

MARIN 
CONSERVATION
 LEAGUE

Protecting Marin Since 1934

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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



As we approach the Marin Conservation League's 80th anniversary next year the organization remains strong, healthy and vibrant. Please take a few moments to

review MCL's 2012 Annual Report. It contains a wealth of information about what we do and about the financial support that is so important to our efforts. MCL had an impressive array of accomplishments in 2012—all the more impressive when you appreciate that virtually the entirety of our efforts are performed by dedicated, thoughtful volunteers who care deeply about the future of Marin. Susan Stompe, MCL President in 2012, deserves ample credit for her leadership and for her tireless dedication to the League over the years.

We still have work to do, and so I'd like to invite you to get active in MCL. Whether you're concerned about sea level rise, traffic congestion, preserving agriculture, parks or any of myriad other environmental challenges facing Marin, there is a place for you. Join one of our "issue" Committees: Land Use and Transportation, Parks and Open Space, Water and Watersheds, Climate Action, and North Marin Unit, where we collaboratively hammer out policies and recommendations for action. Go on a "Walk into Conservation History" or attend a "Business and Environment" breakfast.

The next time you visit one of Marin's many federal, state or county parks and open space lands, reflect on how different the face of Marin would have been without the dedicated efforts of volunteers who fought to preserve them. But MCL needs financial support to maintain the efforts of these volunteers, so please take a good look at our finances. I think you'll agree that we accomplished quite a lot on a lean budget. Thanks to all of you who have donated so generously over the past year—your support allows us to make a difference.

David Schnapf, President

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012 (PREPARED FROM MCL RECORDS)

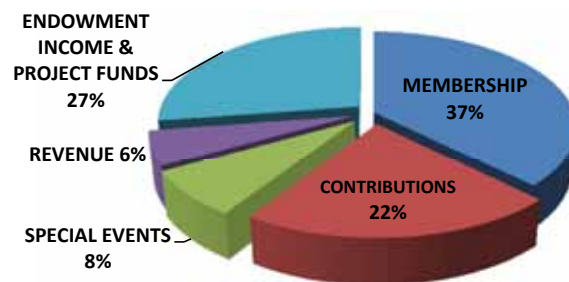
	Unrestricted (Operations)	Temp. Restricted (Projects/Dedict'd)	Board Restricted (Legacy of the Land)	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Support				
Membership	\$89,684			\$89,684
Contributions	\$51,854	\$4,985	\$300	\$57,139
Special Events & Miscellaneous	\$18,514			\$21,932
Total Support	\$160,052	\$4,985	\$300	\$168,755
Revenue				
Interest & Dividend Income	\$13,762		\$31,849	\$45,611
Sales of Inventory less costs	\$64			\$64
Miscellaneous Income	\$29			\$29
Total Revenue	\$13,855	\$0	\$31,849	\$45,704
Transfers				
LOL Support for Operations	\$61,283		(\$61,283)	
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$4,346	(\$4,346)		
Total Transfers	\$65,629	(\$4,346)	(\$61,283)	\$0
Total Support, Revenue & Transfers	\$239,537	\$639	(\$29,134)	\$211,042
	(corrected for rounding)			
EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$175,213			\$175,213
Management & General	\$22,915			\$22,915
Fundraising	\$52,559			\$52,559
Total Expenses	\$250,687	\$0	\$0	\$250,687
Results from operations	-\$11,150	\$639	(\$29,134)	(\$39,645)
Investment Gain, Realized & Unrealized	\$21,632	\$0	\$137,339	\$158,971
Change in Equity	\$10,482	\$639	\$108,205	\$119,326
Total Equity, Start of 2012 (corrected)	\$325,239	\$61,023	\$1,255,876	\$1,642,138
Total Equity, Year End 2012	\$335,721	\$61,662	\$1,364,081	\$1,761,464

The above Statement of Activities summarizes MCL's financial results for the 2012 calendar year for each of the funds maintained by MCL and for MCL as a whole. The figures are from MCL's books and records and are unaudited.

