

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, EVENTS & GIVING | WINTER 2022

Executive Director's Note

Greetings Community,

Since joining the EAC team, I have been constantly amazed by the organization's tireless efforts and humbled by the generosity of our community of supporters who make our work protecting the lands, waters, and biodiversity possible. Being a part of this grassroots environmental organization with a legacy of significant accomplishments and long-term environmental resource protection goals is what keeps me focused and inspired.

The pandemic and our national political atmosphere have made me pause and reflect on what is to come. I am concerned about the environmental challenges the future holds. The overwhelming nature of the climate crisis is dividing us at a time when we need to come together; our children are bearing the weight of decision-making and current economic systems; and many people in my generation are collectively taking environmental safeguards for granted.

Now is the time for the younger generations to pick up the environmental baton being passed down with clear eyes. If we think these issues will be handled by someone else, we are all in real trouble. As Robert Swan said, "*The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.*" It's our turn to protect our air, water, and communities. We can learn from the past and forge a new path for the planet, our children, and our grandchildren.

One way to embrace this challenge is by being an advocate every day, for yourself and the environment. Being an advocate takes many different forms; you can vote, volunteer, conduct research, protest, talk to your friends and neighbors about solutions, and donate to causes like EAC with a staff dedicated to working on the issues you care most about.

Our work matters in West Marin. Our team is agile, adaptive, and able to work across the bureaucratic patchwork to solve problems, no matter how long it takes, even if it requires constant vigilance over decades, like our work protecting the Tomales Dunes.

We can't do this alone and need your help. Your involvement in our grassroots advocacy, education, and community engagement is critical because this type of work is not accomplished overnight, cannot be done by one organization, and there is no silver bullet. It's all hands on deck.

My goals for the new year are to proactively find solutions, expand our partnerships to address environmental challenges, and bring people, science, and policy together to save vital ecosystems, defend environmental laws, demand accountability from our leaders, mobilize community members to action, and remain flexible to address issues as they arise.

This work is important for the future, and at the end of the day I want to be able to look my children in their eyes and tell them I did everything I possibly could with what I had to remain vigilant with decision-makers, advocate for a suite of projects that contribute towards system changes, and push for all stakeholders to be involved in complex decision-making.

Together, we will protect the places we love in coastal Marin County.

Join me. Join us. Donate today!

To our future,



In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MP'.

Morgan Patton | Executive Director

PROTECT
WHAT YOU
LOVE
Learn more | www.eacmarin.org

P.S. I invite you to join us for our rescheduled Winter Gathering on Saturday, January 14th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the EAC office. This event celebrates our community of supporters who make our work possible, and will focus on EAC's 50 years of grassroots nonprofit advocacy in West Marin with a special exhibit: *Advocate For the Places You Love: Bringing People, Policy & Science Together*. Gather with us anytime during the event to enjoy hot cider, refreshing drinks, and light appetizers, and for a special champagne toast at 2:00 pm. Details & RSVP | www.eacmarin.org

OUR 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.



Mission

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

Vision

Provide long-term protection of the unique ecosystems and rural communities of coastal Marin to serve as a foundation of environmental protection for future generations.

What We Do

For 51-years, we have advocated for and defended our public lands, safeguarded our coast and oceans, upheld critical environmental legislation, and protected biodiversity in coastal Marin, fondly known as West Marin. As one of the only local environmental advocacy nonprofits along Marin's coastline, we often take on multi-year, and sometimes decade-long advocacy campaigns, where we provide an essential voice for environmental protection, especially around irresponsible development, pollution, and the climate crisis. The long-term support and generosity of our member community is critical to our ongoing efforts to ensure environmental protection measures are in place and lasting, especially as we mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

How We Do Our Work

We accomplish our work by bringing people, science, and policy together to protect vital ecosystems, defend critical legislation, enforce accountability of our leaders and legislators, and rally our members to become stewards of their community through tacking action, education, and volunteerism.

Our Accomplishments

Through annual member support and grants we have been able to ensure wilderness designation for Drakes Estero Marine Wilderness; safeguard the Tomales Dunes-Wetland Complex in Dillon Beach; protect Tomales Bay's ecosystems and secure its Ramsar designation as a Wetland of International Importance; stop ill-conceived development plans; keep sewage runoff out of our coastal watersheds; secure a ban for offshore oil and gas development in Marin County; and so much more. Learn More | www.eacmarin.org



Drakes Estero is a unique tidal estuary located within the Point Reyes National Seashore, a federally designated Marine Wilderness Area, a California Marine Protected Area (MPA), and one of the last remaining fully intact wetlands in California, a state where more than 80% of wetlands have been destroyed. The Estero's finger-like extensions are a biologically rich estuary that consists of extensive eelgrass beds, tidal flats, wetlands, sand bars, and open water that supports a variety of fish, invertebrates, shorebirds, waders, waterfowl, and mammals including harbor seals and river otters. We continue our work protecting the Estero by protecting water quality and monitoring with our Marin MPA Watch program.

Protecting Public Lands & Watersheds

Marin County is fortunate to have nearly 84 percent of our lands and waters protected as open space, watersheds, tidelands, parks, marine sanctuaries, and agricultural lands, making it a biodiversity hotspot! Responsibly managing West Marin’s unique natural resources requires public help and input to ensure our lands, water, and biodiversity are protected. We work diligently to engage, partner, and hold public agencies accountable to protect our public lands, improve water quality, advocate for sensitive habitat areas, and restore biodiversity.

Seashore Water Quality Plan Approved

It’s been another busy year for the Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore). The Seashore finalized the update to the General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) at the end of 2021, which provides management guidance for the 28,000 acres of public lands that are leased to private beef and dairy ranching operations.

The GMPA process has been contentious, as many members of the public have questioned whether ranching belongs in a national seashore due to the detrimental impacts on water and soil quality, visitor experiences, vegetation, climate, wildlife, and tule elk population control through lethal removal.

Our position has been consistent; we have always supported the public process to discuss what, where, and if ranching operations belong in the Seashore. We have maintained that the multi-generational ranching leases in the Seashore are a privilege, not a guarantee.

If the Seashore plans to issue long-term ranching leases, operators must be held to enforceable regulatory standards that proactively protect park resources. If operators are unable to meet standards or the Seashore is unable to appropriately manage the operations, then ongoing ranching is not compatible and should be converted to a use benefitting the natural environment.

The GMPA should provide the Seashore with the tools and enforceable standards to manage ranching operations, reduce pollution and other negative impacts of agriculture on park resources by applying best management practices, annual multi-agency operational

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County Water Sampling Extends to the Seashore

You may be surprised to learn that Tomales Bay is an impaired water body, from pollution that generally comes from agriculture, septic systems, and road runoff, causing our watersheds at times to be unsafe for recreation and shellfish consumption.

Every year, the County of Marin samples the Tomales Bay watershed April through October to check for high levels of harmful pathogens in the water that can cause people to get sick. The results of these samples are published in the annual Beach Report Card (BRC) by our friends at Heal the Bay, and we started sharing this data through our social media to advise the public when water contact in some of our favorite beaches should be avoided.

In addition, when we were reviewing the BRC, we were also surprised to find water quality sampling stopped in 2013 at Point Reyes National Seashore (Seashore), and sampling was not being conducted in creeks that discharged to the Pacific Ocean near beef ranches. To address this issue, we partnered with the Seashore and Marin County to restart a sampling program with the aid of our interns and volunteers who collect weekly water samples in the spring and summer, and monthly samples in the fall and winter at Drakes Beach and Drakes Estero.

