire suppression.

In an effort to take proactive action, Marin County voters approved the March 2020 parcel tax to establish and fund a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that connects Marin’s fire agencies, cities, towns, and county government to form the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) tasked with developing a coordinated program for wildfire

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Combating the Climate Crisis

In West Marin, the climate crisis will dramatically impact our coastal communities. Over the last century, global sea levels have already risen by 8 inches (NASA) and are projected to continue to rise in California by 7 feet by 2100 (California Principles of Aligned State Action). Rising sea levels will increase the frequency and intensity of coastal flooding and will result in other coastal hazards, like emergent groundwater and pollution. This places residences, roads, and other essential infrastructure in Marin County at risk. Rising sea levels also contribute to the destruction of critical habitat that provides valuable ecosystem and recreational services. In addition, the climate crisis will intensify our regional Mediterranean climate that is already prone to dry conditions and droughts, increasing the number and duration of extreme heat events and fires. This impacts not only public health by diminishing air quality and escalating heat related human illnesses, but it also affects the survival of plants and animals. All of these impacts create difficult challenges and decisions for communities to undertake; forced, at times, to balance the protection of infrastructure and property against the protection of our natural coastal ecosystems.

Since 1971, EAC has been dedicated to the protection of our irreplaceable habitats in West Marin. Our journey over the last 50 years has been focused on curbing irresponsible development to preserve our rural communities and connection to the environment. As we look to the next 50 years, we are working to support climate adaptation strategies based on the most up-to-date science and research available and foster community engagement and partnerships to build community resilience and adaptation to protect and enhance the lands, waters, and biodiversity that we all depend on.

Supporting Coordinated State Planning Efforts for Coastal Resilience & Adaptation

EAC supports California's efforts to coordinate and expand planning and communications around the most important issue of our lives - the climate crisis. Statewide efforts and guidance documents and the related planning processes, including EAC's long-standing efforts to update Marin County's Local Coastal Program, impact our coastal communities directly. We all need to plan for sea level rise and other climate impacts now!

Throughout 2020, we have been actively engaged in supporting coordinated efforts by state agencies including our support for the California Coastal Commission's adoption of Principles for Aligned State Action, a set of six major principles developed collaboratively, and to be implemented by multiple state agencies that reflect unified, effective action toward sea-level rise resilience grounded in the best available science, partnerships, alignment, communications, and local support.

The principles refer to a minimum target of 3.5 feet of sea level rise by 2150, which is based on the California Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) guidance and best available science. The Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission discussed that this figure

is a target for planning preparation to create a meaningful margin of safety, as new models typically predict more sea level rise and impacts related to king tides. We supported this step forward towards strong coordinated state action by submitting written comments.

We also supported OPC's funding and advancement of a statewide sea-level rise communications strategy: EAC's Conservation Director Ashley Eagle Gibbs, stated, "We understand the importance of collaboration and aligned action among state agencies as our coastal villages adapt to sea level rise and climate change impacts.... We also understand the importance of a strong and coordinated communications and education plan."

Consistent with our support for the state Sea Level Rise principles, we also supported the California Coastal Commission's adoption of the Local Government Working Group Joint Statement on Adaptation Planning. While raising some minor concerns, we added our particular support for long-range planning, nature-based solutions, the protection of priceless coastal resources, the community character of our coastal villages, and public access.

It is critical that we all work together locally and statewide across jurisdictions and agencies to adapt to the changing climate.

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Building Community Resilience & Local Partnerships

EAC is committed to building community resilience and local partnerships as our coastal communities face climate change together. Below is a snapshot of how we are working to combat the climate crisis.

Drawdown: Marin

Engages community members to develop solutions-oriented projects to reduce County greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% by 2050. This effort was modeled after Project Drawdown, a global research organization that identifies, reviews, and analyzes the most viable solutions to climate change. Some of the projects developed by community stakeholder groups have been integrated into the County's 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP) update.

