

Marin County's Local Coastal Plan

© Carlos Porrata

What would West Marin look like today if we had adopted a different Local Coastal Plan (LCP) in 1981?

This is an important question for a community shaped by a robust history of environmental activism, that created a national seashore, modified a county-wide plan to halt the installation of a six-lane freeway, stopped a nearby nuclear power plant, and provided the foundation to create leaders in sustainable agricultural and family farming practices.

The 1976 California Coastal Act requires each local government within the coastal zone to develop a LCP. The Marin County LCP defines where, how, and when development can occur in the coastal zone. In addition to providing environmental protections, LCPs must allow public participation that create pathways for communities to voice concerns over development proposals that may negatively impact natural resources, coastal views, and public access.

The Marin County LCP, certified in 1981, has provided a development framework for public participation that has successfully protected and conserved natural and coastal resources, the community character of our unique coastal villages, our scenic vistas, public access to coastal areas, and our agricultural lands of West Marin.

In 2008, Marin County embarked on a process to amend the current LCP. The amendment process is an excellent opportunity for the public to ensure that the amended LCP is a comprehensive and forward-thinking document that recognizes the distinct and valuable natural resources of the coastal zone while addressing the impending challenges of climate change and sea-level rise.

Over the last eight years, EAC – the only environmental group that has tirelessly participated in every public workshop and planning meeting for the LCP amendments – has submitted extensive public comments to both the California Coastal Commission and Marin County, advocating for strong coastal protections, public access, public participation, and enforceable standards in the amended LCP.

Continued on page 4

Executive Director's Report

As I write my first director's report and organization newsletter, I am proud to reflect on EAC's many successes this year. EAC is the only grassroots environmental watchdog organization in West Marin, and we have been working diligently on several local environmental issues including:

- reviewing hundreds of pages of the Marin County Local Coastal Plan amendments and preparing comprehensive comments that highlight areas where environmental protections are weakened;
- staying engaged in the public process for the Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan and working with ranchers and other environmental groups;
- advocating against the inclusion of environmentally harmful pesticide treatments in the West Marin Mosquito Council Renewal Agreement that could affect our delicate ecosystems in West Marin;
- successfully organizing our annual Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival which brought over 400 people to Point Reyes and provided over 30 student and educator scholarships to the community;
- and creating opportunities to train the next generation of environmental advocates as stewards of our West Marin community!

Since 1971, EAC has been committed to **protecting what you love in West Marin**. EAC continues to advocate for the protection of the irreplaceable habitats and unique ecosystems of West Marin. Residents and visitors alike have been able to count on EAC to act as an important environmental voice.

Thank you to the EAC board, our members, volunteers, and other supporters for your dedication and generous support of our mission. Your continued support ensures we leave a lasting environmental legacy in West Marin for our current and future generations.

With gratitude,

Morgan Patton
Executive Director

P.S. We can't do this important work without you, so please consider a special summertime gift to help us reach our goals. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today or visit our website at www.eacmarin.org/donate.



EAC's Mission

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) is a tenacious, highly effective grassroots advocacy organization founded in 1971 that is dedicated to the protection and appreciation of West Marin's wild land, wildlife, wilderness, watersheds, and rural character.

EAC works for clean air, pure waters, healthy ecosystems, a diverse and thriving native flora and fauna, and the preservation of a rural, community spirit. EAC uses law, policy, science, and education to:

- monitor, publicize, and campaign against threats to West Marin's natural environment;
- educate the public and policy-makers about the environmental issues facing West Marin;
- provide reliable information about controversial issues in order to create a common ground of understanding and promote informed debate; and
- encourage and facilitate productive resolutions to land-use conflicts by working closely with those who own, manage, and use West Marin's lands.

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West Marin Advocate Takes Helm of EAC

Bridger Mitchell | Board President

As EAC continues to support the community, the organization is returning to its roots by hiring a local resident and advocate. In February, we announced the appointment of Morgan Patton as our new Executive Director. Morgan is very familiar with the organization, having ably served as our Program Coordinator and Development Director.

“As I take the helm of EAC, I look forward to working with our community. One of my strengths is my ability to manage systems and utilize my skills to build a team focused on maintaining EAC’s excellent track record of effective local environmental advocacy, education and stewardship.”

The EAC is committed to building community relationships through our programs and stewardship activities, while continuing to deliver effectively on the local policy issues that matter most to West Marin. Morgan’s experience and background, her ability to manage major programs including EAC’s Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival and the Marin MPA Watch, and her connection to the community are all assets to our mission in West Marin.