This work has resulted in the Seashore developing an annual Water Quality Strategy for watersheds within the park boundaries to help implement best management practices for agricultural operations and increase public transparency on pollution issues in the Seashore.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/water-quality-sampling](http://www.eacmarin.org/water-quality-sampling)

County Adopts Stream Ordinance Protecting Habitat

We are pleased to report Marin County unanimously adopted the Stream Conservation Area (SCA) Ordinance for the San Geronimo Valley in July 2022. This ends 15 years of advocacy by the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network and the Center for Biological Diversity to protect endangered and threatened fish in the San Geronimo Valley. The Ordinance will help protect biodiversity and habitat loss by establishing a SCA buffer of 100 feet or more, creating development standards, and permit review requirements. We are hopeful it will help protect endangered coho salmon, steelhead trout, and our riparian corridors, while serving as a model for other County jurisdictions.

[Learn More | marincounty.org](http://marincounty.org)

Bringing Back Beavers

As California grapples with the impacts of our changing climate – including drought and wildfire – research is taking place to better understand the vital role of beavers as keystone species in watersheds. Historically, beavers lived in virtually every stream in North America, but by the 1800s, they were eliminated from most of their range due to trapping, hunting, and removal as a pest or nuisance; but there is evidence they were present in Marin County prior to European contact.

Beavers are skilled waterway engineers that provide ecosystem benefits to other species by creating wetlands, riparian, and wet meadow habitats. This increases biodiversity, improves water quality, repairs eroded

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Safeguarding our Coast & Ocean

Water is life; so it's essential to keep our freshwater, coastal, and marine systems healthy despite the challenges of a changing climate, pollution, development, and overconsumption. We focus on ensuring the long-term health of our water systems by protecting critical ecosystems, advocating for coastal resource protection, collecting water quality data, working with coalition partners throughout the state, and providing outreach and education to protect the integrity of our watersheds, coastal, and marine systems.

Protecting Tomales Bay and California's Estuaries

To ensure the Bay remains healthy and thriving, we advocate to protect wildlife and sensitive habitats from harmful industrial, commercial, and excessive recreational development activities.

We fight for consistent management strategies, enforcement, strong permit conditions; and we engage with state resource management agencies to improve oversight, compliance, and planning guidance.

We work to protect coastal resources, like eelgrass (*Zostera marina*), species of special concern, endangered and native species, marine mammals, and shore and waterbirds in Tomales Bay and beyond.

Unfortunately, our state's oceans, bays, wetlands, estuaries, and species have already suffered harm and are threatened by ocean acidification, warming, biodiversity loss, and other climatic changes. Considering this, we must employ a precautionary approach to coastal management.

We also defend against attacks on California's Coastal Act; these come in different shapes and sizes and have been increasing with constant development pressure.

Our work is far-reaching, as state and national policies affect what happens to Tomales Bay; and we can't do it alone. We developed an advisory committee made up of local stakeholders to provide expertise and coordination to address issues that arise; and we organized a statewide coalition to amplify our work, build partnerships, protect regulations, and safeguard coastal, offshore, and estuarine habitats and biodiversity.

2022 was a busy year for our Healthy Tomales Bay campaign including acting on the following important issues, where we:

- Championed regulatory permit conditions to protect sensitive eelgrass habitats from aquaculture development and expansion, including advocating for strong permit conditions to protect eelgrass and herring habitat when Tomales Bay Oyster Company finalized their coastal development permit.
- Protected Tomales Bay's significant eelgrass habitat through our work on the statewide Wetlands Restoration Principles coalition and California Blue Carbon Collaborative. Eelgrass has significant carbon sequestration and ecosystem services benefits, and it is always easier to protect than attempt to restore once destroyed.
- Upheld the California Coastal Act to protect sensitive habitats, public access, viewsheds, and water quality including our successful opposition to AB 303, a bill that would have exempted the California Coastal Act from five large pilot aquaculture projects.
- Advocated successfully with partners to ban the use of hydraulic pumps for harvesting clam, sand crabs, and shrimp statewide.
- Joined partners in advocating for sustainable state fisheries including fighting to end harmful fishing methods which result in unintentionally catching other species, harming biodiversity.
- Advocated and led the effort for statewide criteria to determine whether new aquaculture leases are in the public's best interest. Public interest criteria will be applied when new lease applications are submitted — like the proposed lease by San Andreas Shellfish near the mouth of Tomales Bay. Clear criteria will improve transparency and decision-making when the Fish and Game Commission considers approving a new lease application.
- Continued our advocacy for a strong and complete statewide aquaculture action plan under the Ocean Protection Council's strategic plan.
- Tracked federal offshore aquaculture opportunity areas and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration strategic planning regarding aquaculture expansion in federal waters that could impact California's coastal resources and would not be subject to the same regulations.
- Coordinated with resource agencies around additional eelgrass surveying and led intern capstone projects to GIS map existing eelgrass and aquaculture operations in Tomales Bay and research aquaculture and trade imbalances.
- Tracked state and federal legislation and litigation around aquaculture permitting and fees.
- Cleaned up discarded oyster shells at Millerton State Park as part of our annual Litter Bugs Me/Coastal Clean up event in partnership with Tomales Bay Oyster Company.
- Coordinated with our Waters Advisory Committee, which met four times and included presentations on Tomales Bay bird and estuary monitoring results. Thank you to our committee members for their dedication and knowledge, which helps inform and expand our work.

Our work in this area continues to grow each year. We are committed and engaged alongside our coalition partners. Stay tuned for more information in 2023 and how you can get involved or support this work.

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/tomalesbay



Tomales Bay, a major California coastal estuary, supports aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and diverse habitats. The biologically productive eelgrass beds, intertidal mudflats, and brackish marshes are home to significant populations of birds, fish, and marine mammals. The Bay's two primary tributaries, Lagunitas and Walker Creeks, provide habitat for multiple special status species. Lagunitas Creek is of statewide significance for coho salmon. The Bay is part of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, recognized for protection by the California Bays and Estuaries Policy, and a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

Litter Bugs Me Expands

In the spring of 2022, we expanded our Litter Bugs Me roadside clean up efforts in partnership with the County of Marin's Department of Public Works to include a spring cleaning ahead of the annual roadside mowing by the County. In the first year of this program, volunteers removed over 120 gallons of trash from Point Reyes Station through the San Geronimo Valley. Volunteers are on call throughout the year to help support clean-ups, and we encourage you to contact us if you would like to join our volunteer team in 2023. Email Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook at leslie@eacmarin.org or call (415) 663.9312 for more info.



Reducing Trash and Toxins

Our rural coastal villages are gateways to national parks, state parks, open space, and public beaches, which makes West Marin a popular destination. One consequence of high visitation is that our roadsides, creeks, and beaches are getting trashed. We work to reduce these impacts with community education, volunteer beach and roadside clean-up events, partnerships to reduce the use of pesticides, and advocating for regulatory changes to reduce the amount of litter and toxins in the environment.

Reusable Foodware Ordinance - Youth in Action

In 2018, we were thrilled to mentor two third-grade activists, Viola Seda and Reese Patton, who were concerned about plastic in the environment, and how it affects our ecosystems and oceans.

