



MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
2010
ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of the Marin Conservation League is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County



The Marin Conservation League is pleased to submit the 2010 Annual Report to you, our members and supporters, to highlight the League's actions and accomplishments

of the past year. As you read through the wide array of issues addressed during the year, keep in mind that every action—each letter, each comment, each public testimony—was preceded by research, analysis, field trips, and endless meetings. Our president throughout 2010, Nona Dennis, was the spark plug that kept the presence of the League alive not just in Marin, but beyond. But it takes the efforts of many to keep the League relevant and effective as governmental budget cuts take their toll on agency staff and other resources that contribute to environmental and land use decisions. In 2010, the League's committee structure continued to provide the groundwork of group discussion and analysis. The Land Use and Transportation Committee, Parks and Open Space Committee, Water Committee, Climate Action Committee (initiated in 2010), and the North Marin Unit also offer opportunities for member participation and input.

In spite of several years of economic uncertainties, MCL's financial condition in 2010 year was solid and healthy. The major part of our community action continues to be undertaken by volunteers. Your financial support is critical to keeping the organization functioning, however, and we appreciate the ongoing contributions of you, our members and supporters. Please know that, with your support MCL will continue to serve the environment of Marin on your behalf and on the behalf of future generations.

Susan Stompe
Susan Stompe, President

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

January 1 to December 31, 2010 (Prepared from MCL Records)

	Unrestricted (Operations)	Temp. Restricted (Projects/Dedict'd)	Board Restricted (Legacy of the Land)	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Support				
Membership	\$ 74,303	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,303
Contributions	\$ 60,607	\$ 26,260	\$ 25,000	\$ 111,867
Special Events & Miscellaneous	\$ 17,966	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,966
Total Support	\$ 152,876	\$ 26,260	\$ 25,150	\$ 204,136
Revenue				
Interest & Dividend Income	\$ 7,517		\$ 26,290	\$ 33,807
Sales/Disposal of Inventory less costs	\$ (3,496)			\$ (3,496)
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 17			\$ 17
Total Revenue	\$ 4,038		\$ 26,290	\$ 30,328
Transfers				
Transfer: LOL to Operations	\$ 61,639		\$ (61,639)	
Transfer Operations to LOL	\$ (150)		\$ 150	
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$ 27,298	\$ (27,298)		
Total Transfers	\$ 88,787	\$ (27,298)	\$ (61,489)	
Total Support, Revenue & Transfers	\$ 245,701	\$ (1,038)	\$ (10,199)	\$ 234,464
EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$ 180,742			\$ 180,742
Management & General	\$ 32,676			\$ 32,676
Fundraising	\$ 30,270			\$ 30,270
Total Expenses	\$ 243,688	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 243,688
Results from operations	\$ 2,013	\$ (1,038)	\$ (10,199)	\$ (9,224)
Investment Gain, Realized & Unrealized	\$ 29,943	\$ -	\$ 145,115	\$ 175,058
Change in Equity	\$ 31,956	\$ (1,038)	\$ 134,916	\$ 165,834
Total Equity, Start of 2010	\$ 288,123	\$ 70,675	\$ 1,189,261	\$ 1,548,059
Total Equity, Year End 2010	\$ 320,079	\$ 69,637	\$ 1,324,177	\$ 1,713,893

This statement summarizes MCL's financial results for the 2010 calendar year for each of the funds maintained by MCL and for the organization as a whole. The figures are taken from MCL's books and records and are unaudited.

The financial data are organized into three classes: The Unrestricted (Operations) Fund includes the income and expense whihc supports MCL's environmental advocacy programs. The Temporarily Restricted class records MCL's management of more than seven separate funds that are dedicated to specific projects or uses. The Board Restricted class records the income and expenditures of the *Legacy of the Land*, MCL's endowment fund. The income from this fund provides on-going support for MCL's advocacy programs.

In 2010, MCL's results were favorably affected by improving investment values. Applicable accounting rules require MCL to adjust the value of its investments on its books to market at year-end. For 2010, there was an increase in the value of MCL's investment assets which was recorded as income.

Thank you for your support of MCL's environmental work in 2010!