“West Marin has always been a part of me,” Patton said. “I spent most of my childhood in Dogtown on my great-grandmother and great-aunt’s property. I have fond memories of Bolinas and Stinson beaches, of horseback riding on our trails, and of exploring the outdoors with my cousins. Not many people have the chance to nurture the community and environment that nurtured them, and I appreciate this wonderful opportunity to give back.”

Morgan currently resides in Forest Knolls with her family. She is a fifth-generation Marin County resident; her great-great grandfather was a homesteader in Mill Valley. Her childhood in West Marin shaped her appreciation for the environment and environmental education, which directed her to earn her degree in Humanities with a concentration in Environment, Culture, and Sustainability from Dominican University of California.

Meet Our Team

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq. | Conservation Director

Ashley joined the team in June and will focus initially on coastal resource protection issues and take a leading role on the Local Coastal Plan amendment review. Ashley is a Marin County native and brings with her a strong background in environmental policy and advocacy.

Ashley’s love of the outdoors and desire to preserve the environment prompted her to obtain a law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law, where she graduated with Certificates of Specialization in both Public Interest and Environmental Law with Distinction. Ashley is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound, where she obtained a B.A. in Comparative Sociology, with minors in French and Environmental Studies.



Jessica Taylor | Membership Director

Jess joined the team in May with an extensive experience in supporting national parks and environmental education. Jess’ first love of the outdoors came as a young child in Illinois where she spent whole days playing outside, collecting fireflies, riding bikes and tilling the soil in

her grandma’s backyard. Jess has worked with the Youth Conservation Corps in Yosemite National Park, as an interpretive ranger for the Point Reyes National Seashore, and most recently as the Annual Fund Manager for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association. Jess holds a B.A. in Communications with a minor in Public Relations from Sonoma State University, an A.S. in Forestry with a minor in Interpretation, and an A.A. degree from Reedley College.



Daniel Dietrich | Board Member

Daniel joined our team as our newest board member. Daniel is a professional wildlife photographer and a certified California Naturalist. His travels have taken him and his camera to every continent on the planet to photograph wildlife. When

home, he spends nearly every day in Point Reyes National Seashore. Daniel lives in Point Reyes with his wife and two daughters.



Advocacy | Issues Facing West Marin

Local Coastal Program (LCP) Amendments

The amendment process is an excellent opportunity for the public to ensure that the amended LCP is a comprehensive and forward-thinking document that recognizes the distinct and valuable natural resources of the coastal zone...



Point Reyes State Marine Reserve (Drakes Beach) located within Point Reyes National Seashore

[Join our LCP Action Alert List:](#)

If you are interested in learning more and becoming an active participant in the LCP public process, contact us at info@eacmarin.org

Learn more about the proposed LCP and EAC's analysis online at

www.eacmarin.org

Continued from cover...

What will West Marin look like in 30 years if the County proposed LCP is adopted?

EAC has serious concerns about the County's proposal and its lack of enforceable environmental standards, adjustments to wetland and stream buffers, and missing guidelines for sea-level rise adaptation. For example, the threat of sea-level rise to public works like transportation, wastewater, and utilities is not adequately addressed.

The proposed LCP amendments could strip away the Coastal Act's wide opportunity for the public to appeal development proposals that could have lasting consequences. For example, the public will lose its right to appeal expansion of agricultural operations that include new farm stands and large production facilities that will likely result in increased traffic. Additionally, the public will lose the ability to appeal elevated housing in flood plain areas (coastal and inland) which will obstruct views and alter community character.

We implore our community to review the proposed amendments to Marin's LCP and ask questions, such as:

- Do some amendments diminish public participation in decisions affecting development in the coastal zone?
- Do the amendments provide protections for unique and sensitive habitats that are as strong as those in our 1981 LCP?
- Do the amendments provide sufficient guidance for the community to adapt to climate change?
- Do the amendments reflect your vision of future development in our community for the next three decades?

How to get involved

Getting involved in this issue is your opportunity to make a lasting environmental impact in your backyard. When the proposed LCP is adopted, it will guide the nature and pace of development over the next three decades in West Marin.

EAC keeps our members up to date on the public meetings, hearings, and comment periods to ensure that the environmental and community perspective is well represented to our public officials.