This concern kicked off the “No More Plastic Straws” campaign, where the girls organized petitions and beach clean ups, met with Point Reyes Station’s business leaders on single-use plastics and alternatives, and provided education to the public. In addition, they spoke in front of the Marin County Board of Supervisors (Supervisors), and had District Four Supervisor Dennis Rodoni speak at their school on this topic.

In 2020, Marin County initiated a larger public outreach campaign to survey local businesses and community members on this issue. This resulted in a new Reusable Food Ordinance (Ordinance) for consideration by the Supervisors, but it was placed on hold due to the pandemic.

This May, the Supervisors were able to pass the Ordinance requiring restaurants in unincorporated Marin County to replace single-use plastic foodware containers with reusable versions, or fiber-based, fully compostable single-use options by November 2023. The Ordinance includes opportunities for local businesses to apply for small grants to purchase reusable foodware.

We are so proud of our next generation youth advocates who are taking action to protect the places we love, while gaining valuable leadership skills.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/
no-straw-please-journal](http://www.eacmarin.org/no-straw-please-journal)

EAC Partners with Leave No Trace for A Cleaner Marin Coast

Over 10 million people a year visit the California coastline and adjacent communities across Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties. With such high visitation, it’s inevitable that there will be impacts on the coastal environment. For example, trash and pollution have been ongoing issues for decades. Across all three counties and an average of 55,000 pounds of trash is removed annually during Coastal Clean Up Day (third Saturday in September).

In effort to address this issue, Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties – in partnership with federal, state, and local stakeholders and organizations – are collaborating with the nonprofit organization, Leave No Trace (LNT), to develop a visitor education and outreach campaign in English and Spanish for our coastal regions and watersheds. The Marin campaign team includes EAC, Marin County Parks, Visit Marin, and Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni’s office.

The LNT campaign is scheduled to complete strategic planning by February 2023, followed by the campaign launch later in the year. As part of this effort, we are publishing our digital and print visitor stewardship guide, *Cleaner Marin County Coast*, which includes information to highlight positive visitor stewardship practices with the goal of reducing impacts from trash and litter.

Earlier this year, we created a comprehensive set of Community Resources we published on our website that includes information on recreating in coastal Marin, how to be good stewards of our natural ecosystems, and who to call to report pollution, permit problems,

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Victory in Appealed Pesticide Lawsuit

In a significant victory for environmental health, the California Superior Court found that a broad pesticide spraying program was unlawful in May 2022, because it failed to adequately study and minimize public health threats from pesticides and inform the public.

The ruling is the result of a lawsuit brought by the City of Berkeley and 11 organizations, including EAC. As with much of our advocacy work, we don’t win overnight, but we do win! The appeals court sent the case back to the Superior Court to issue a consistent final decision.

The Court threw out a programmatic report that allowed California’s Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) to spray pesticides wherever and whenever it wanted. The Department was required to study and disclose the risks of more than 75 pesticides it proposed using indefinitely across California, but it didn’t conduct any analysis of the required impacts in specific locations.

The Department’s statewide pest management program used pesticides — on private residential property, public property, and agricultural and wild lands — that are known to cause cancer and birth defects and to be highly toxic to bees, butterflies, fish, and birds. Now, people and species will be better protected.

We thank our supporters Tom and Barbara Gaman, Scoby Zook and Kris Brown, Chuck and Alice Eckart, and Russell and Margaret Ridge who made generous contributions to EAC in 2015 supporting our legal action to make this legal victory possible!

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

Sustainable Ecosystems & Community Development

The health of our ecosystems is dependent upon community vigilance and participation to ensure that land-use and community planning protects the irreplaceable lands, waters, and biodiversity of coastal Marin County. We work across jurisdictional boundaries and engage in public processes to ensure community conservation values and land-use planning principles are not eroded for political or private interest, our coastal resources are protected, and we are adequately preparing our communities to adapt to climate change.

California Releases Pathways to 30x30

California is working towards meeting its goals to protect biodiversity, increase climate resiliency, and expand access to natural resources with the California Biodiversity Collaborative's 30x30 Initiative that seeks to conserve 30% of our state's lands and waters by 2030.

On Earth Day 2022, the California Natural Resources Agency released its final report, *Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature*. We were encouraged to see a few notable revisions in the final report, thanks to the advocacy of our coastal environmental coalition, including:

- The specification of biodiversity in the definition of a conserved area;
- Listing environmental organizations and diverse ocean users as relevant stakeholder groups; and
- Reference to the scientific consensus on the value of highly and fully protected areas.

The report creates a pathway to achieve 30x30 implementation. There is still a lot of work for the public to engage in meaningful and equitable implementation as this initiative moves forward.

We will continue our engagement, including advocating for heightened conservation of appropriate places in our beloved coastal West Marin and broad and inclusive coastal stakeholder engagement.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/climate-change](http://www.eacmarin.org/climate-change)

Housing, A Balance of People and Place

At the start of 2022, we were shocked to discover the State of California had mandated a requirement for cities and counties to plan for more than one million new housing units, as part of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment or RHNA. The RHNA happens every eight years and requires every jurisdiction to plan for a share of the state's housing needs. For Marin County, the RHNA is more than 14,000 units. In unincorporated Marin, it's more than 3,500 units.

Here in West Marin, we are in dire need of affordable and residential housing. We are supportive of our local community land trusts and actions that support residential housing plans; however, we are very concerned about the number of units the state is requiring the County to development in the next eight years.

The County led public workshops to identify locations for developers to construct the required number of housing units by 2030. More than 6,000 potential units have been placed into the Housing Plan, as well as precedent-setting changes to the Countywide Plan planning corridors, and zoning to accommodate development in places the public worked to protect over the last 50 years.

Since January 2022, we have submitted multiple written comments, and attended all of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Workshops on this topic. Our focus is on six key areas:

1. **Protect Sensitive Habitats:** The County needs to remove any potential

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Marin's Monarch Movement Takes Flight

In honor of California Biodiversity Day, the Marin County Board of Supervisors recognized the need for our communities to support the western monarch butterfly population with conservation efforts, including protecting and restoring overwintering and migratory habitat, and planting native species.

A Resolution was introduced by Dennis Rodoni, District Four Supervisor, whose district supports known overwintering grounds for the butterfly in the coastal villages of Bolinas and Stinson Beach. The fall and winter monarch coastal overwintering phenomenon has been in decline since the 1980s, as the populations are under stressors including habitat loss, pesticides, non-native plants, and a changing climate that modify our seasonal temperatures, exacerbate drought conditions, and increase wildfires.

The arrival of the western monarch butterfly to the coast signals the beginning of autumn and symbolizes change, transformation, rebirth, hope, and abundance. The butterfly is of particular significance for the people of Indigenous Mexican and Central American origins.

With continued stark declines in the butterfly population — declining more than 97% since the 1980s — the butterfly is on track for probable extinction risk unless something is done.

The Resolution was supported by all Marin County Supervisors and several speakers, including EAC, attended the meeting to support the Resolution and provide updates on collaborative projects taking place throughout the County to support the

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Local response to the climate crisis is at the forefront of our work to preserve coastal Marin's lands, waters, and biodiversity. We seek to find pathways for our communities to adapt to climate impacts that are focused on nature-based strategies to protect coastal resources and communities. We also support climate pollution reductions and advocate for renewable energy solutions.



JOIN US

APRIL 21ST - 23RD, 2023

14TH ANNUAL

POINT REYES BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

Come have a hoot with us along the Pacific Flyway's #1 birding hotspot in 2023!