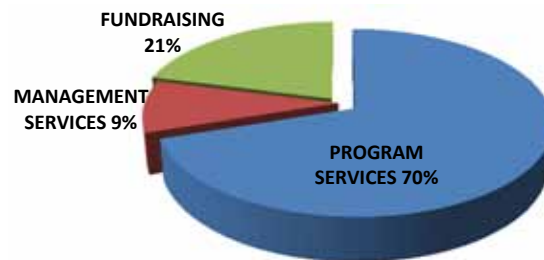
The financial data is organized in three funds: The Unrestricted Fund (Operations) supports MCL's environmental advocacy and education programs. The Temporarily Restricted Fund (Projects/Dedicated) records MCL's management of seven separate funds which are dedicated to specific projects or uses. The Board Restricted Fund (Legacy of the Land) records the income and expenditures of MCL's endowment fund. The income from this fund provides ongoing support for MCL's programs.

MCL's results in 2012 were ahead of budget and resulted in a gain for both the Operations fund and MCL as a whole. This favorable outcome was the result of increased support of MCL members, prudent management by MCL's staff and increases in the market value of MCL's investments. As in every year, MCL's environmental work depends importantly on the active support of its members and we thank you for it.

2012 Income - Operations



2012 Expenses - Operations



JANUARY

- ☼ Gave input on alternative scenarios for the **Bay Region Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)** mandated by SB 375 and urged the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) augment their responses to ABAG.
- ☼ Successfully challenged a massive, 20-year landfill project on **Carneros Ranch** near Port Sonoma located on diked wetlands, which had been approved by the Sonoma County Board of Zoning Adjustments without an EIR.
- ☼ Walk into (Conservation) History: at San Rafael's **Jean and John Starkweather Shoreline Park Trail**. (Although the Walk was halted by a storm, it was a great day for shorebirds!)
- ☼ Successfully urged the Marin County Board of Supervisors to reject the designation of the **San Quentin Peninsula** as a "Priority Development Area" in the SB 375 SCS planning process.
- ☼ Donated \$1,000 toward Marin County Parks' purchase of the 22-acre **"Montgomery Property,"** which will provide protection for two rare Manzanita species and improve public access to Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve.

FEBRUARY

- ☼ Testified before the County Planning Commission on deficiencies in the Final Supplement to the **Grady Ranch/Big Rock Ranch** Master Plan 1996 Environmental Impact Report concerning Lucasfilm's proposed production complex.

- ☼ Questioned the continued delays in the release of a DEIS/EIR on the proposed 1,100-foot runway extension at **Gross Field**.
- ☼ Business-Environment Breakfast: featuring **Will Travis**, recently retired Executive Director of San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, speaking on the challenges of sea level rise in the Bay region.
- ☼ Continued work with other groups on **"Community Marin,"** scheduled for completion by end of year.

MARCH

- ☼ Co-sponsored, with the Tamalpais Conservation Club, an informational public meeting on the challenges faced by MMWD in trying to abate and repair damage from **illicit marijuana growing** in the watershed.
- ☼ Worked with Community Development Agency staff on the **Local Coastal Program** amendments in an attempt to reconcile policy differences concerning wetland and other sensitive habitat buffers.
- ☼ Participated in a Marin County Parks Department workshop that focused on visitor use policies and management zones in County Open Space Preserves, as part of the **Road and Trail Management Plan** and environmental review process.
- ☼ Worked with others to keep **China Camp State Park, Olompali State Historic Park, and Tomales Bay State Park** open through local partnerships.

APRIL

- ☼ Criticized Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) projections of excessive growth in jobs and households in its **"Jobs-Housing Connection Scenario"** (pursuant to SB 375) for the Bay region.
- ☼ Argued before the Board of Supervisors that the Final SEIR for **Grady Ranch** should not be certified until impacts of the project on Miller Creek were understood and resolved.
- ☼ MCL's Annual Dinner: honored environmental champions and heard keynoter **Dr. Caryl Hart**, Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks and Chair, California Parks and Recreation Commission, describe the challenges of sustaining public lands for future generations.