Public comment and participation in this process will make a difference for West Marin!

EAC Supports Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan



Cattle grazing overlooking Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve located within Point Reyes National Seashore

EAC supports the extension of operating permits for multi-generational sustainable ranching that ensures the protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment of the Seashore leaving it unimpaired for future generations.

Since 2014, EAC has participated in the public process initiated by the Point Reyes National Seashore in their development of the Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan (RCMP).

What is the RCMP?

The RCMP originated when the former Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, upheld the wilderness designation of Drakes Estero and issued an order for the Seashore to pursue the extension of agricultural operating permits in the pastoral zone.

The RCMP provides an opportunity for the Seashore, with public participation, to create a framework for the protection of natural resources and the management of multi-generational sustainable ranching operations in the pastoral lands.

Our Role

Recently, EAC established a board and staff sub-committee dedicated to this issue. We are actively working to address the many complicated environmental issues raised in the public planning process.

EAC believes the RCMP is a constructive and environmentally responsible method

to address concerns raised around the extension of ranching operating permits balanced against the natural resource protection for wilderness, wildlife, recreation, and public access issues within the Seashore.

EAC is committed to a comprehensive review of the issues to 1) protect and preserve natural resources, 2) restore degraded habitats and natural resources, and 3) support the right to public access.

EAC supports the extension of 20-year operating permits for multi-generational sustainable ranching that ensures the protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment of the Seashore leaving it unimpaired for future generations.

Current Status

The Seashore is currently drafting the RCMP, and we look forward to the publication and providing necessary comments on environmental impacts.

Learn more at
www.nps.gov/pore
and on our website
www.eacmarin.org

Advocacy | Issues Facing West Marin

West Marin Mosquito Council Renews Agreement

Pesticides that are not Organic Materials Institute approved are incompatible with the protection of West Marin's community health, watersheds, organic farms, and wildlife.

Inclusion of the San Geronimo Valley is critical for a healthy Tomales Bay Watershed

What is the WMMC?

The West Marin Mosquito Council (WMMC) was established in 2006 to protect community health and the ecosystems of West Marin. The council was formed in response to the annexation of West Marin into the jurisdiction of the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (MSMVCD).

The WMMC includes representatives from all the West Marin villages who negotiated an agreement in 2007 to limit the types of pesticides used to abate mosquitoes by the MSMVCD.

Our Role

EAC serves as the primary environmental group on the WMMC. We help review policy in an effort to protect our community.

Current Status

Renewal negotiations began in the fall of 2015 with representatives from the WMMC. The negotiations centered around:

- 1) The MSMVCD's requirement to include methoprene, a known estuarine and marine invertebrate toxin to replace the pesticide Agnique MMF to kill the pupa life-stage of mosquitoes in septic tanks.
- 2) WMMC member's request to include the San Geronimo Valley which would ensure a healthy Tomales Bay Watershed.

On May 9, 2016, the WMMC voted on the agreement renewal with six supported votes, two opposed, and one abstained.