Educational field outings with the Bay Area's top birders and naturalists exploring the fauna and flora of Marin and Sonoma counties. Join as a participant, or skilled guides and naturalists can apply to lead one or more outings.

FREE Sunday Family Fun Day program in partnership with Amigos Alados (*Winged Friends*).

Become a *Friend of the Festival Sponsor* and help us take flight. Sponsorship starts at \$250 and includes donor benefits.

Additional Details Coming in 2023!

TICKETS ON SALE FEBRUARY 2023

**Join our member community
or renew your annual support,
and receive early-bird access and registration
one week before the general public.**

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

Learn More & Register
www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org

Questions? Contact Us
(415) 663.9312 | events@eacmarin.org



WAYS TO GIVE: JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, 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.

JOIN OR RENEW

Join our community of dedicated supporters whose annual contributions help us protect and sustain the unique lands, waters and biodiversity of West Marin through advocacy, education, and engagement opportunities

Membership starts at \$35 for individuals and \$50 for households and is fully tax-deductible.

Member benefits include:

- Protecting the lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin.
- Electing EAC's Board of Directors.
- Opportunities to participate on sub-committees.
- Early-bird member registration and discounts to our annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival (each April).
- Member retail discounts in our Advocate store.
- Exclusive access to annual Member Meeting and special invites to Piper on the Ridge and the annual Winter Gathering.
- Subscription to our printed and online Advocate newsletter.

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 \$1,000+, 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 memberships of \$50+, we will include (1) set of reusable bamboo utensils to your honoree.

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.

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 an annual gift or special year-end contribution each calendar year.

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.

BE OF SERVICE: VOLUNTEER

We are always looking for dedicated individuals who want to donate their time or skills to the cause. Join our Duxbury Docent or Marin MPA Watch teams, volunteer at our annual events, or help in the office. Opportunities can be found online, or by contacting us directly with your interest and skills.

GIFTS IN KIND: PHOTOS NEEDED

Are you a skilled photographer? We are looking to add to our library of photos to help tell our story. We are looking for high resolution photos that can be used online and in print, and are focused on coastal Marin landscapes, flora, and fauna. Contact us directly to discuss a photo gift.

SHOP AT THE ADVOCATE STORE

Visit the EAC office for branded gear, including hats, beanies, shirts, hooded or zippered sweaters, plus books, patches, postcards, earrings and more. Members receive special discounts, and your purchase supports our work.

SHOP ONLINE WITH PURPOSE

Check out our online store for an expanded selection of branded gear. 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

EIN#/Tax-ID 23-7115368



50th Funds In Action!

Thank You to Our Guardian Circle for Making This Growth Possible

Thank you to all of our supporters who helped us reach our fundraising goal to raise \$100,000 to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2021. This funding has allowed us to strengthen our work through investments in staff; a new office with expanded workspace for board, staff, interns, and volunteers, which also provided us with new revenue opportunities through events and retail; and allowed us to increase community awareness on environmental issues through office exhibits and outreach; and added \$20,000 to our rainy day fund.

In 2022, we put your contributions directly to work by hiring a new team member who developed systems for professionalizing our communications, updating our website and social media, and is working on the Leave No Trace Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino coastal campaign for trash and pollution reduction (learn more on page 9). This funding empowered us to engage with our West Marin community, supporters, and visitors to with public pop-up exhibits at our office on Fridays and Saturdays where locals and visitors alike can learn about environmental issues and talk with our team.

This year we piloted four exhibits that expanded our outreach to more than 800 visitors, and helped raise more than \$5,000 in sales, donations and memberships toward our cause, including:

- **Marin's Monarch Movement (December 2021 - February 2022)** featuring information and resources about the western monarch butterfly population crisis, where to plant native milkweed, native pollinator plants, and Salmon Protection and Watershed Network's tropical milkweed trade-out program. The exhibit featured local artwork by Luis Mora of Point Reyes and Birgit O'Connor of Bolinas.
- **Migration, Conservation, and Habitat, celebrating the Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival (April - May 2022)** featuring information on spring migration, declining bird

populations, Amigos Aldos pen pal program, skulls, bird and egg identification, and actions to help protect birds in your backyard, with a photography display by Carlos Porrata.

- **Protect Our Coast and Safeguard our Future (June - September 2022)** featuring information about National Marine Sanctuaries, California Marine Protected Areas, and impacts of climate change and pollution on our ocean waters. The exhibit highlighted the work of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Sanctuaries, Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network, Cordell Bank's mobile photography library, watercolors by Birgit O'Connor, paintings by Laurie Sawyer, and climate change monuments created by middle school students Mia Wilhelm and Serenne Fox.
- **Advocate, Protect What You Love: Bringing Science, Policy & People Together (December 2022 - June 2023)** featuring information on what it means to be an advocate, the importance of our local grassroots advocacy, and featuring six touchstone mission moments to highlight the lasting impact of our work. The exhibit includes artwork and photography by Richard Blair, Sarah Killingsworth, Carlos Porrata, and Anne Pennypacker

Our office displays have been an amazing way to share our work with our community, raise awareness about environmental issues, connect with the community, and gain new members throughout the greater Bay Area and even as far away as England!

In 2023, the fund will continue to support our next series of office displays, communications team, and other opportunities to support EAC's endurance for the next 50 years.

50th Anniversary Fund Guardian Circle Donors

Thank You!

\$10,000 +

Cynthia Lloyd via Echnida Fund
Bridger & Katherine Mitchell

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anne Baxter
Daphne Hatch & William Shook
Ron & Amanda Mallory

\$2,500-\$4,999

Catherine Caufield & Terry Nordbye
Penny & Bill Barron
Kent Khtikian & Nancy Torrey
David & Patty Wimpfheimer

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Chapman Family Fund
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Terence Carroll & Megan Isadore
Karen Gray
Ellen Holmes
Carolyn & John Longstreth
Madrone Fund
Carlos & Rebecca Porrata
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Donations \$25 - \$499

Donn Furman and Cynthia Fialho
* Joanne Lee * Mardi Leland *
Don Lloyd * Ralph Mihan *
Kevin Morrison & Michelle Ling *
Mairi Pileggi, Dom Richard & Friends *
Todd & Gretchen Plummer *
Claire & Metja Seda * Joe & Sue Soule

Grassroots Advocacy in Action

Together, we unite people, place, science, and policy to save vital ecosystems, defend environmental laws, demand accountability from our leaders, and mobilize community members to preserve and protect coastal Marin. Individuals, like you, support 70% of our work through generous tax-deductible contributions.

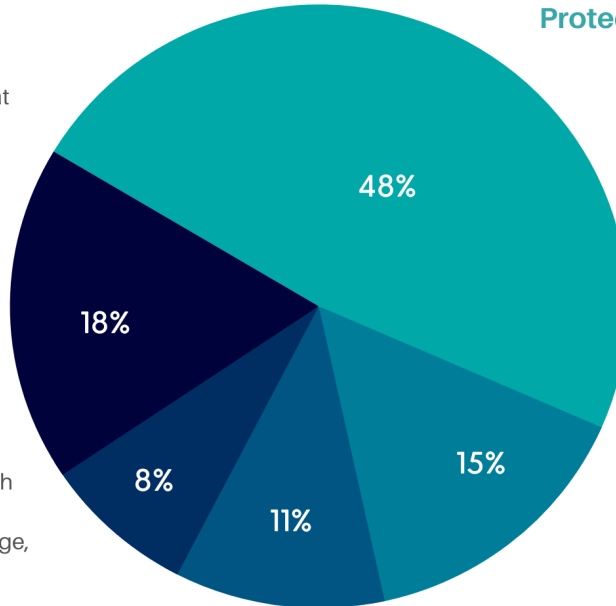
What We Do

Foster Environmental Education & Awareness

We deliver education programs that connect people and place, including our annual Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival and environmental office exhibits, which raise awareness and increase community engagement.