INCOME



- MEMBERSHIP 30.2%
- CONTRIBUTIONS 24.7%
- SPECIAL EVENTS 7.4%
- REVENUE 1.6%
- TRANSFERS 36.1%

EXPENSES



- PROGRAM SERVICES 74.2%
- MANAGEMENT SERVICES 13.4%
- FUNDRAISING 12.4%

JANUARY

Opposed Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposal to fund **California State Parks** with royalties from new offshore oil operations in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Recommended to the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Authority that their 40-year Long Range Right-of-Way Preservation Policy, which contemplates future development of **Port of Sonoma** ferry terminal and service, acknowledge the significant ecological and economic constraints on that site.

Advised the Board of Supervisors to accept the Final Draft of the San Geronimo Valley **Salmon Enhancement Plan** (SEP) and authorize funds to implement recommendations to protect native riparian vegetation in an ordinance.

Protecting Open Space Preserves

Parks and open space in Marin continued to be an MCL focus in 2010. In 1972 MCL was a key player in establishing the Marin County Open Space District, so it is understandable that we would take a deep interest in the District's planning processes. The **Vegetation Management Plan** was underway in 2009, but late that year, long-standing controversies over expanding trail access for mountain bikes came to a head. In early 2010, the Board of Directors (aka Supervisors), initiated two projects to address the issue: a new multi-use **"680 Trail"** above Sleepy Hollow to connect Loma Alta and Terra Linda Open Space Preserves, and a technical bike park at **Stafford Lake**. The 680 trail, which crosses biologically pristine habitat and geologically sensitive terrain, proved to be environmentally complex. MCL spent considerable time walking proposed alignments, recommending alternatives, studying consultant reports, and critiquing the Negative Declaration before the project was finally approved. Planning for the Stafford Lake bike park got underway late in 2010 and MCL will track the design process. The District also initiated a comprehensive Roads and Trails Management Plan with public workshops in late 2010. That, too, continues to occupy MCL attention. MCL remains dedicated to the primary goal of protecting the natural resources in Marin's parks and open spaces while finding ways to accommodate environmentally appropriate and safe access for hikers, equestrians, and cyclists.

Sent a letter to **Marin Magazine** criticizing mountain bike ads that promoted illegal and environmentally destructive riding behaviors.

Urged County Supervisors and MMWD Board of Directors to continue their long-standing support of **Marin Clean Energy** as the County's best chance to meet its State-mandated greenhouse gas reduction target.

FEBRUARY

Testified before Marin County Board of Supervisors and Parks and Open Space Commission that the proposed **"680 Trail"** should not be considered an "approved" project or funded from the County's Trail Legacy Fund in the absence of environmental review.

Submitted comments to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on the proposed **Equestrian Plan for Marin Headlands**, recommending best management practices and other policies to protect streams and wetlands along equestrian trails and ensure seasonal trail closures as necessary.

Strongly opposed attempts by the Governor and the legislature to exempt 25 selected projects over each of the next five years from protections under CEQA.

Placed two benches on **Angel Island State Park** honoring MCL's co-founders, funded by both the Supervisors' County Community Services Program and MCL Board members.

MARCH

In association with North Bay Leadership Council and Dominican University, held a Business-Environment Breakfast featuring attorney Ed Quevedo on the topic **"Beyond Greenwash: Authentic Sustainable Business Practices."**

Notified the Community Development Agency that the **Grady Ranch** Precise Development Plan application by Skywalker Properties, Ltd., should

Tracking State Environmental Issues in an Election Year

In the 2010 election year, MCL turned its attention to several statewide issues that posed either environmental opportunity or threat. **Proposition 21** was an opportunity to protect State Parks from the vagaries of the State's budget process by placing a surcharge of \$18 on personal vehicle registrations to create a reliable revenue stream. In exchange, California drivers would receive free day-use to any state park. MCL volunteers petitioned to qualify the measure for the ballot, and actively campaigned for its passage, but it was ultimately rejected by voters.

Fortunately, voters also rejected **Prop 23**, which would have set back the State's goals for greenhouse gas emission reduction (AB 32). MCL opposed this proposition as it did **Prop 16**, a measure that would have killed further attempts to establish local clean energy authorities such as Marin Clean Energy. 2010 was also the 40th anniversary of the State's landmark **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**. MCL commemorated that event at its Annual Dinner and worked with other organizations to ward off legislative attempts to exempt many major projects in future years from judicial protections under CEQA.

be subject to a supplemental EIR that analyzes changes in the project and environmental conditions since the prior EIR was certified in 1996.

Joined with Save the Bay and hundreds of others in opposing the massive urban development proposed by Cargill Inc, and DMB on the **Saltworks** site in Redwood City.