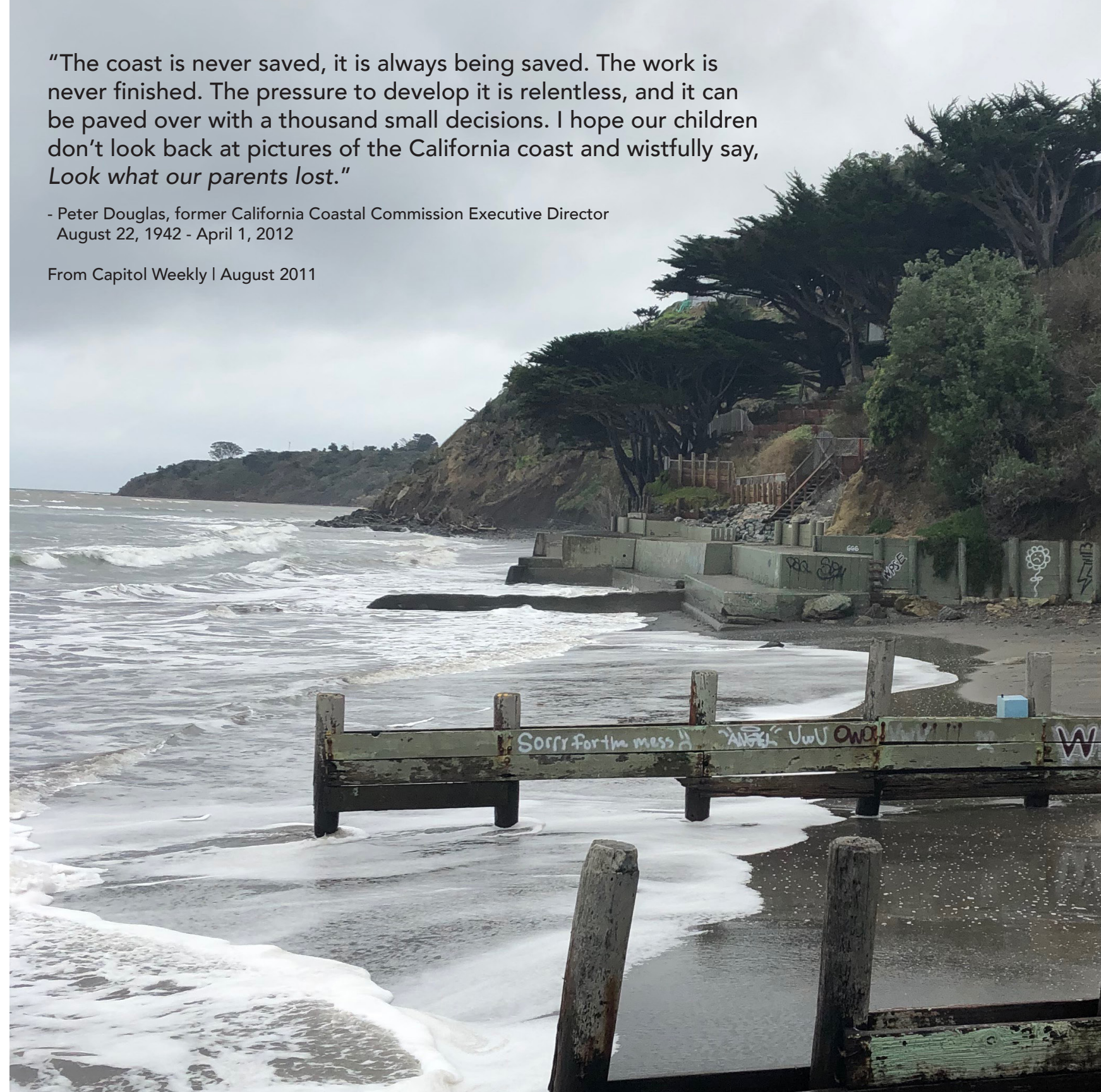
We participated in two Drawdown: Marin stakeholder groups focused on carbon sequestration and climate resilient communities with a goal to promote and highlight nature-based solutions and GHG reduction opportunities. We are also working with the equity task force that seeks to ensure that proposed solutions are equitable for all communities in Marin.

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"The coast is never saved, it is always being saved. The work is never finished. The pressure to develop it is relentless, and it can be paved over with a thousand small decisions. I hope our children don't look back at pictures of the California coast and wistfully say, *Look what our parents lost.*"

- Peter Douglas, former California Coastal Commission Executive Director
August 22, 1942 - April 1, 2012

From Capitol Weekly | August 2011



WAYS TO GIVE: JOIN, RENEW, SHOP & VOLUNTEER

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin is a member-supported environmental grassroots advocacy organization, which has been protecting and sustaining the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin since 1971.

As we approach our 50th anniversary in the summer of 2021, we want to invite you to join our member circle, renew your annual membership, or consider the number of other ways listed below that your support can make a lasting impact on our mission.

It's not too late to make a big impact for EAC! Give with purpose, and support our mission. Now, through December 31st, 2020, our board will match donor tax-deductible contributions up to \$20,000 total! Make a gift online, or mail your contributions to: EAC | PO Box 609 | Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

2020 CARES Act Tax Incentives For Charitable Giving Are Expiring!

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers tax incentives for giving that, unless extended by Congress, will expire at the end of 2020.

Specifically:

For those who take the standard deduction: You can take a one-time, above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made directly to qualified charitable organizations in 2020. Once this provision goes away, charitable donations will be deductible only if you itemize.

For those who itemize their deductions:

You can deduct up to 100% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash donations made directly to qualified charitable organizations* in 2020. Once this provision goes away, the maximum will revert to 60% of AGI.

Be aware that to qualify for either deduction, the gifts must be made directly to qualified charities, not via a donor-advised fund or other pass-through method.

In addition, don't forget qualified charitable gifts or IRAs are another way to give before the end of the year!



JOIN OR RENEW

Join our community of dedicated supporters whose annual contributions help us to protect and sustain the unique lands, waters and biodiversity of West Marin through advocacy, education, and engagement opportunities, so generations can experience the wild beauty of our coastal communities for years to come! Membership starts at \$35 for individuals and \$50 for households.

Member benefits include:

- Access to e-mail action alerts.
- Printed biannual newsletter.
- Early-bird access and registration to our annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival (each April).
- Invitations to our Annual Member Meeting, Awards & Potluck, Piper on the Ridge, Winter Gathering and more.

Often our efforts are not fought overnight, so your long-term support and generosity are critical to our ongoing efforts to ensure environmental protection measures are in place and lasting.

BECOME A GUARDIAN

Join our Guardian Circle with a gift of \$1000+, and join a group of key supporters whose annual gifts provide critical funding for our mission.

EXPAND OUR COMMUNITY CIRCLE WITH A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Introduce a friend or family member to our community of supporters by giving a gift membership. For gifts of \$100+, we will include a *West Marin Wild* pint cup and sticker as special gift.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT: WORKPLACE GIVING & EMPLOYER MATCHES

Double or even triple your impact for our mission by asking your employer about their workplace giving options, including annual payroll deductions, employer donation matches, or volunteer support programs. You can even use our link online to see if your employer has a matching gift program.

BE OF SERVICE: VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for dedicated individuals who want to donate their time or skills to the cause. From office help, to events, and special 50th anniversary tasks, we can use the extra help. Opportunities can be found online, or by contacting us directly.