Enrich Community Action & Appreciation

We connect with our community through action and appreciation with our annual Member Meeting and Environmental Awards, Piper on Ridge, and Winter Gathering events that strengthen our community ties and partnerships.



Protecting Our Lands, Waters & Biodiversity

We protect public lands and coastal access, advocate for sustainable community development, safeguard our coast and ocean, reduce trash and toxins, and defend resilient watersheds in coastal Marin from harm and habitat loss.

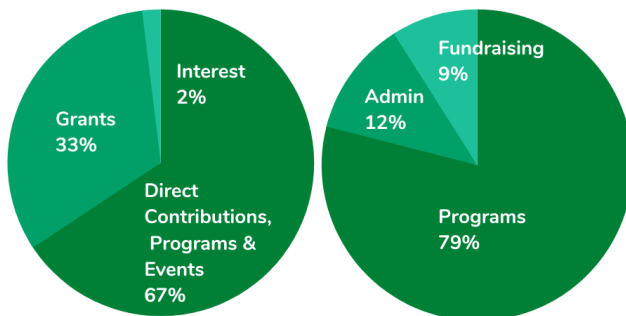
Safeguard Our Future

In the face of the climate crisis, we advocate to reduce carbon pollution and increase coastal resilience guided by science and with a lens on nature-based solutions.

Empower Future Advocates

We create opportunities for the next generation to gain skills to defend the environment through our advocacy, policy, data, and science internship programs for high school, college, and graduate students. In addition, we provide outdoor awareness and educational field trips in Marin County Parks to help youth discover, observe, and track data in the field.

2021 Financials



Income

Expense

Income

Direct Contributions*	\$279,933
Grants	177,662
Program & Events	78,230
Retail Sales	4,137
Interest	8,317
Cost of Goods	-5,006
Total	\$543,273

Assets

Cash	\$310,075
Reserve Funds	101,883
Prepaid Expenses	1,374
Total	\$309,826

Expense

Programs	\$345,711
Administrative	58,818
Fundraising	38,096
Total	\$437,625

Liabilities & Equity

Other Liabilities	\$2,441
Unrestricted Funds	201,166
Restricted Funds	209,645
Total	\$410,811

* Raised \$100,000 for 50th Anniversary

Empowering Future Environmental Advocates

Coastal Advocate and Legal & Policy Internships

An important part of our advocacy and community engagement work is providing high school, college, and graduate internship opportunities for young people to gain real-world job training in the environmental field. Every year, we welcome legal, policy, and coastal advocates into our internship program to gain experience in environmental policy, law, advocacy, community science, and education.

These mentoring opportunities not only provide a meaningful and applicable experience that can be applied to future education and career goals, but they help to foster the environmental stewards of the future who will help protect the resilience and health of the natural world.

This year we mentored six Coastal Advocate



interns: Briana Muschi (spring), Eli Hanft (summer), Julian Durante (summer), Rachel Mueller (summer), Nuala Willis-Shore (fall), and Michael Gottlieb (fall). Each of them were tremendously helpful in the implementation of the Marin Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Watch community science program and public outreach about ocean conservation.

They surveyed MPA monitoring sites, trained new volunteers, educated visitors, entered and organized program data, created education and outreach materials, and collected water quality samples.

Our summer interns' deep-dive capstone projects included reviewing and organizing data from MPA Watch camera monitoring, creating eelgrass and aquaculture lease GIS overlay maps on Tomales Bay, and presenting information about MPAs and MPA Watch to the Tomales Bay Watershed Council.

"I gained valuable skills in local surveying, data entry, and mapping, became comfortable discussing all-things-MPAs, and developed an even deeper appreciation for (and responsibility to protect) California's coastal ecosystems. The relationships I was fortunate enough to build with staff, my fellow interns, volunteers, and community members are inspiring and meaningful. My teammates truly supported me in building a strong foundation for my future as an environmental advocate, and introduced me to the work it takes to be a powerful steward for our coasts, lands, ecosystems, and planet. Thank you EAC for an outstanding summer experience!"
- Julian Durante, Coastal Advocate

This year we also mentored five Legal and Policy interns: Rachel Clyde (spring), Madison MacLeod (spring), Allison Pritchard (summer), Lauren Richards (summer), and Karura Njoroge (fall). They spoke at public meetings, drafted legal and policy memoranda, participated in beach clean-ups, drafted public comments, and advocated to the California legislature on key ocean issues as part of Oceans Day.

Their capstone projects focused on extensive research related to elk management, eelgrass habitat, domestic fisheries, economics, and aquaculture that forwarded our mission. Interns are able to dive deep into research projects, which helps inform our public comments to agencies like the California Coastal Commission and the National Park Service on key program areas like *Healthy Tomales Bay* and *Protecting Public Lands*, and helps them hone their

research, fact-checking, and communication skills.

"EAC is a small, but mighty organization. The team is incredibly passionate and in tune with the threats and opportunities facing West Marin. I learned a tremendous amount, made meaningful contributions to EAC's mission, and had fun doing it! Thank you for such a wonderful internship experience, and for all that you do to keep West Marin wild."

- Allison Pritchard, Legal & Policy Intern

Thanks to the J.W. & H.M. Goodman Family Charitable Foundation and the Lloyd Scholars Fund, our Legal and Policy interns were offered paid internships in 2022.



A big thank you to each of our interns for helping us expand and fill in gaps in our programs and advocacy work. We look forward to hearing about all the places you go. In addition, we send our deep appreciation to our donors for making this mentorship and career experience possible.

To learn more about how to support our intern program, or how to apply and when, please visit our website using the links below.

Member Meeting & Awards: Community Gathers for In-Person for the First Time in Three-Years

Our membership community gathered in September 2022 at the Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center for our first in-person annual Member Meeting & Awards since the start of the pandemic!

This member-only event brings our community together to share our work and successes, elect our Board of Directors, and celebrate our local environmental heroes with our Peter Behr Steward of the Land and Sea, Public Service, Next Generation Advocacy, and Volunteers of the Year awards.

This year, we mingled on the Dance Palace porch while enjoying a variety of homemade appetizers and sipping handcrafted hibiscus mango iced tea and strawberry lemonade before the indoor programming began. In her introductory remarks, EAC's Executive Director, Morgan Patton, discussed the organization's expansion, program successes, and profound gratitude for the network of supporters who helped keep us in action during the pandemic through their support. Although times have been difficult, our grassroots organization is resilient and adaptable, enabling us to address urgent problems across jurisdictional lines and protect the places and species we love in West Marin. Our members voted in our newest board director Patty Neubacher, and reelected directors Terence Carroll, Sarah Killingsworth, and David Weinsoff. We honored our volunteers and local environmental heroes, and members went home with a metal EAC license plate courtesy of board director Jerry Meral.

Fortunately, the weather was perfect — as the long-lasting heat dome that had settled over the entire western United States bringing with it all-time record high temperatures — gave way before our event. The heat wave was a stark reminder of the changing climate that touches every aspect of our work. We are looking forward to celebrating our annual event and traditional potluck in June 2023.