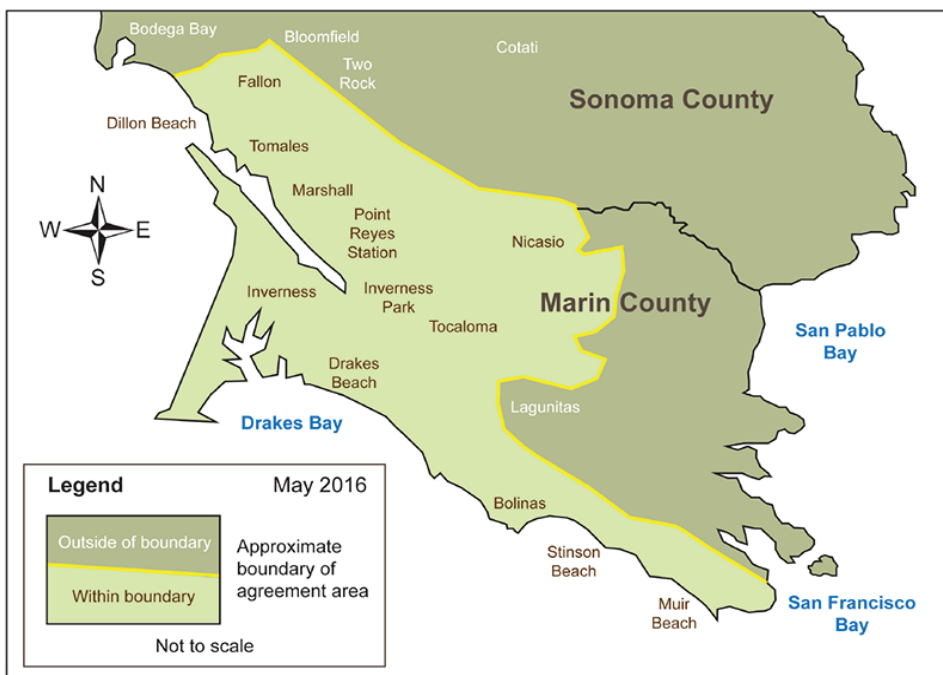
Our Position

EAC opposed the renewal of the agreement based on the inclusion of methoprene (even in limited use in improperly sealed septic tanks), and due to the exclusion of the San Geronimo Valley from the agreement.

EAC adamantly opposes the inclusion of pesticides for use in West Marin which are not approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute.

[Learn more at www.eacmarin.org](http://www.eacmarin.org)

Areas of Marin County Included in WMMC-MSMVCD Agreement



Pesticides included in WMMC Agreement

- 1) Bacillus sphaericus (Bs)
- 2) Bacillus thuringiensis (Bti)
- 3) Spinosad (Natular)
- 4) S-methoprene*
- 5) Monomolecular film (Agnique MMF)**
- 6) Mosquito larvicide oils (CoCoBear)**
- 7) Pyrethrin (non-synergized) (Merus 2.0)

* Restricted use only in septic tanks

** Restricted to septic tanks, small ornamental ponds, and dairy ponds

Advocacy | Issues Facing West Marin

Lawson's Landing - Coastal Development Permit

Catherine Caufield | Tomales Dunes Program Consultant

Lawson's Landing has backed down on efforts to put a wastewater treatment plant and leachfield into an environmentally sensitive habitat near the coast.

In December 2015 Lawson's Landing applied to the Coastal Commission for an amendment to the Coastal Development Permit that was issued in 2011. They sought approval for moving the planned new wastewater treatment plant and leachfield from the approved location on the upper, agricultural part of the property to a part of the property that the Coastal Commission has identified as an environmentally sensitive habitat, and is much closer to Tomales Bay and Lawson's Landing's drinking water wells. For these reasons, the

Coastal Commission's Executive Director denied their application.

Lawson's Landing appealed this denial. In response, the EAC and many members of the public wrote letters asking the Coastal Commissioners to reject the appeal. On April 11, 2016 less than 48 hours before the matter was to be heard, Lawson's Landing withdrew their appeal.

This was a wonderful victory, because it means that the Commission intends to protect the environmentally sensitive habitat at Lawson's Landing and is committed to enforcing the protections included in the 2011 Coastal Development Permit.

EAC expects another amendment to be filed in the near future, since the 2011 permit requires the Lawson's to apply for final approval of the wastewater treatment system that was described in their permit. A functioning septic system is key to bringing Lawson's Landing into compliance with the Coastal Act.

EAC looks forward to supporting an amendment to approve a septic system that meets the Coastal Act and Regional Water Quality Control Board standards and will allow Lawson's Landing to move forward with this key coastal improvement.

EAC Rallies Support For Dr. Lester at Commission Hearing

When the EAC heard in January 2016 about the Coastal Commissioners' motion to terminate their Executive Director Dr. Charles Lester, we were highly concerned his termination could compromise the integrity of the Commission's professional staff.

To show our support, EAC organized a bus to travel to Morro Bay, California to attend the hearing and show public support for Dr. Lester. Over 1,000 people from across the state attended and provided over nine hours of public comments.

Dr. Lester was appointed five years ago at the recommendation of his predecessor, Peter Douglas. During his tenure, Dr. Lester had a proven track record of passionately protecting the California coast with the guidance of fulfilling the vision of the Coastal Act.

Sadly, the Coastal Commission ignored public and staff comments and voted to dismiss Dr. Lester in a closed session.