GIFTS OF STOCK, DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS & QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS (IRA)

A gift of stock, or other appreciated assets can be an advantageous way to give. Get our stock instructions online, or contact your charitable fund or IRA to make a gift to EAC, today!

PLANNED GIVING & BEQUESTS

Where *there's a will, there's a way!* A new trend among donors is considering *giving, while living*, by including their favorite charity (like EAC!) in their planned giving bequests. This type of gift helps the organization with long-term planning, contact us for more info.

SHOP ONLINE WITH PURPOSE

Consider checking out the EAC online store with *West Marin Wild* pint glasses, utensils, stickers, tees and hoodies, and special wildlife prints, and note cards by Sarah Killingsworth Photography. Or shop through one or more of our Shop & Give Programs (*Giving Assistant*, *eScrip* or *AmazonSmile*) by adding the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin as one of your charities. Whether you're shopping for the holidays or throughout the year, this is an easy way to support our mission. Details online.

Contact Us (415) 663.9312 | www.eacmarin.org | giving@eacmarin.org

Mission Moment: Tomales “Honor Thy” Dunes Campaign

EAC was formed in 1971. By 1975, we were calling for a sewage disposal system at Lawson’s Landing at Dillon Beach. We are delighted to think that 45-short years later, our efforts will soon come to fruition, and that a wastewater system that protects Tomales Bay will be installed at this sensitive site.

The Tomales Dunes are a complex of several distinct habitats: mature mobile dunes, central dune scrub, dune prairie, and dune wetlands. They are surrounded by and connected to a rich coastal environment that includes coastal prairie, coastal scrub, salt marsh, tidal flats, bay and ocean. This extraordinary site, which includes a 230-foot high dune known as, Little Sugarloaf, supports at least nine special-status species.

These dunes are responsible for much of the unique character of Tomales Bay and the surrounding area. They provide a buffer to the prevailing westerly winds and modify the tides creating a relatively protected bay that is more complex, hospitable, and biologically diverse than a simple marine inlet. In addition, the rich variety of dune and coastal environments adds to the diversity of habitats on the Bay making it a year-round home and an important migratory stop-over for a variety of bird species. More than 40 species of waders and waterfowl find their winter roosting and feeding grounds at Tomales Dunes. This is one of only eight sites in North America where Pacific golden plovers (*Pluvialis fulva*) have been known to overwinter.

In 1998, EAC called Tomales Dunes “*Marin’s least-known ecological treasure*” when we challenged Marin County’s approval of a coastal development permit (CDP) that would have allowed camping on functioning wetlands and other sensitive habitat. It failed to include wetland and dune scrub protection buffers, requirements to cease artificial wetland drainage, restoration and habitat plans, invasive species removal (i.e. European beachgrass), protections for listed species, including the California red-legged frog and rare species like the Myrtle’s silverspot butterfly. In addition, that plan allowed continued sand quarrying and development of a septic system with a leach field to be placed inside the dunes and wetland.

In 2011, after 13 years of work and negotiations, a CDP was approved that:

- Reduced camping by 80% on sensitive habitat,
- Mandated 100-foot wetland and 50-foot dune scrub protection buffers,
- Removed roads constructed through wetlands,
- Eliminated private travel trailers to increase public access,
- Restricted livestock grazing in wetlands,
- Placed 465-acres into a conservation easement,
- Developed a traffic management plan,
- Required the septic leach field to be developed outside of wetlands,
- And included a Protection and Enhancement Plan (PREP) with a goal to restore and enhance the dunes-wetland complex by restoring the natural hydrology of the wetland and protecting listed and rare species.

With the finalization of the CDP, the work to implement the plans started. EAC continued to engage on this issue particularly concerning the PREP. The CDP also required that the property owners return to the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) with a CDP amendment outlining the plans for the septic system and leach field to be constructed on the uphill, agricultural portion of the property.

In 2015, an application to amend the CDP was received to move the leach field from the approved location to a portion of the property that was mapped as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) that is much closer to the Tomales Bay and the drinking water wells. This application was denied by the Coastal Commission’s executive director and appealed by the property owners who withdrew their appeal 48-hours before a Coastal Commission meeting to review the item.

Following that decision, additional amendment applications were submitted that included plans for the construction of new buildings and roads in areas of ESHA. EAC continued to engage on these application items which were denied by the Coastal Commission in 2017.

In 2017, EAC’s Executive Director, Morgan Patton, said, “*EAC looks forward to supporting an amendment to approve a septic system that meets the Coastal Act and Regional Water Quality Control Board standards.*”

In December 2020, a revised CDP amendment was reviewed by the Coastal Commission who approved the final plans for the wastewater treatment, bringing this chapter, of a 22-year campaign to protect and honor the Tomales Dunes, to a close.

The new application now includes requirements for the construction of the wastewater treatment facility and a timeline for implementation. EAC will continue to remain engaged in this process to see the construction of the wastewater facility come to fruition and ensure the protection of the Tomales Dunes and its sensitive habitats.

