



Protecting Marin Since 1934

2017 Annual Report

Preserve | Protect | Enhance

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of Marin Conservation League, I am pleased to share our 2017 Annual Report with our members and the entire Marin community. **This report highlights the vital work of MCL's committees in advocating for the environment, presents financial information on sources and uses of funds, and points to the numerous public education programs that MCL hosted or participated in during 2017.**

MCL is particularly grateful to Kate Powers, who, as President in 2017, successfully guided MCL toward achieving its mission last year. Under her leadership, MCL's board and volunteer committees donated countless hours of service. At a time when threats to the environment have never been greater, MCL volunteers diligently studied the issues, wrote advocacy letters, testified at meetings, met with legislators, public land managers, and other officials to advocate for preservation and protection of the environment. They took direct action through coastal cleanups, planted willow trees to restore riparian corridors, removed invasive plants, made field trips to ensure the protection of sensitive species, participated on commissions, and challenged the legality of some trail improvements.

MCL also invited the larger community to jointly learn about issues affecting our community, state, and nation by hosting four educational breakfast forums: California environmental politics with Senator Mike McGuire; progress on climate action by California's Office of Planning and Research; preserving and improving wildlife corridors; and legal challenges by Natural Resources Defense Council to a year of federal environmental threats. We also offered workshops on the relationship between the National Environmental Policy Act and the Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Amendment process. And, to keep the environmental history of Marin alive, we led five Senior Walks into Marin's Conservation History.

In the 84 years since MCL's founding, some themes remain constant. Fearing that the rush of newcomers over the new Golden Gate Bridge would fill Marin's scenic lands with development, the founders focused on saving these lands for the public. While conserving land continues to be important, MCL's emphasis has gradually shifted to the long-term stewardship of these lands. And new themes have emerged: the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, the importance of agriculture in maintaining open space, and the imperative for Marin's urban corridor to be sustainably planned and developed.

MCL continues to challenge itself, remaining dedicated to carefully researching ongoing and new issues, advocating on behalf of the environment, and reaching out to the community to educate and inspire. Thank you for your engagement and support in protecting, preserving and advocating for Marin's environmental health, now and into the future.

We look forward to working with you in 2018!

With sincere gratitude,

Linda Novy
Linda J. Novy, President



Kate Powers, Senator Mike McGuire, Linda Novy

2018-2019 Board of Directors

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"MCL's Parks & Open Space Committee serves as a useful clearing house for information. It offers public land managers the opportunity to provide accurate and timely information to members, and to foster informal and in-depth communication between agency staff and community groups."

Mike Swezy, Manager of the
MMWD Watershed

Staff

Holly Smith
Office Manager

Kirsten Nolan
Communications Coordinator

Statement of Activities

January 1 to December 31, 2017 (Prepared from MCL Records)

	<u>Unrestricted</u> (Operations)	<u>Temp. Restricted</u> (Projects/Dedict'd)	<u>Board Restricted</u> (Legacy / Land)	<u>Total</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Support				
Membership	\$90,829.40			\$90,829.40
Contributions	\$57,779.83	\$2,000.00	\$250.00	\$60,029.83
Special Events & Miscellaneous	<u>\$15,514.00</u>			<u>\$15,514.00</u>
Total Support	\$164,123.23	\$2,000.00	\$250.00	\$166,373.23
Revenue				
Interest & Dividend Income	\$22,167.53		\$36,265.38	\$58,432.91
Miscellaneous Income	<u>\$5,649.11</u>			<u>\$5,649.11</u>
Total Revenue	\$27,816.64	\$0	\$36,265.38	\$64,082.02
Transfers				
LOL Support for Operations	\$81,923.00		(\$81,923.00)	\$0
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	<u>\$8,379.76</u>	<u>(\$8,379.76)</u>	\$0	\$0
Total Transfers	\$90,302.76	(\$8,379.76)	(\$81,923.00)	\$0
Total Support, Revenue & Transfers	\$282,242.63	(\$6,379.76)	(\$45,407.62)	\$230,455.25
EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$175,507.00			\$175,507.00
Management & General	\$18,417.00			\$18,417.00
Fundraising	\$41,752.00			<u>\$41,752.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$235,725.52	\$0	\$0	\$235,725.52
Results from Operations	\$46,517.11	(\$6,379.76)	(\$45,407.62)	(\$5,270.27)
Investment Gain, Realized & Unrealized	\$21,640.89	\$0	\$256,955.21	\$278,596.10
Change in Equity	\$68,158.00	(\$6,379.76)	\$211,547.59	\$273,325.83
Total Equity, Year End 2016 (See Note)	\$463,375.28	\$38,017.42	\$1,689,910.47	\$2,191,303.17
Total Equity, Year End 2017	\$528,999.45	\$31,637.66	\$1,901,458.06	\$2,464,279.00