APRIL

Commemorated the **40th Anniversary of CEQA** by featuring Clem Shute, environmental and land use attorney and early defender of CEQA in 1970, as keynote speaker at MCL's Annual Dinner, and County Environmental Coordinator Tim Haddad in the MCL Newsletter.

Continued 30 years of monitoring landowner's



attempts to develop a hotel at **Whalers' Point** on the shore of Richardson Bay, by urging County Supervisors to limit interim equipment storage at the site and correct existing hazards, visual blight, and threats to adjacent tidal wetlands.

In a letter to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, opposed **AB 2313** (Buchanan), which would allow projects undergoing CEQA review to avoid taking meaningful action to limit greenhouse gas pollution.

Testified before the County Planning Commission, requesting that the proposed **Wind Energy Conversion System** (WECS) ordinance require an environmental assessment of potential impacts to birds and bats, set appropriate safety setbacks, and prohibit WECS on County Parks and Open Space lands.

MAY

Collaborated with other organizations on third revision of the 1991 report "**Community Marin.**" Last revised in 2003, this document recommends policies on environmentally-sound land use, transportation, ecological resources, water, housing, community development, agricultural preservation, and related issues in the County.

Participated in a UCSF **EarthFest**, where many environmental non-profits presented their programs and shared ideas for environmental action.

Requested the Marin County Open Space District elaborate on its "**New Policies to Address User Conflicts**" and the role and authority of enforcement personnel in reducing illegal use of trails.

Supported the County's **Zero Waste Program's** proposed work plan and budget for 2010-2011 in a letter to County Hazardous and Solid Waste Management Board Joint Powers Authority.

JUNE

Submitted recommendations to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify several parcels on the **San Pablo Bay shoreline** in the Recovery Plan for Tidal Marsh Ecosystems of Central and Northern California as candidates for future tidal restoration. The plan is aimed at recovering endangered species populations by preserving and restoring their tideland habitats.

Requested Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar deny the permit extension for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company, which operates in **Drakes Estero** within Point Reyes National Seashore—an area that is slated for full wilderness protection in 2012 under 1976 Congressional legislation.

Submitted comments on the DEIR for **Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Rehabilitation**, noting that impacts on water quality, endangered salmon habitat in Lagunitas Creek and redwood trees would

require both short-term (construction phase) and long-term (30-year operation) mitigation monitoring.

Submitted written and oral comments concerning protection of streams and riparian areas, wetlands, and "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas" to the Marin County Planning Commission for the **Local Coastal Program** update.

Submitted comments to Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) on the **Central Marin Ferry Connector Multi-Use Pathway**, which would connect the new Cal-Park Tunnel and a future Larkspur SMART station with the ferry terminal by bridging Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

JULY

Recommended to California Coastal Commission staff that the Application for **Lawson's Landing** should bar camping within 100-foot wetland buffer areas, restore normal fluctuations in surface and ground water, and ensure adoption and funding of a comprehensive natural resources management plan to protect the threatened California red-legged frog and Tomales Bay dunes.

Celebrated the summer with members and guests at MCL's 8th Annual **Picnic-on-the-Porch**.

In a letter to the County CDA and Planning Commission, supported a draft **Woody Riparian Vegetation Protection Ordinance** that would implement recommendations contained in the San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan (SEP) and be applicable to other County streams.

Conducted a free public workshop on "**CEQA Basics**", emphasizing how to comment effectively on EIRs and other CEQA documents.

AUGUST

Identified extensive inadequacies in the County's

Revisiting Marin's Conservation History, One Walk at a Time

MCL's 2010 Walks into (Conservation) History, initiated in 2009 during the League's 75th Anniversary year, continued to attract large and enthusiastic groups of walkers and conservation history buffs. At the March Walk into the **Corte Madera Shoreline**, more than 60 people heard about successful efforts to save Heerdt Marsh, and the story of restoring the diked Muzzi property to tidal action in 1976 as mitigation for construction of Golden Gate Bridge District's Larkspur Ferry Terminal. In August, another large crowd walked into **Gerbode Valley** above Rodeo Lagoon and visualized how the vast "**Marincello**" development could have transformed the Marin Headlands had not lawyers persisted in challenging the County's approval of the development in 1965. The Valley is now undergoing extensive restoration to eradicate invasive non-native vegetation. **Mt. Burdell** was the location of the series' 6th Walk. Destined in the early 1970s to be covered with residential development, the south and east-facing slopes of the mountain offer expansive views of San Pablo Bay and beyond. Although much of Mt. Burdell is now protected in the County Open Space Preserve and by the State (Olompali State Historic Park), private lands remain under threat. MCL continues this popular series in 2011 and 2012.