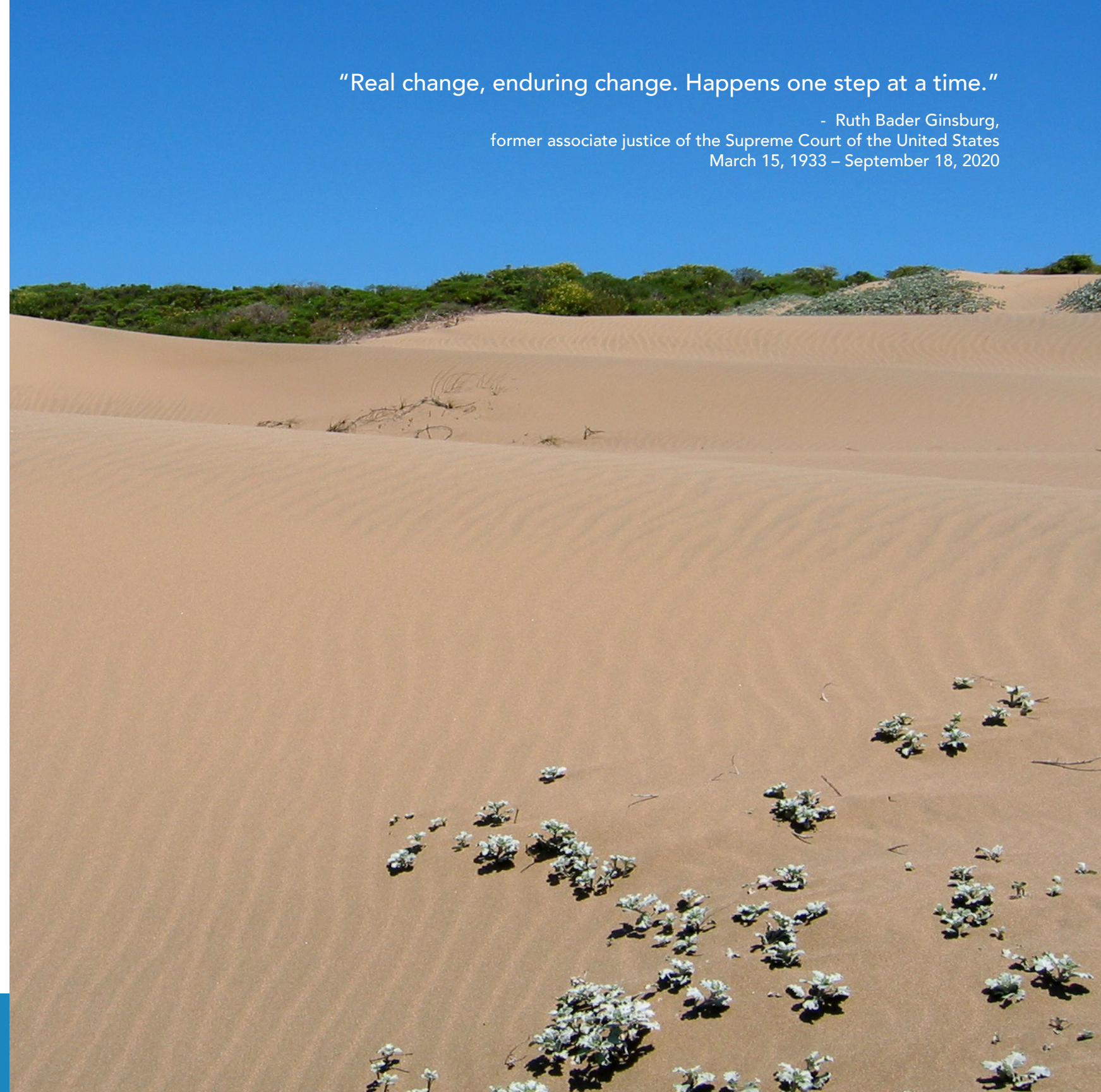
Thank you to our members and community - your long-term engagement made this work possible. Today, because of this work, the Tomales Dunes are recognized as a nationally important coastal resource that deserves protection. Thanks to our leadership, commitment, passion, and long hours of work; we succeeded in protecting this amazing place!

In addition, we are so grateful to Catherine Caufield, EAC’s Executive Director from 1999-2006, who has worked tirelessly for 22 years to ensure the protection of the irreplaceable habitats of the Tomales Dunes.

[Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/tomales-dunes](http://www.eacmarin.org/tomales-dunes)

“Real change, enduring change. Happens one step at a time.”

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg,
former associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
March 15, 1933 – September 18, 2020



Reducing the Impact of Future Wildfires in Marin *Continued*

prevention.

To monitor the activities of MWPA, EAC and partners - the Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Marin Audubon Society, and individuals (Roger Harris, Mary Anne Flett, and Terri Thomas) - created the Fire Ecology Resilience Network (FERN), with a goal to assure that fuel reduction programs (vegetation trimming and removal) do not cause ecological damage to native plants and wildlife.

This work is important. The \$190 million funding provided by Measure C has the potential to do great harm to our natural systems with inappropriate vegetation management that can create other problems like erosion, sedimentation, mudslides, proliferation of non-native invasive plants, and destroy habitat for numerous species.

In a proactive effort, FERN monitors and engages in the MWPA public process and submitted a proposed set of principles to:

- Encourage protection of species and ecosystems;
- Document the non-native invasive species before and after a project to ensure treatments are effective, and not unintentionally promoting non-native invasive species proliferation;
- Ensure that projects avoid erosion and stream sedimentation that could impact species and create flooding issues;
- Avoid negative impacts to wetlands and riparian areas;
- Encourage property owners to use native plants when replacing non-native species; and,
- Ensure full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The willingness of EAC and other conservation groups to support reauthorization of Measure C will depend on adherence by MWPA to these principles.

We will continue this work and are proud to announce FERN member (and former EAC Board President), Carolyn Longstreth (currently representing California Native Plant Society Marin Chapter) has been appointed to the MWPA Citizen Advisory Committee, and EAC's current board member Jerry Meral, will continue to engage in this work on behalf of EAC in the coming year.

Supporting Coordinated State Planning Efforts for Coastal Resilience & Adaptation *Continued*

You can count on EAC to stay engaged in state and local planning efforts that impact our coastal villages, as we work collaboratively to plan for climate change.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/climatechange](http://www.eacmarin.org/climatechange)

Marin Adopts Restrictions on Offshore Oil & Gas *Continued*

offshore drilling throughout the United States. Building on this success, we successfully advocated, alongside Surfrider, for a resolution in the town of Fairfax opposing offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities including seismic airgun blasting. We continue these efforts to secure additional local resolutions.