Note: 2016 Total Equity corrected by \$350

A Note From The Treasurer

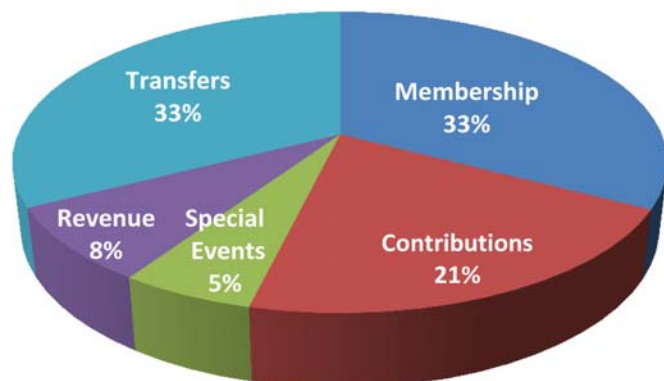
The **Statement of Activities** summarizes MCL's 2017 financial results for MCL as a whole and for each of the separate funds maintained by MCL. The figures are from MCL's books and records and are not audited.

MCL has three funds: The Unrestricted Fund supports MCL's day to day operations, environmental advocacy and education programs. The Temporarily Restricted Fund records MCL's management of funds dedicated to specific projects. Finally, the Board Restricted Fund records the income and expenditures of MCL's Legacy of the Land (LOL) endowment. The income from the LOL provides ongoing support for MCL's operations, advocacy and education work.

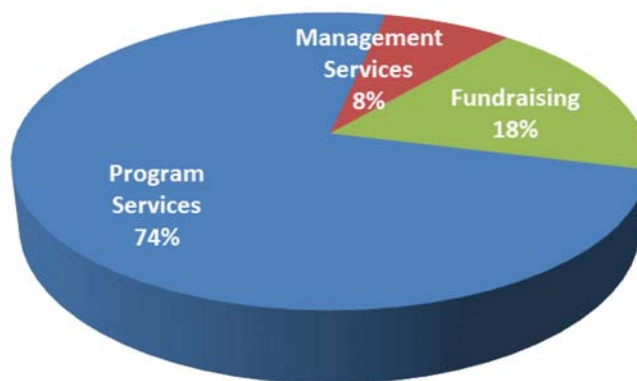
This year both the Unrestricted Fund and the Legacy of the Land had gains. This was a result of a combination of the support of MCL's members, careful office management and a favorable stock market. The loss in the Temporarily Restricted Fund indicated that more was spent on these projects than was received during the year to support them.

MCL thanks its members for their support.

Kenneth Drexler
Ken Drexler, Treasurer



2017 Income—Operations



2017 Expenses—Operations



Water and Watersheds

Provided valuable public education in a Speaker Series on water resources and advocated on behalf of water quality and the health of Marin's stream habitats and watersheds.

- ✿ Advocated for including funding for urban streams in the ballot language in water, park & wildlife bond measure for the June 2018 ballot (Proposition 68).
- ✿ Submitted scoping comments on Marin Municipal Water District's draft EIR on Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP), requesting that all IPM tools be included in the analysis of alternatives for invasive weed control.
- ✿ Hosted speaker presentations, including "The Influence of Ocean Acidification on our Coastal Ecosystems" and "Marin County's Urban Streams".
- ✿ Submitted comments on the Supplemental EIR prepared by the County to analyze cumulative impacts on salmonids in San Geronimo Creek due to potential build-out in the San Geronimo Valley under the 2007 Countywide Plan.



Agricultural Land Use

Continued to build a strong collaborative relationship with the West Marin agricultural community through the efforts of MCL's Agricultural Land Use Committee.

- ✿ Hosted two workshops to educate ranchers and other interested public in how the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to the upcoming Point Reyes National Seashore GMP Amendment process.
- ✿ Hosted quarterly meeting in Point Reyes Station on agricultural topics of interest, including the Swiss ranching history in Marin, recent conservation projects on ranches, updates on carbon farm planning, effect of federal funding cuts to agricultural and environmental programs, and the current status of tule elk management in California, including herds on Point Reyes National Seashore.
- ✿ Recommended that the county Development Code be amended to include appropriately regulated small-scale, on-farm poultry harvest facilities to reduce transport-related GHG emissions.



Climate Action

Served as a forum for sharing information on climate action initiatives, provided expertise on varied technical aspects of climate change, and advocated for public policy on a range of climate-related issues.