Learn More & Download Recipes
www.eacmarin.org/annual-member-meeting

AWARDEES



Peter Behr Steward of the Land & Sea Award Tom Gaman

Recognizing long-time member and community leader for his efforts to protect and educate people about coastal Marin including providing technical forestry advice and support for many agencies including private landowners, the State of California, and all its 18 national forests, including a detailed forest inventory for Tomales Bay State Park.



Public Service Award Sarah Christie

Recognizing the California Coastal Commission's longest-serving Legislative Director – and the first woman to serve in this role – for her numerous outstanding achievements to uphold the Coastal Act.



Next Generation Advocacy Award Greenstich Youth Climate Activists

Recognizing the San Geronimo Valley Community Center youth activists working to educate and empower themselves and the community about the climate crisis. They believe change happens when people take action together about what they care about. Learn More | www.sgvcc.org/who-we-are

Volunteers of the Year:

Marin MPA Watch Volunteers

Frederic Leist, Lena Zentall, and Kim Neal
Recognizing our dedicated volunteers who diligently collect community science data at Duxbury Reef, Corte Madera Marsh, and Drakes Beach.

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



Volunteers of the Year:

Duxbury Docents: Class of 2022
Recognizing our first class of ten volunteers trained to provide visitor education along Agate Beach and Duxbury Reef at low tides to safeguard the sensitive habitat and species.

Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/duxbury-docents



Enrich Community Action & Appreciation



Litter Bugs Me
Coastal Clean Up Day

Let's face it, our roadways get trashed! As an unincorporated gateway community to national and state parks, open space, agricultural lands, and coastal villages, coastal Marin is a hot spot for Bay Area recreation. Left over trash and debris from recreation and ocean currents piles up, and can be found along our roadsides, in creeks, and on beaches.

In effort to protect our watersheds before the winter rains, we host a week-long community action roadside clean up in coastal Marin. The event kicks off with a mid-week Litter Bugs Me event where village associations, local non-profits, community centers, and organizations are encouraged to adopt a roadside to clean up. The week ends with the annual Coastal Clean Up Day (an international event), where individuals can volunteer alongside EAC to clean up critical areas.

This community effort helps support clean water, healthy watersheds and habitats, safer wildlife corridors, and coastal and riparian zones, while also getting the community outside to protect what we love about West Marin.

In 2022, 78 volunteers helped remove more than 448 pounds of trash and 270 pounds of recycling from our watershed including 90 gallons of discarded oyster shells from Alan Sieroty Beach in partnership with Tomales Bay Oyster Company, which provided the collection bins and disposal. Some notable items removed included six large foam insulation sheets, two old computers, one tire, one lawn chair, and about 240 old roadway reflectors, and a face mask filled with human feces. Gross!

A big thank you to all the individual volunteers, and groups including the East Shore Planning Group, Inverness Association, Olema Association, Salmon Protection and Watershed Network, Rotary Club, Palace Market, San Geronimo Valley Community Center Greenstitch Youth Climate Group, West Marin Climate Action, and to our event sponsors Recology Sonoma Marin, who donated the use of trash and recycling bins, and KWMR, who supported this effort with fantastic radio outreach and donated refreshments for our hard-working volunteers! Follow the link below to volunteer, and stay tuned for our annual clean-up events in the third week of September 2023.



Marin MPA Watch

California's 124 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) create a network of places along our coast where the diversity and abundance of marine life and the habitats they depend on are protected. MPA Watch is a statewide community science program that tracks visitation and how people use California's MPAs. The program trains volunteers to collect data along our coast using standard survey protocols. The broadly accessible data is entered into a statewide database and is used by agencies and community groups to inform management, enforcement, and program decisions. Volunteers benefit by enjoying walks along our beautiful beaches while contributing to a vital community science program.

We manage the Marin MPA Watch program and train volunteers and interns to survey four MPAs in Marin County including Corte Madera Marsh, Duxbury Reef, Limantour Beach, and Drakes Beach.

2022 Program Highlights:

- 8 volunteer training sessions at our Marin County sites.
- 36 volunteers, including 13 students from a Marin Academy class on climate change and the environment.
- 283 beach surveys (1,833 surveys have been completed since the beginning of the program in 2013).

In addition, we were able to meet in person with the statewide MPA Watch network during a retreat this summer hosted by the Yurok tribe, where we learned from indigenous groups about their successes and challenges in participating in statewide MPA Watch and other related opportunities.

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who contribute to Marin MPA Watch! Join our team in 2023 — dates and details will be posted on our website in the new year.

Enrich Community Action & Appreciation



After years of advocacy, planning, and pandemic delays, we finally launched the Duxbury Docent program at Duxbury Reef at Agate Beach in Bolinas, California! The purpose of the program is to combat harm to the reef through docent-led outreach and education during low-tides, weekends, and key holidays.

Duxbury Reef is the largest shale reef in California and one of the largest in North America — a true gem of coastal Marin. The Monterey shale that composes the reef is a soft rock, with many nooks and crannies for an abundant and diverse intertidal community to thrive. This habitat is home to an array of marine algae, plants, invertebrates, and fish and is one of the most popular and accessible destinations for people seeking to explore tidepools. With increased visitation since 2018, and community reports on poaching and disturbance on the reef, we jumped into action and partnered with Marin County Parks to develop the docent program.

2022 Program Highlights:

- 11 volunteers trained on reef ecology, flora and fauna, intertidal zonation, anthropogenic impacts, tidepool etiquette, docent protocols, and regulations of California Marine Protected Areas over five days. A big thanks to our expert instructors including Kathy Ann Miller (U.C. Berkeley), Rebecca Johnson (California Academy of Sciences), Joe Mueller (College of Marin), and Kent Khtikian (Rocky Shore Intertidal Naturalist, California Academy of Sciences).
- 61 shift reports and MPA Watch surveys submitted.
- 975 visitors engaged on reef ecology, MPAs, and tidepool etiquette.
- 30 instances where docents helped visitors avoid violation of MPA regulations through education.
- 10 large-group education engagements on tidepool protection and etiquette.

We invite you to join us for our second annual Duxbury Docent training starting in January 2023. Follow the link below to learn more about the training dates, volunteer requirements, and to sign up for our 2023 team!



Thank you to everyone who joined us on Mount Vision for Piper on the Ridge in October 2022.

This was the first time in two years we gathered to watch the full Hunter's moon rise and enjoy the sounds of Dan McNear's Scottish bagpipes.

"Piper is one of my favorite EAC events. It is truly a unique West Marin experience. What could be better than enjoying the company of so many good friends and food while listening to evocative tunes being played by a bagpiper."
- David Wimpfheimer
EAC Board Director and naturalist

With toasts to the season and delicious picnic dinners, friends carried forward this unique West Marin tradition, started by Kate Munger in the 1970s and later gifted to EAC in the 1987, which has become a part of the fabric of our annual celebrations.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this event possible, including our generous donors, the Palace Market for providing cookies for our guests, and to the Piper team including Mia Monroe for serving as our master of ceremonies, Dan McNear our long-time piper, and to Todd Plummer for educating folks about the night sky.

Please join us for next year's event on Saturday, September 29, 2023.

Seashore Water Quality Plan Approved *Continued*

inspections, a comprehensive water quality strategy, updated lease conditions to protect resources, yearly reporting to state regulatory agencies, and a co-management agreement with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria to protect cultural resources.