Since the meeting in February, the Coastal Commission has been subjected to increased public scrutiny on their conduct and relationships with developers, specifically in their ex parte communications between commissioners and developers on development proposals. [Learn More at www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-coastal-commission-20160211-story.html](http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-coastal-commission-20160211-story.html)



Bridger Mitchell, Board President, providing public comments



EAC members travelling to Morro Bay, CA

Stewardship | Get Involved

Volunteers Needed: Marin MPA Watch

MPA Watch is a citizen science monitoring program that trains volunteers to observe and collect data about coastal and marine resource use inside and outside of California's network of 124 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

The Marin MPA Watch is a local program collaboration managed by EAC, Point Reyes National Seashore, and California Academy of Sciences working together to train the public to monitor the human activities of our North Central MPAs.

The program is part of a state-wide group of organizations recording human activities within California's network of MPAs. The information collected helps inform agencies, organizations, and local communities about how human beings are interacting and using the MPAs.

MPA Watch programs involve local communities, create pathways for learning about marine and coastal resources, and inspire and empower ocean stewardship.

Join Marin MPA Watch!

EAC is currently looking for volunteers to monitor sections of Limantour and Drakes beaches in Point Reyes National Seashore and in the Corte Madera Marsh.

This is a great way to get outside, be involved in your community and learn about citizen science. All we ask is for you to commit to a half day training, at least two beach walks per month, and to complete a survey form.

Upcoming August Training Dates:

August 6 | 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Drakes Beach, Point Reyes National Seashore

August 20 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Corte Madera Marsh

Learn more at www.eacmarin.org

Sign up for training RSVP to
marinmpawatch@eacmarin.org



Sayra Trejo, Morgan Patton, and Conner Cimmiyotti conducting MPA survey overlooking the Point Reyes State Marine Reserve (Drakes Bay) in June 2016

New Ocean Exploration Center at Point Reyes Lighthouse

On World Oceans Day, June 8th, EAC staff traveled to Point Reyes Headlands to celebrate the grand opening of the new Ocean Exploration Center, a partnership effort between Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Point Reyes National Seashore. The Center includes new exhibits and a viewing room which overlooks the Great Beach. Make sure to check it out on your next visit to the park.

Contact the Point Reyes National Seashore Lighthouse Visitor Center for visiting hours and special night tours at (415) 669-1534 or visit www.nps.gov/pore.



Education | Get Outside

Folks Flock to 2016 Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival

The 2016 Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival was held in April over Earth Day weekend and was a great success. The Festival takes place annually at the height of spring migration within the Point Reyes National Seashore and surrounding areas.

Participants see migrating seabirds, waterfowl, resident and migrant land birds, raptors, alcids, and owls. In addition to the unique birding opportunities, there are stunning wildflower displays, butterflies, dragonflies, migrating whales, elephant seals, sea lions, and Tule elk waiting to be discovered.

Highlights of this year's Festival:

- **50 field events attended by over 400 attendees** and led by well-known naturalists and biologists.
- **More than 200 species of birds sighted** in West Marin over the three-day festival.
- **30 scholarships awarded** to students and teachers to help extend their environmental education.
- **Keynote speaker Paul Bannick**, a Seattle-based naturalist and photographer, took our audience on an auditory and visual exploration of western bird habitats and released his new book, *The Owl and Woodpecker*, much to the delight of our guests. Bannick also led a youth field event that explored the relationships of owls and woodpeckers of the Point Reyes National Seashore.



A sincere thank you to all of our sponsors, auction donors, vendors, field guides, speakers, volunteers, and all the attendees who made the Festival a success! It takes a village to make this annual event happen, and we could not do this event without your support and continued loyalty.

We look forward to seeing you in April 2017 for another fun-filled Festival!

All Aboard for the Annual Cordell Bank Pelagic Trip



© Steve N. G. Howell

Join us Sunday, October 23rd for a full-day boat excursion to Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary aboard the New Sea Angler with guides Steve Howell and Dan Singer.

We will depart from Bodega Bay Harbor and have a chance to see whales, albatrosses, seals, and dolphins while learning about our marine sanctuaries.

Reserve your seat today!

\$140 EAC Members | \$155 Non-EAC Members
October 23 | 7:00 am - 5:00 pm | Bodega Bay Harbor
Email us at events@eacmarin.org to sign up

EAC Event Highlights

Annual Member Meeting & Potluck

EAC welcomed the start of summer with our annual member meeting and potluck at the Dance Palace Community Center on June 10th.

EAC honored Dr. Charles Lester with our Peter Behr Steward of the Land Award. Dr. Lester was awarded this honor for his inspirational leadership and passionate commitment to the protection of California's coast.