Walk Into (Conservation) History—Mt. Burdell OSP



Initial Study/Draft Negative Declaration for the **680 Trail** Project and recommended an alternative alignment to reduce the amount of new trail construction by utilizing existing fire roads.

Recommended that the scope of a DEIR on **Hanna Ranch** in Novato include impacts of traffic circulation, highway noise and poor air quality, proximity to sensitive wetlands, visibility from the freeway, and green building standards.

Voted to approve the November ballot's **Measure S**, requiring voter approval before a desalination plant and ancillary facilities could be constructed by Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD).

SEPTEMBER

Held a Business-Environment Breakfast: **"Is California Water Planning Paralyzed?"** The speakers were Assembly Member Jared Huffman; Cynthia Koehler, attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund; and Jonas Minton, Senior Water Policy Advisor at Planning and Conservation League.

Urged the Governor to sign **SB 918** (Pavley), which would help California expand wastewater recycling by developing public health standards for using recycled water to recharge groundwater basins and augment reservoirs.

Captained three **Coastal Cleanup Day** sites: Scottsdale Pond in Novato, Mahon Creek in San Rafael, and the Sausalito Waterfront.

Commented to the Board of Supervisors on the **County Housing Element Work Plan** in support of affordable housing in areas where services and transit options are readily available and resources such as water are in adequate supply.

OCTOBER

Honored MCL Leader's Circle donors with a picnic at Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Wildlife Sanctuary and recounted MCL's role in preventing development of **Richardson Bay**, obtaining permanent protection, and moving Lyford House to its present location in the late 1950s.

In association with Marin Audubon Society, EAC of West Marin, and individuals, appealed County approval of permits for two **60-meter meteorological research towers**: categorical exemptions from CEQA did not acknowledge the potential for bird and bat collisions with 24 supporting guy-wires per tower.

To aid voters in evaluating candidates in the November **MMWD Board election**, created a multi-part questionnaire and provided MMWD customers with candidates' responses.

Submitted recommendations to North Marin Water District on the scope of the **Aqueduct**

Energy Efficiency Project DEIR, urging study of tree and grasslands removal, water quality and drainage, wildlife, geology and soils, archaeological resources, energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and growth inducements.

Initiated an **MCL Climate Action Committee** to ensure that issues associated with energy, greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and climate change are considered in MCL's actions and positions.

Coastal Cleanup crew at Mahon Creek



NOVEMBER

Held a Business-Environment Breakfast on the topic of **Food Waste to Resource**, with panelists Patty Garbarino, Marin Sanitary Service; Jessica Jones, Redwood Landfill; Jon Elam, Tamalpais Community Services District; and Jason Dow, Central Marin Sanitation Agency.

Conducted a public CEQA Workshop that focused on the meaning of **"Significant Impact"** and its importance in requiring an EIR and mitigation measures.

Submitted comments to **Point Reyes National Seashore** on the scope of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will analyze the impacts of extending Drakes Bay Oyster Company's permit beyond its scheduled expiration in 2012.

Participated in a workshop and submitted com-

ments on the scope of analysis for a **Statewide Program Environmental Impact Report for Roads and Trails Change-In Use** being prepared by the State Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

DECEMBER

Participated in workshops held by the Parks and Open Space District to initiate the **Roads and Trails Management Plan** process and EIR.

Celebrated the holiday season with MCL members and guests at a festive **Holiday Party**.

Submitted comments to state Coastal Commission staff regarding the Coastal Development Permit Application for **Lawson's Landing**, expressing concern over the adequacy of protection for wetlands and the California red-legged frog.

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MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



A Legacy of Conservation

MCL played a major role in preserving and protecting many of Marin's most stunning and well-loved landscapes.

Marin Conservation League (MCL) works to preserve and protect the natural resource values and assets of Marin, focusing its action on issues of countywide significance or issues which may prove to be precedent-setting.

MCL places particular emphasis on those issues having important land use implications or impacts on Marin's environment and quality of life.

MCL looks for effective solutions through its own advocacy efforts as well as through working in close collaboration with other organizations to address major environmental challenges and concerns in Marin.