If implemented as intended, these measures should ensure the Seashore keeps its promise to effectively manage ranching with a goal to reduce impacts and hold operators accountable when they fail to meet their obligations or lease requirements. However, the work is far from complete, as the plan's implementation is just beginning. The Seashore started implementing some areas of the GMPA in 2022 and has worked to obtain required approvals and oversight from the county and state agencies.

Public confidence in the plan remains low as over the last three years, the public has uncovered dump and toxic waste disposal sites, cattle carcasses in the waters of Drakes Estero; unpermitted clearing of riparian vegetation; issues with overgrazing; failing or non-existent septic systems; inadequate manure management systems for dairies; and water quality issues polluting freshwater streams, Tomales Bay, the Pacific Ocean, and Drakes Estero Marine Wilderness. This doesn't include the unresolved issues with tule elk management, including lethal removal of the elk, that lacks public support.

State regulatory agencies continue to question the Seashore's capacity to manage the scope of ranching operations. Specifically, the California Coastal Commission only approved the Seashore's Water Quality Protection Strategy if additional measures were included and required the Seashore staff return annually with updates on the status of the plan. Many of these modifications were due to EAC's advocacy, like requiring annual public meetings to review water quality results, and requirements to post data and the annual Water Quality Report and leases on the Seashore's website.

As the Seashore prepares for the wet winter months, they are finalizing short-term leases with ranchers that should include updated natural resource protection terms and conditions, addressing violations discovered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, developing drought plans for 2023, and continuing water quality sampling. Out-of-compliance operators need to step up and make necessary investments to reduce impacts or face changing their operational plans or retiring their lease.

The public and regulatory agencies expect to see improvements in water quality and a reduction of negative impacts. You can count on us to remain engaged on this issue in the coming year, as we will continue to monitor environmental issues and attend public meetings to raise unresolved issues. We are committed to the protection of public lands, public access, and protection of water resources in the Seashore for current and future generations.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/eac-gmpa](http://www.eacmarin.org/eac-gmpa)

Cleaner Marin Coast continued...

etc. We also developed a google map of the public restrooms in the area!

We are excited to partner with and support the campaign to reduce coastal trash and further our efforts to keep our roadsides clean throughout the year.

The combined efforts throughout the three counties along with LNT will support safer wildlife corridors, coastal and riparian zones, and recreational opportunities, while bringing community volunteers together outside to protect what we all love about West Marin.

[Learn More | www.eacmarin.org/cleaner-marin-county-coast](http://www.eacmarin.org/cleaner-marin-county-coast)

Bringing Back Beavers *Continued*

channels, reconnects streams to floodplains, and recharges groundwater. In a 2020 study, researchers showed that beaver-dammed wildlife corridors were relatively unharmed by wildfire compared to areas without beaver dams.

These benefits have finally caught the attention of the State of California. Earlier this year, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received funding to develop methods for nature-based restoration solutions involving beavers. In 2023, CDFW will begin outlining a programmatic plan for the restoration of beavers at specific sites throughout the state.

In 2021-2022, we participated in a feasibility study commissioned by the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center assessing the potential to reintroduce beavers in western Marin County. We would like to thank EAC board director Jerry Meral who took the lead on community outreach, obtained letters of support from private property landowners, the County of Marin, and Marin Water in support of beaver reintroduction.

We are currently working with a coalition of beaver believers to support CDFW's efforts for beaver reintroduction at headwater sites and with tribes; provide outreach and education to community members; and work on regulatory gaps, like addressing the issue that beavers are still listed as a nuisance rodent that allows for depredation permits to be issued to remove beavers.

A potential reintroduction site in West Marin includes a portion of Lagunitas Creek near Black Mountain Ranch. We are looking forward to engaging in this work and exploring the benefits that beaver reintroduction could bring to West Marin.

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

locations near sensitive habitat and species. The impacts on critical habitat areas, listed and special status species, water quality, and wastewater development within 100 feet of sensitive habitat areas would be significant and unavoidable.

- 2. Support Smart Growth Aligned with Plan Bay Area 2050 and Marin's Countywide Plan:** The County should be planning for high-density infill, redevelopment, and rezoning of commercial areas near job centers and transit corridors. Rollbacks to A-60 zoning, (one house per 60 acres of agricultural land), must be avoided to prevent urban sprawl and increased greenhouse gas emissions in order to meet local, regional, and state climate goals.
- 3. Uphold the Integrity of Community Planning:** Local communities were excluded from the initial site selection process, and local community plans were not honored to identify appropriate areas for potential development. Housing is a balance of people and place that requires careful planning and community participation to ensure appropriate development that does not harm our environment, or displace residents. For decades, residents in unincorporated Marin County have worked to develop community plans that balance these needs.
- 4. Support the Integrity of Adaptive Planning:** This Housing Plan creates significant and unavoidable impacts that are not in alignment with the County's Climate Action Plan. Pushing through a Housing Plan that fails to plan for climate change hazards like drought, wildfire, rising sea levels, and groundwater intrusion is inappropriate

and will have long-term negative impacts.

- 5. Support Residential Housing:** We support policies to ensure housing remains within the residential community and is not converted to second homes or short-term rentals that continue to deplete the availability of residential and workforce housing. This includes our support for the short-term rental ban, the creation of a vacancy tax, and support for community land trusts to ensure dedicated long-term affordable housing and solutions to these complex problems.
- 6. Support Proactive and Long-Term Planning for the 2030 Housing Element Update:** The County is making dramatic and precedent-setting changes to the Countywide Plan to meet the RHNA. Changing the planning corridors and rezoning A-60 parcels is significant. We are concerned the County may be placing too many sites in this update that will become by-right development projects that bypass local planning review, undermining the last 50 years of proactive community planning!

We submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and expect the County will release the Final EIR in December 2022.

The County plans to submit the final housing plan to the state in the first quarter of 2023. You can count on us to remain engaged in this process and keep our members informed of opportunities for public engagement and action.

monarch butterfly.

Earlier in September, Marin County's Agricultural Department banned the sale of tropical milkweed at nurseries operating in the County. Tropical milkweed interferes with monarch migration and reproduction — as it does not die back in the fall months when the monarchs need to migrate to the coast to survive the winter. Caterpillars in the winter months are less likely to survive the winter months. Tropical milkweed may also host a parasite (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* or OE) that reduces body mass, lifespan, mating success, and ability to fly.

We continue to engage and fiscally sponsor the Marin Monarch Working Group working collaboratively throughout Marin, Sonoma, and other Bay Area counties to raise community awareness about the challenges the western monarch is facing. Stay tuned for a new website launch in 2023 to support the growing efforts of this group and raise public awareness.

Milkweed in Marin County

Nurseries in Marin County can no longer sell tropical milkweed. Tropical milkweed interferes with monarch migration and reproduction.

Widely available native milkweed in Marin



showy milkweed
(*Asclepias speciosa*)



narrow-leaved milkweed
(*A. fascicularis*)

Harmful tropical milkweed



EAC in Action: Your Support at Work

We are strategic and focused, working proactively on environmental challenges while also responding to immediate threats to our lands, waters, and biodiversity in West Marin. Environmental advocacy takes years, and our work is never done.

As Peter Douglas, former Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission famously said,

"The coast is never saved. It's always being saved."



- Advocated for accountability, transparency, and enforceable ranch management practices, lease conditions, and water quality protection strategies for the Point Reyes National Seashore's General Management Plan Amendment.
- Partnered with Point Reyes National Seashore and the County of Marin Environmental Health Services to collect beach water quality samples testing for fecal indicators, and sharing weekly results via social media to increase public awareness at recreational sites.