MAY

- ☼ Business-Environment Breakfast: featuring marine expert **Ed Ueber**, former manager of the Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank, and northern sector of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, in a talk on the politics of ocean protection.
- ☼ Recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the intention of the **Regulatory Improvement Advisory Committee** to "streamline" the permit process and make it more "customer-friendly" and efficient, should not be at the expense of either the environment or public participation.
- ☼ Walk into (Conservation) History: at **China Camp State Park**, an area slated for private development, which MCL helped save as a State Park in the late 1970s.



☼ Recommended the Board of Supervisors consider putting a **tax measure** on the ballot to support and protect Marin's open space, parks and family farms.

☼ Urged the San Rafael Planning Commission to deny approval of the proposed **San Rafael Recreational Facility** because of impacts on endangered species in Gallinas Creek and the risk of putting group recreation activities within airport safety zones.

JUNE

☼ Made recommendations regarding the Marin County Parks' and Board of Supervisors' proposal for ¼ cent sales tax for the Parks, Open Space and Agricultural Preservation **Ballot Measure A**.

☼ Urged the Board of Supervisors to deny the "**Bay Creek**" residential development

on North San Pedro Road because the application was unresponsive to Planning Commission direction, but also recommended certifying the Final EIR for the project as adequate.

☼ Recommended that the County, when approving a temporary use permit for boat and RV storage at **8190 Binford Road**, Novato, require approval of neighboring property to accept stormwater overflow and set a termination date for temporary activity.

☼ Submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for **Americas Cup 34** to GGNRA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other responsible federal agencies, urging that sensitive resources on the Marin Headlands be protected from spectators at the Americas Cup events.

JULY

☼ Endorsed the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Staff recommendation to certify **Marin Energy Authority's** 2012 Energy Efficiency Program.

☼ Engaged outside counsel (along with other groups) to analyze the inadequacies in the Final EIR for the **San Rafael Airport Recreational Facility**, and recommended that the City Council deny the project.

☼ Welcomed 107 members and guests at MCL's 12th Annual **Picnic on the Porch**.

☼ Criticized the inflexibility and value of new monitoring and reporting requirements in the **Draft Phase II Small Municipal Stormwater (MS4) general permit**, as currently implemented by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP).

☼ Submitted a list of environmental issues that should be analyzed during scoping for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for **Plan Bay Area** (the SB 375 SCS) and suggested alternatives that should be considered by ABAG.

AUGUST

☼ Worked with other groups on the "**Yes on Measure A**" campaign committee's strategic planning for the November ballot.

☼ Opposed various end-of-session bills that threatened to undermine the **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** under the guise of "modernization."

☼ Submitted "Marin Voice" op-ed to the *Marin IJ*, affirming the **importance of CEQA** over the past 42 years in preventing bad projects and protecting California's environment.

☼ Criticized the **2012 Draft Marin County Housing Element Supplemental Program EIR** for failing to present comprehensive profiles of 52 proposed housing sites, and for failing to anticipate impacts of sea level rise after mid-century in areas vulnerable to flooding.

A memorable year for Marin's public lands

2012 was a memorable year for parks and other public lands that have made Marin County a "wilderness next door" for generations of Bay Area residents, a destination for visitors from around the world, and Marin's own scenic backdrop. It was a year of significant anniversaries for organizations and agencies who brought permanent protection to Marin's special lands.

Early in the year, Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) began celebrating 100 years, followed by Tamalpais Conservation Club, whose founding 100 years ago was prompted by the District's promise to open the Mt. Tamalpais watershed to public use. In West Marin, Tomales Bay State Park celebrated 60 years, and Pt. Reyes National Seashore commemorated 50 years since being signed into law in 1962. Ten years later, Golden Gate National Recreational Area was established, and that same year (1972) saw the formation of Marin County Open Space District (40 years). As a major player in many of their efforts, MCL shared in their celebrations!