We stand in firm opposition to any prospects of drilling off our coast. Measures like the ordinance help to prevent continued reliance on fossil fuels that exacerbate the climate crisis and wreak havoc on sensitive habitats. This ordinance is a critical step in protecting Marin's diverse coastal ecosystems, while supporting sustainable energy in the midst of the biggest environmental crisis of our time, from which our state is severely suffering.

Since the 1970s, we have been pushing back against oil drilling off our coastline. Sometimes, it seems like a never-ending battle, but we are not giving up! We are honored to work with coastal conservation partners, like Richard Charter, Senior Fellow at Ocean Foundation, and Delia Bense-Kang, Northern California Campaign Coordinator at The Surfrider Foundation on this important work.

We are hopeful these local steps will establish an example for other jurisdictions throughout the West Coast to continue to take similar measures.

We will keep you engaged on how you can get involved in fighting offshore oil and supporting renewables in 2021.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/protectthepacific](http://www.eacmarin.org/protectthepacific)

Planning for our Future by Advocating for Sustainable & Resilient Coastal Communities *Continued*

protection, accommodation, and possible retreat. Besides acting in an advisory capacity, EAC's role is to be a liaison between the County and our local community. We are dedicated to supporting climate adaptation strategies based on the most up-to-date science, as well as advocating for our coastal resources. Although somewhat disrupted, like everything else this year, the CCWG has received updates on the progress being made on the Stinson Beach and Tomales Bay feasibility studies, and we have also shared initial input.

The Stinson Beach Nature-Based Adaptation project includes a potential dune enhancement and restoration study at Stinson Beach as an option for sea level rise adaptation. We are at risk of losing this beach as sea levels rise. The Tomales Bay Living Shoreline project is exploring the feasibility of living shoreline projects along the Bay. Sites and ecological considerations are being explored. Both of these studies will help the County better understand how nature-based adaptation strategies, such as wetlands and oyster beds, can provide flood and erosion protection, while supporting recreational opportunities and healthy ecological systems.

"Living shorelines (also called nature-based infrastructure) are used to adapt to sea level rise by taking advantage of natural features and processes to protect homes, businesses, and shoreline communities from flooding." (County of Marin)

EAC will continue to support communication between the County and the greater West Marin community, providing our community with project updates and opportunities for input, so we may collectively advocate for the best interests of our shoreline communities, including continued public access and habitat preservation. This includes efforts to make sure that the information is accessible to all.

Seashore Plan for Wildlife & Ranches *Continued*

The California Coastal Commission hearing is scheduled on January 14, 2021. We plan on releasing recommendations for comments to our membership community in December and finalizing our comments in early January. We will apply our guiding principles to ensure the protection and preservation of natural resources, restore degraded habitats and park resources, and to allow maximum public access to parklands in the ranchland area.

We continue to uphold the importance of the public process, push back on the ongoing and nationwide threats to privatize and degrade our public lands, and strategically address back room dealings and coercion that threaten the public trust as we continue our fight to protect the irreplaceable natural resources of the Seashore.

Considering the complexities of this issue, please contact EAC's Executive Director, Morgan Patton, directly if you have questions or concerns about our position. You can also stay up to date by reading our online blog. Stay tuned for more information in 2021.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/gmpa2017](http://www.eacmarin.org/gmpa2017)

Lands & Waters Committees

Our Lands & Waters Advisory Committees provide expertise on issues affecting West Marin, and makes recommendations to our board and staff with a lens on the impacts of climate change and effects on biodiversity.

LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bridger Mitchell, Ph.D., Chair
Terence Carroll, EAC Treasurer
Sarah Killingsworth, EAC Director
David Wimpfheimer, EAC Director
Morgan Patton, Executive Director
Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Conservation Director

WATERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Terence Carroll, Chair
Mairi Pileggi, EAC Director
David Weinsoff, EAC Director
Tom Baty, Inverness Resident
Bruce Brower, Bolinas Resident
Kevin O'Connor, Science Representative
Morgan Patton, Executive Director
Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Conservation Director

To learn more about our committees, contact Morgan Patton at (415) 663.9312.

Building Community Resilience & Local Partnerships

Blue Carbon Sequestration Project: Wetlands Restoration

This project group focuses on the ability of tidal wetlands and seagrass habitats to capture and store carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. An investment in wetland restoration supports many important benefits, including carbon capture, improved water quality, critical marine habitat, and increased resiliency through storm and flood protection.

In partnership with Melissa Ward, Tristin McHugh (Reef Check), Terry Sawyer (Hog Island Oyster Company), Margaret Minnick, Jonathan Wachter (Marin Agricultural Land Trust), Christina Toms (San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board) and Samuel Goldberger (Spherical Solutions), we presented a solution around the immense potential for carbon sequestration in aquatic environments like wetlands. We presented two local restoration projects (McGinnis Marsh and Novato Baylands) as examples, which are both underway and being implemented. There is great local and state potential for the scaling of additional blue carbon sequestration opportunities that we continue to support with our involvement in the statewide Wetlands Restoration Principles Coalition, the California Blue Carbon Collaborative organized by our partner WILD COAST, and the Estuary Working Group organized by the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative Network.