- Championed regulatory permit conditions to protect sensitive eelgrass habitats from development/expansion by aquaculture operations in Tomales Bay.
- Upheld the California Coastal Act to protect sensitive habitats, public access, viewsheds, and water quality.
- Banned offshore gas and oil infrastructure from being developed in the County of Marin without voter approval.



- Trained Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch volunteers to collect community science data to inform the management, enforcement, and science of California's MPAs.
- Created a team of docents to provide education to visitors at Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area in response to high visitation and poaching activity.
- Removed trash and pollution from our watersheds through our Litter Bugs Me & Coastal Clean Up Day efforts in partnership with the local community.

- Sponsored youth advocates to campaign against single-use utensils and to-go ware from restaurants, where they educated local partners on alternatives, and partnered to secure a Countywide Reusable Foodware Ordinance.
- Partnered with Leave No Trace, and the Counties of Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino to design a communications campaign to reduce trash and littering along the coast.
- Won a legal battle with partners to require advance notice to the public prior to pesticide spraying.



- Successfully advocated for the County to adopt a resolution supporting monarch recovery efforts and banned the sale of tropical milkweed in partnership with the Marin Monarch Working Group.
- Pushed back on zoning changes that would pave the way for urban sprawl by advocating for smart community-led planning that aligns with climate vulnerability studies and avoids sensitive habitats.
- Participated in the feasibility study on the reintroduction of beavers in partnership with the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- Expanded our high school, college, and graduate internship program thanks to private donations and grant support for paid positions, which help further our mission and provide valuable work experience for future leaders.
- Launched our pop-up educational office exhibits featuring key environmental challenges allowing us to engage with the general public in new ways, resulting in new partnerships, members, and opportunities to expand our mission.



SUPPORTER SNAPSHOTS



Patty Neubacher

"I have a passion for the protection and preservation of special places. Fortunately, my career in the NPS allowed me to nourish that passion for many years. But clearly, places don't get more special than West Marin. It has extraordinary international ecological significance and it's also the place that I get to, gratefully, call home. Being on the EAC Board affords me a chance to contribute to the protection of West Marin's exceptional resources and landscape. I'm honored for the opportunity to work with an effective organization like EAC, with a brilliant staff, and a hardworking Board towards that end."

Bio: Patty Neubacher is our newest board director. She is retired from the National Park Service after 33 years, where she most recently served as Deputy Regional Director for the Pacific West Region. She is the recipient of the Department of Interior Meritorious Service Award and the Distinguished Service Award. Prior to working for the National Park Service, Patty worked as a grant administrator for Planned Parenthood of Northern California, Human Resources Director for a computer company, and Program Manager for an educational consulting firm. Patty currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Public Lands Conservancy and the Fund for People in Parks.



Grace Milstein

"I love working with the EAC team! I started out as a Coastal Advocate intern, where I learned more about West Marin's unique ecosystems and how to make tangible change for our environment. Through my mentorship I transitioned to being a part-time employee as a Communication Associate. Through this position I am able to share our mission with the broader public, and encourage them to take action. This work fuels my soul and gives me satisfaction that I am contributing to an environmental mission that will leave a lasting impact on West Marin and California, while also gaining valuable job experience and leadership skills."

Bio: Grace Milstein is our Communications Associate developing marketing, social media, and educational content. Born and raised in Marin County, Grace has a passion for coastal conservation stemming from her love of being in nature and spending time immersed in the ocean SCUBA diving. She attends the University of Southern California, where she will graduate with a degree in Environmental Studies and Philosophy in May 2023.



Sarah Christie

"EAC was Peter Douglas' home-town advocacy group, and as someone who strives to uphold the principles of coastal protection that Peter fought for, I have always held your organization in high esteem. Like Peter, EAC has been at the epicenter of lots of 'good trouble' over the years. Local advocacy can be tough duty, but EAC's smart and principled advocacy has earned statewide respect. The Coastal Act is fortunate to have such committed advocates looking out for the coast and the law that protects it for the last 50 years. There is still much to be done, and I am confident the EAC will be safeguarding the shoreline for generations to come."

Bio: Sarah Christie is the California Coastal Commission's longest-serving and first woman Legislative Director. During her watch, the Commission has gained the authority to impose administrative penalties for Coastal Act violations, consider environmental justice in permit decisions, waive permit fees for NGOs undertaking public access or habitat restoration projects, and blocked numerous bills that would have weakened the Coastal Act by exempting projects or types of development from the Commission's purview, such as aquaculture, sea walls, subdivisions, agricultural activities, energy development, and adjustments to the coastal zone boundary. We awarded her our 2022 Public Service Award for protecting our coast.



ESTABLISHED 1971

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Point Reyes Station, California 94956

www.eacmarin.org

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) is a 501(3)(c) environmental nonprofit Tax-ID 23-7115368

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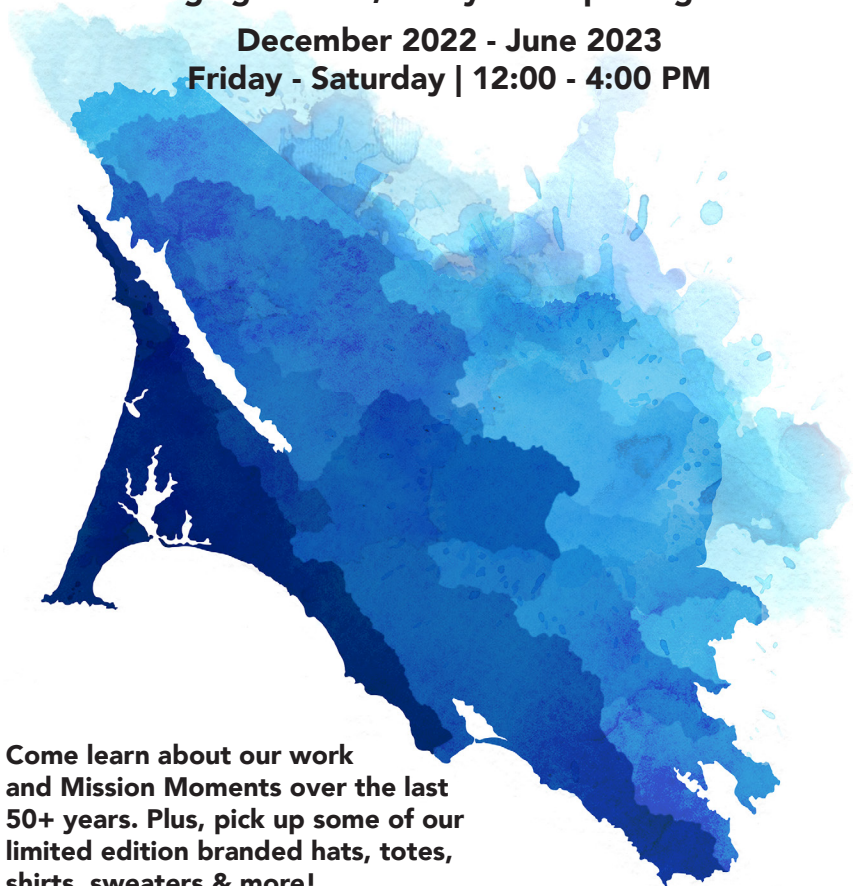
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*watercolor map depicts Marin watersheds by artist Anne Pennypacker.