- ✿ Published educational articles in the MCL Newsletter, wrote letters, testified before the CPUC, and supported campaigns to encourage wider adoption of "Deep Green" energy and greenhouse gas-free energy.
- ✿ Worked with the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) and other groups to make greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction a priority in transportation planning, and to promote greater public and private use of electric vehicles and needed infrastructure.
- ✿ Worked with County of Marin Board of Supervisors and numerous other environmental groups to create Drawdown Marin, an initiative to confront climate change in a multiple sectors in a coordinated manner.
- ✿ Presented differing perspectives in discussion of carbon pricing, contrasting Cap and Trade approach with Fee and Dividend, as advocated by Citizens Climate Lobby.
- ✿ Explored and supported Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD's) GHG reduction programs, Marin efforts in carbon sequestration, and climate action planning in San Rafael, Novato and at the County level in Marin.
- ✿ Promoted awareness and planning for rising sea levels, based on the Marin Bay-WAVE study of vulnerable assets.

Highlights



Quarterly Business and Environment Breakfast forums.



Public committee meetings and workshops featuring over 50 experts in their fields.



Widely read newsletter on topics of current significance published five times annually.



Dozens of letters and testimony to decision makers.



Invasive Plant Species

Continued tracking vegetation management practices throughout the county in a focused effort to eradicate invasive weeds from both public and private lands.

- ✿ In comments to Marin County Parks staff and the Board of Directors of the Open Space District, recommended improvements to the draft 2017-18 Work Plan, pursuant to the County's Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan.

- ✿ Advocated for changes to the Novato General Plan Update to increase awareness of and management of invasive plants and to incorporate relevant policies.

- ✿ Worked with "Plant Right" to encourage nurseries to stop selling invasive plants.

- ✿ Reviewed invasive plants in Mill Valley parks, met with the city's Parks Supervisor, and submitted a proposal to initiate a more aggressive program to manage invasive plants.

- ✿ Tracked the development and unveiling of the county's pesticide awareness program and citizen information on the use of pesticides in the home environment.

- ✿ Met with County Parks staff to discuss the need to educate citizens living adjacent to open spaces, develop an encroachment control program targeting invasive plants, and develop a comprehensive list of invasive plants for the Parks website to serve as a county-wide reference.

- ✿ Hosted a presentation by One Tam on the Early Detection and Rapid Response Program that has significantly reduced new infestations of invasive plants.



Parks and Open Space

Continued to monitor the recreational and other human uses and the ecological processes that influence the present and future health of Marin's public open space and park lands.

- ✿ Sent letter to Representative Jared Huffman advocating against Congressional bill H.R. 1349, which would amend the Wilderness Act to allow access by mountain bikes under limited circumstances.

- ✿ Urged Assembly Member Marc Levine to support SB 249 (Off-Highway Vehicle reform), to improve conservation standards and oversight on State Vehicle Recreation Areas (SVRAs) and to distribute gas tax revenues more equitably to State Park sites and recreational modes.

- ✿ Requested Bay Area District, California State Parks, to continue to regulate electric mountain bikes as "motorized vehicles" and thereby restrict them from state parks, except as allowed under American Disabilities Act.

- ✿ Supported both SB 5 (de Leon) and AB 18 (Garcia), competing bills in 2017 intended to become a \$4 billion bond measure for the June 2018 ballot (Proposition 68) to fund clean water and parks and wildlife projects across the state.

- ✿ Participated in Marin County Parks Department's Environmental Roundtable to identify sensitive resources and potential impacts of proposed trail projects under the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP)

- ✿ In collaboration with "Trail Partners", participated in "outposts" at popular trailheads drawing attention to the "Slow and Say Hello" campaign for responsible trail use.



Land Use & Transportation

Studied myriad land use and transportation proposals throughout the county and provided constructive comments and public testimony.

- ✿ Submitted scoping comments to Marin County on draft environmental impact reports (EIRs) concerning the proposed Ross Valley Watershed Risk Reduction Project; the Woodacre/San Geronimo Flats Wastewater Management and Recycling Project; and the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Rehabilitation project.

- ✿ Advocated renewal of Novato's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) on the November 2017 ballot, and allocated funds to support the UGB campaign.

- ✿ Recommended that the Board of Supervisors (Marin Flood District Board of Directors) place a parcel tax measure for improvements to the Novato Flood Control Zone 1 on November 2017 ballot and allocated funds to support "Yes on E for Flood Protection" campaign.

- ✿ Urged the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to establish standards or policies in the Development Code for land based solar arrays that could be uniformly applied to all land-based solar installation.

- ✿ Requested Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) include greenhouse gas reduction as an integral part of TAM's recently released 2017 Draft Strategic Vision Plan.

- ✿ Continued its decades-long participation in environmental review of the proposed runway extension at Gnosss Field, noting a recent FAA study verifying that a 300 ft. expansion would adequately address the current fleet's needs

\$1000+

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 Three Twins Ice Cream
 TOAST Novato Restaurant

\$50 to \$99

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***We must act if we believe in building
and protecting for the future.***



MCL mission at a glance...

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 and educational efforts as well as through working in close collaboration with other organizations and the public 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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