Community Resilience Project: Water and Energy Nexus

In partnership with Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) we presented a solution to reduce GHGs, harness sustainable energy, and create a resilient water supply able to weather climate related challenges, using our freshwater delivery systems. To do this, we explored options for small scale in-pipe

micro-hydro turbines that convert discarded pressure into kinetic energy. MMWD is the largest consumer of energy in the County and vulnerable to power interruptions (like PG&E power shut off events). Thanks to our Climate intern, Niklas Ugalde, and Board Member Mairi Pileggi, we connected with Marin Clean Energy and MMWD to restart conversations on this solution. Small scale in-pipe microturbines have an extremely low environmental impact footprint, as they are developed into existing infrastructure, and the technology has been in use for decades. We look forward to supporting additional planning and research on the use of this technology in Marin County.

Marin County's 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update

The County released their proposed update to the CAP in October 2020, and we submitted extensive comments with a focus on unincorporated West Marin. The County is reviewing community comments and expected to submit an updated draft to the Board of Supervisors in December 2020.

West Marin Climate Action Partnership

We are a member of the steering committee for West Marin Climate Action, a collaborative network of community members who have in common a deep caring for West Marin and concern about the impacts of climate change. Be sure to check our online calendar for how you can get involved in future events.



EAC Launches Our Coastal Climate Education Series with Rising Waters in West Marin Webinar

This fall, EAC launched our first of a series of Our Coastal Climate webinar meetings, an education series focused on the climate crisis.

Our first event, *Rising Waters in West Marin*, featured renowned speakers Dr. Charles Lester, former Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission and Director of the Ocean and Coastal Policy Center at the Marine Science Institute at UCSB; Dr. Kevin Befus, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Arkansas; and Dr. Patrick Barnard, Research Geologist with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center and the Research Director for the Coastal Climate Impacts Program and Co-Developer of the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS).

This well-attended online event explored rising sea levels, emergent groundwater, and ways to build coastal resilience through local action. EAC recognized that there is a need to expand public knowledge on the climate-related challenges.

Stay tuned for our 2021 webinars!

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/climatechange

Learn More
www.eacmarin.org/our-coastal-climate-online-educational-series

JOIN US

APRIL 22ND - 25TH, 2021

12TH ANNUAL
POINT REYES BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

Celebrating spring bird and wildlife migrations along the Pacific Flyway's #1 birding hotspot

Educational field outings and classroom-based events with the Bay Area's top birders and naturalists exploring the fauna and flora of Marin and Sonoma counties.

FREE youth program in partnership with Amigos Alados (Winged Friends).

TICKETS ON SALE
FEBRUARY 2021

Join or Renew
Members receive early-bird access and registration one week before public sales.

Individual membership starts at \$35, or \$50 for a household of two.

Become a
Friend of the Festival
Sponsorship starts at \$250 and includes donor benefits.

Register & Learn More
www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org

GIVING THANKS

Due to the pandemic, our 2020 festival was cancelled, but thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and attendees, we were able to bridge our spring fundraising gap, and host a number of free webinars to help keep folks inspired during the shutdown. The webinars are available for you to enjoy at your leisure on our website.

CONSIDER SPONSORING THE 2021 FESTIVAL & HELP US TAKE FLIGHT

Please know our committee is working hard to figure out how to best bring you the 2021 festival through a series of webinars, and small group field events, while considering a number of challenges in relation to the pandemic concerns. Consider sponsoring this annual fundraiser, so we can provide a modified festival with our popular guides.

More details coming soon at:

www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Jerry Meral, EAC Director
Claire Seda, EAC Director
David Wimpfheimer, EAC Director
Alison Quoyeser, Youth Programs
Morgan Patton, Executive Director
Jessica Taylor, Development Director
Patty Wimpfheimer, EAC Bookkeeper

Interested in joining our committee?
Contact us at events@eacmarin.org





We are uniquely positioned to provide hands-on environmental education and policy experiences with our position at the intersections of West Marin's county, state, and federal public lands and open space preserves. These experiences foster greater understanding of the natural world, inspire environmental stewardship, and engage youth and young adults through observation, science, technology, scholarship, and volunteerism. We believe in creating opportunities for young people to become advocates for the places we love; we currently have three program areas we are passionate about that provide educational opportunities for curious and passionate individuals.

Marin County Parks & Open Space Field Trips

Experiential science learning field trips with elementary students are the beating heart of our youth education program. Since 2016, in partnership with Marin County Parks and Open Space and our Marin Marine Protected Area (MPA) Volunteer Watch program, we have been able to provide free field trips to underserved schools in Marin County to explore and discover the diverse habitats of California's Marine Protected Areas and redwood groves. Unfortunately, all of our 2020 field trips were cancelled due to the pandemic, but the good news is we adapted! We've seized the present moment to redirect resources toward developing online learning tools for students and their teachers, including a series of bilingual educational videos, filmed on location at Agate Beach and Roy's Redwoods, which include a detailed teacher guide and student field journal written in both in English and Spanish. We look forward to distributing these materials in 2021 with our partners, and getting back outside to explore together. In the meantime, check out our extensive online resources available.

[Learn More](#)

www.eacmarin.org/eacenvironmentaleducation | www.eacmarin.org/online-educational-resources

Creating Career Pathways for Environmental Action

Each year, we welcome a cohort of environmental activists into our internship program. Despite the limitations of COVID-19, we were able to successfully welcome one of the largest college and graduate student internship teams to work with us this summer. Due to the pandemic, we adapted our internship program into a distance-based model this year, using online conference tools to welcome and work with our Coastal Advocates, Conservation Legal & Policy, and Climate Crisis interns. We are thrilled to see our internship program growing and to have the opportunity to connect young people with the dynamic environment of West Marin during their educational journey. A big thank you to our 2020 interns listed below, for all of your help and hard work to protect the places we love in West Marin!

Conservation Legal & Policy Interns: Emma Cervantes, University of San Francisco School of Law | Patrick Knauer, UC Berkeley | Jack Mensik, UC Davis School of Law.