EAC also presented awards to members Carlos Porrata and Ed Nute for their commitment to the preservation and protection of West Marin's wildlife, wild lands, watersheds, and rural character through their community engagement.

Thank you to all of our members who participated, volunteered, and brought an outstanding selection of homemade dishes to share. We hope you can all join us next June!



Catherine Caufield presenting our Peter Behr Steward of the Land Award to Dr. Lester.

The Next Generation of Birders in the Wetlands



EAC was proud to host 3rd and 4th graders from the Lagunitas School District for an afternoon of birding. They learned how to use binoculars, identify birds, and listened to bird calls. This mini *Bird-A-Thon* was held in the Giacomini Wetlands in partnership with Tom Rusert of Sonoma Birding, one of the co-founders of the Christmas Bird Count for Kids. EAC continues creating opportunities for kids to learn about birds and explore the environment.

EAC Volunteers Extract Non-Native Plants

Gerald Meral | Board Member

EAC recently jumped into action to remove invasive species in an effort to protect our wild and agricultural lands throughout West Marin. Invasive species are a huge concern since they crowd out native plants, reduce wildlife habitat and food, effect grazing ranges, and can increase fire fuels.

While public land agencies and private landowners continue their efforts to control these weeds, they need our help. Equipped with sturdy *extractigators* (a weed wrench capable of uprooting even a ten foot tall broom plant).

EAC volunteers cleared weed infestations along Sir Frances Drake Boulevard, Seahaven, and several locations in Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. Some of the worst invaders included scotch and french brooms, pampas and jubata grasses, cape and english ivy, mattress weed, acacia, monterey pine, and a variety of thistles.

Stay tuned for opportunities to assist us in this effort or visit www.nps.gov/pore to help volunteer for one or more habitat restoration programs in the Seashore.

JOIN US ! Outings | Trainings | Volunteer



Marin MPA Watch Volunteer Training

Volunteer with us on the beach this summer to learn about California's network of Marine Protected Areas and how you can become a citizen-scientist.

August 6 | 8:00 am - 11:00 am | Drakes Beach, Point Reyes
August 20 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm | Corte Madera Marsh



Give Back Tuesday at Iron Springs Pub & Brewery

Join us for food, brews, and possibly a game! 10% of the night's proceeds will benefit our mission. All ages encouraged -- make it a family night out.

September 6 | 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm | Fairfax



California Coastal Clean Up Day

Volunteer with us to clean up the beach during this state-wide clean up event. Bring a reusable trash bag, gloves, water and a picnic lunch. Wear layers, a hat and sunscreen. RSVP and let us know you are coming.

September 17 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm | Drakes Beach, Point Reyes



Litter Bugs Me

Join us for our annual roadside community clean up. More details coming soon.

October 1 | 9:30 am - noon | Platform Bridge Road, Point Reyes
Additional locations and times between September 25 - October 2

Piper On The Ridge

Join us for our annual tradition on the top of Mount Vision celebrating the autumn moon rise! Grab your friends and family, a picnic, hot chocolate or a tasty beverage to watch the sunset as we listen to the sounds of Scottish bagpiper Dan McNear. All ages encouraged.

October 15 | 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Mount Vision Road, Point Reyes



Cordell Bank Pelagic Trip

Join us for full day boat excursion to Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary aboard the New Sea Angler with guides Steve Howell and Dan Singer. We will leave out of Bodega Bay Harbor and have a chance to see whales, albatrosses, seals, dolphins and more.

Reserve your seat today! \$140 EAC Members | \$155 Non-EAC Members

October 23 | 7:00 am - 5:00 pm | Bodega Bay Harbor



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RSVP | events@eacmarin.org | (415) 663-9312

west marin

C environmental
action
committee

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Join or Donate | Give the Gift of West Marin

Help us protect what you love about West Marin's wild and rural character

Preserving the unique environment and character of West Marin is hard work! EAC is the only local nonprofit committed to tackling tough policy and advocacy work necessary to preserve it.

BUT we can't do it alone! Be a part of West Marin's environmental legacy by joining as a member, renewing your annual gift, or providing a special summertime gift in honor of a special person or place.

Member Benefits

Annual invitations to events
Early bird event registration
Member discounts
Subscription to our printed and online newsletter

Annual Membership

Join or renew your gift of \$50, \$125, \$250 or \$500

Or join or renew your annual gift of \$1,000 or more and join our Leadership Circle providing critical annual support for our mission.

Additional Ways to Give

Matching Gifts
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