An important, but scarcely new, lesson from the year: being in the public domain does not protect land in perpetuity. Land does not remain static; it is in constant

need of work to protect it from being loved too much by people-use, and from the threat of aggressive nonnative plant species that threaten to take over whole ecosystems. The Draft *Road and Trail Management Plan* and *Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan* for County Open Space Preserves are evidence that land managers are aware of their responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

Public lands also need financial security. 2012 began with two crises and concluded with happy endings. First, three state parks in Marin that were among 70 parks statewide threatened with closure due to budget cuts were "rescued" through fund-raising by Friends of China Camp, legislative action by Assemblymember Jared Huffman, and broad local support from MCL and others to keep the parks open. Second, County Parks also faced severe budget cuts. After an aggressive and broad-based campaign in which MCL played a key role, Tax Measure A was adopted by 74 percent of the voters to protect Marin's open space and parks and preserve agricultural lands. Last year MCL was proud to play a major role in ongoing efforts to keep Marin "green" and "wild"!



SEPTEMBER

- ☼ Recommended to the County that an Initial Study of environmental impacts be required for a solar installation proposed on agriculturally-zoned land within the **Baylands Corridor** near Novato.
- ☼ Sponsored 82 volunteers in cleaning up trash and debris from three shoreline sites in San Rafael, Novato, and Sausalito during annual **Coastal Cleanup Day**.
- ☼ Walk into (Conservation) History: at **Mt. Tamalpais** (visiting Rock Springs, the Mountain Theatre, and the West Point Inn), commemorating the 100th Anniversaries of Marin Municipal Water District and Tamalpais Conservation Club.
- ☼ Business-Environmental Breakfast: featuring **Dr. Whendee Silver**, U. C. Berkeley professor in Ecosystems Science Division, who described how local grazing land is being managed to sequester carbon (Marin Carbon Project).
- ☼ Co-sponsored a public forum attended by about 170 people, to discuss **SB 375 Plan Bay Area's** effects on Marin County over the next 30 years.
- ☼ Supported adoption of a San Rafael ordinance to ban disposable **polystyrene food packaging**.

OCTOBER

- ☼ **Moved to a new office** in North San Rafael better suited to support MCL activities.
- ☼ Submitted "scoping comments" listing issues that should be analyzed in Sonoma County's Draft EIR on the proposed 20-year fill project on **Carneros Ranch**.

- ☼ Honored MCL's **Leaders' Circle**, during luncheon event at the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society Art & Garden Center, believed to be the oldest surviving structure on the Tiburon Peninsula.
- ☼ Participated in Marin County Parks Department Workshop in which the Preliminary Draft of the **Road and Trail Management Plan** was presented for discussion. Submitted follow-up comments on the Preliminary Draft.

NOVEMBER

- ☼ Questioned the adequacy of the Transportation Authority of Marin's "Draft Environmental Document" for the **Highway 101/Greenbrae Corridor Project** and urged TAM to consider alternatives as required by CEQA.
- ☼ Met with Novato Economic Development Manager to discuss potential issues regarding revitalizing the **Square Shopping Center** and other economic proposals.
- ☼ Reviewed final pre-publication draft of the **"Community Marin"** document.
- ☼ Actively campaigned for voter approval of **Measure A** to provide funding to protect Marin's open space, parks and agricultural lands. The measure passed by 74 percent.

DECEMBER

- ☼ Submitted comments to California State Parks on its Draft Program Environmental Impact Report on California State Parks' **Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process**, focusing on the need for design standards to assure safety in multi-use trail proposals.

- ☼ Hosted 108 members and guests at the first **Holiday Party** held at MCL's new office on North Redwood Drive.

2013-2014
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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.

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

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