Coastal Advocate Interns: Carolina Auerbach, Claremont McKenna College | Sophie Heimerdinger, California Polytechnic State University | Grace Milstein, University of Southern California | Silvana Montagu, University of Chicago.

Climate Crisis Advocate: Niklas Ugalde, Pitzer College.

[Learn More](#) | www.eacmarin.org/interns | [Apply: www.eacmarin.org/internship-apply](http://www.eacmarin.org/internship-apply)

Chan, Molina & Ridge Scholarships

We are proud to partner with College of Marin's (COM) biology department to provide scholarships in honor of three of COM's influential and iconic professors, Gordon Chan, Al Molina, and Russell Ridge. This scholarship is available to students completing their certification in natural sciences.

[Learn More](http://www.eacmarin.org/educationfund) | www.eacmarin.org/educationfund

Environmental equity describes a country, or world, in which no single group or community faces disadvantages in dealing with environmental hazards, disasters, or pollution. Ideally, no one should need extreme wealth or political connections to protect the well-being of their families and communities. Environmental equity is a basic human right. Environmental equity can be broken down into two categories—fair treatment and meaningful involvement. Fair treatment means that no single sect of the population should be disproportionately affected by environmental crises as a result of laws or policies. Meaningful involvement means that groups can offer input regarding decisions that affect their health or their environment.

If environmental equity is a basic human right, environmental justice is the act of protecting that right. Environmental justice involves the actions and activism necessary to highlight inequities and level the playing field. Equity is the outcome of environmental justice. An equitable society is one in which justice has been served. They are complementary, not one in the same.

In June 2020, EAC released the statement below in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and related events that highlighted systemic inequality, injustice, and racism in our nation:

"The killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and the treatment of Christian Cooper highlight injustices and inequalities that exist within our nation. No one is immune to bias or racism. Often we are blind to our privilege. We are all connected and, in this moment, it is important to pause to listen, learn, and reflect on our privileges and biases.

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin is committed to acting in an equitable and inclusive manner in our work. We understand environmental and social justice are intrinsically connected, and we actively support our diverse communities to advance a more equitable society.

We are listening, learning, and standing with everyone working to create a just and equitable future."

To build on our statement of solidarity, we are making cultural organizational changes a priority, which including:

- **Updating our environmental equity and justice policies** through a grant from the West Marin Fund. This funding will help us provide board and staff training, review and update our guiding principles, and policies.
- **Developing equity training for our network of naturalists, field guides and volunteers** who help us throughout the year with our field trips and the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival. Heading up this project is EAC's Educational Coordinator, Will Hubert, who is also a fellow with Youth Outside's Rising Leaders program, which focuses on connecting youth to the outdoors in culturally relevant and inclusive ways by affecting culture change within their organizations. He is expected to finalize this project in December, and we will offer the course to the field guides as a benefit in 2021.
- **Integrating tribal traditional ecological knowledge, and environmental equity and justice training tools for statewide docent programs** with our partners at the Golden Gate Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network (MPA) focused on MPA education. Our training focuses on three statewide regions and includes a diverse network of communities and tribal partnerships to bring it to life.
- **Providing a paid summer 2021 legal and policy internship** through a grant from JW & HM Goodman Family Foundation that will promote applications from students who require compensation as part of their internship.

Stay tuned for more information on this topic in 2021.

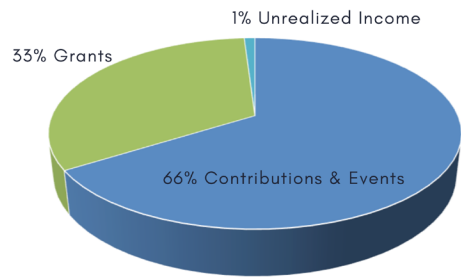


2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

Direct Contributions	\$148,136
Grants	131,700
Programs & Events	105,889
Retail Sales	8,177
Interest & Unrealized Income	3,560
Cost of Goods	-3,845

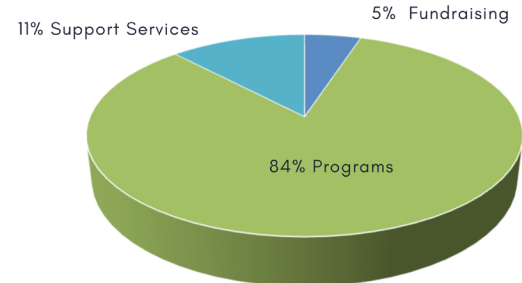
TOTAL \$393,617



Expense

Programs	\$309,935
Support Services	43,599
Fundraising	18,652

TOTAL \$372,185



Assets

Cash	\$193,050
Reserve Funds	88,521
Accounts Receivable	0
Prepaid Expenses	2,440
Fixed Assets	3,714

TOTAL ASSETS \$287,725

Liabilities

Other Liabilities	\$5,527
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Note: Year-end payroll/sales taxes \$3,559. Remaining credit card: paid in full January 2020.

\$5,527

Equity

Unrestricted Funds	\$191,707
Restricted Funds	90,491

\$282,198

TOTAL LIABILITY & EQUITY \$287,725

SUPPORTER SNAPSHOTS



Board Profile: Mairi Pileggi

"I have had the privilege to live in Inverness for over 21 years. During that time, I've witnessed the dedication and care EAC has for this extraordinary home I share with the plants and animals that make up my community. As a board member, I am especially grateful for the "quiet" work of EAC's board and staff: building relationships, educating residents, sharing resources, and protecting those other-than-humans whose needs are often overlooked. EAC's work with youth interns is most impressive. Students are working alongside staff on key environmental projects, developing skills to sharpen their role as environmental stewards and understanding through their practice that a small committed group can make a big difference. I'm especially excited to work with EAC on local climate resilience. I hope you'll join our community nonprofit."

Bio: A Quaker and passionate feminist, Mairi is committed to taking personal and political action on climate change. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication and Media Studies with a focus on environmental communication and is recently retired Professor from Dominican University of CA. A founding member of the International Environmental Communication Association, Mairi co-authored Environmental Communication Pedagogy and Practice. She is deeply rooted in West Marin and has shared her love of our local environment with her students and colleagues. She is an avid baker and gardener, she loves reading mysteries, spending time with her family, and watching her neighborhood crows.



Partner Profile: Dr. Charles Lester

"In California, we have been actively managing our coast for almost 50 years now. I would summarize that effort in three things: rule of law, science, and democracy. Certainly, groups like EAC have become an integral part of the success of California coastal management because it relies on people being engaged, using the law, and using science to move us forward based on the policies we put in place in the 1970s with the implementation of the Coastal Act."

Bio: Dr. Charles Lester is the director of the Ocean and Coastal Policy Center in the Marine Science Institute at UC Santa Barbara, where he researches, writes, and advises about sea level rise, coastal resilience, and other aspects of coastal law, policy and management. Charles previously worked for the State of California and the California Coastal Commission for twenty years, including serving as the agency's fourth executive director from 2011 to 2016. Charles is an expert in integrated coastal management and California coastal law and policy. Previously, Charles was an assistant professor of political science at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he taught environmental law and policy, with a focus on public lands governance and coastal zone management. He received his Ph.D. and J.D. from UC Berkeley, and a B.A. in Geochemistry from Columbia University.



Donor Profile: Mia Monroe

"My husband and I have been EAC members since 1996, and I currently partner with the EAC team on the Marin's Monarch Movement and Working Group. I strongly support EAC's local advocacy leadership, youth education, MPA Watch program, and unique events, like Piper on the Ridge, which I help organize each year. I encourage everyone to get involved in this grassroots nonprofit as they celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2021."

Bio: Mia Monroe is National Park Service Ranger, at Muir Woods National Monument, who acts as an NPS ambassador in her current role as Marin Community Liaison Planning Division. She has introduced countless Bay Area residents and visitors to the wonders of the Bay Area's rich and unique natural ecosystem for nearly 40 years. Mia supports Muir Woods Redwood Renewal team, and is a representative for OneTam. In addition, she was a former EAC board member, and the recipient of our 2018 Peter Behr Steward of the Land Award.

2020 KEY SUCCESSES

- Protected the Tomales Bay dunes habitat, a 45-year campaign to protect environmentally sensitive habitat at Lawson's Landing, Dillon Beach, CA.
- Advocated for protection of our public lands and sustainable land management through the General Management Plan Amendment public process for Point Reyes National Seashore, which will determine long-term management of the Seashore.
- Adoption of a Marin County ordinance banning the development of onshore infrastructure for offshore oil and gas.
- Finalized the Marin's Monarch Movement Report, that analyzes regional response efforts to support a thriving western monarch butterfly population in Marin County by identifying gaps, building stakeholder relationships, and creating action items for individuals, communities, and organizations to act to preserve biodiversity.
- Finalized a Marin County Groundwater Report: A Proactive Analysis Exploring State and County Groundwater Regulations and Management in a Changing Climate, which addresses water resiliency in the face of a changing climate, and is the first report of this type for Marin.
- Promoting local solutions to our climate crisis by advancing two Drawdown: Marin working group solutions including Blue Carbon Sequestration, through conservation and restoration of our natural aquatic systems, and the Water/Energy Nexus, designed to capture currently discarded energy in existing infrastructure using small in-pipe turbine solutions.
- Advocated for adaptable communities and the preservation of coastal resources by monitoring local coastal adaptation projects as part of Marin County's Coastal Communities Working Group and supporting unified state sea level rise principles and communications strategies.
- Collaborated with partners to ensure sustainable state aquaculture, and a coordinated marine protected area preservation effort, including protecting Duxbury Reef, extending the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary nomination, and the launch of a water quality testing program at Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Addressing inequity and environmental justice by sponsoring our educational coordinator as a fellow with Youth Outside to learn about equitable access to outdoor education and develop a bilingual training toolkit for our community of naturalists; and reviewing our internal policies and guidance to ensure that we are carefully considering equity and environmental justice.
- Fostered the next generation of environmental stewards through providing two College of Marin scholarships, and through our high school, college, and law student internships.
- Engaged our community through online events including our Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival webinars, Annual Member Meeting, Our Coastal Climate webinar, and our Winter Gathering.



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65 Third Street, Suite 12 | PO Box 609
Point Reyes Station, California 94956

www.eacmarin.org

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David Wimpfheimer

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Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq. | Conservation Director
Jessica Taylor | Development Director
Will Hubert | Education Coordinator
Catherine Caufield | Tomales Dunes Consultant
Patricia Wimpfheimer | Bookkeeper

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Gerald Meral, Ph.D.
Mairi Pileggi, Ph.D.
Claire Seda

PHOTO CREDITS

Catherine Caufield, Cover with non-native grass and pg. 15
Marc Detraz, pg. 8
Gerald Kawamoto, Back Cover
Sarah Killingsworth, pg. 12 and 19
CDFW map, pg. 8

JOIN THE MARIN MPA WATCH TEAM

Volunteers are trained to act as community scientists by conducting beach surveys on human-use activities in four site-specific marine protected areas (MPAs). The data is used to inform the management, enforcement, and science of California's MPAs and allow us to see how human uses are changing as a result of MPA implementation.

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/mpa-watch

