



Protecting Marin Since 1934

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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





Earlier this spring Marin Conservation League held its annual meeting and dinner. This event has grown in both success and value as many of Marin's elected officials

and conservation leaders join MCL membership for this special event. The dinner is a reminder of the importance of MCL to Marin County and how, in this fast-changing community, the efforts of our member-based committees are really critical.

This annual report describes the efforts MCL undertook on your behalf in the past year. Nearly fifty projects were discussed at our board and committee meetings. We sent letters and gave testimony at numerous state, regional and local gatherings, occupying hundreds of hours of our members' time.

Serving as your President is an exciting and rewarding challenge. You have a diverse, experienced and conscientious group of Board members. Each term brings new ideas and a fresh focus from them.

We hope you continue to participate in our programs. Join us for Walks into (Conservation) History, Business-Environment Breakfasts where key local issues are discussed, and informative Ranch Tours. Also check out MCL's Committees: Water and Watersheds holds monthly presentations on local water issues like the drought and water conservation; Agricultural Land Use is working to preserve the county's treasured agricultural heritage; Climate Change is focused on a Countywide response to sea level rise; and Land Use/Transportation and Parks/Open Space actively review multiple projects affecting the county, its people, and environment.

It is only with your help that MCL can accomplish its mission. By doing it together, we can have a great time, meet new friends and keep Marin County a place we all love and protect. Thank you for your continued support. —Jon Elam

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013 (PREPARED FROM MCL RECORDS)

	Unrestricted (Operations)	Temp. Restricted (Special Projects & Dedicated Funds)	Board Restricted (Legacy of the Land)	Total
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
<b>Support</b>				
Membership	\$81,806			\$81,806
Contributions	\$47,145	\$1,530	\$400	\$49,075
Special Events & Miscellaneous	\$18,986			\$18,986
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$147,937</b>	<b>\$1,530</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$149,867</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Interest & Dividend Income	\$20,469		\$31,630	\$52,099
Sales of Inventory less costs	\$28			\$28
Miscellaneous Income	\$29			\$29
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$20,526</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,630</b>	<b>\$52,156</b>
<b>Transfers</b>				
LOL Support for Operations	\$65,719		(\$65,719)	\$0
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$16,389	(\$16,389)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$82,108</b>	<b>(\$16,389)</b>	<b>(\$65,719)</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Support, Revenue &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>\$250,571</b>	<b>(\$14,859)</b>	<b>(\$33,689)</b>	<b>\$202,022</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services	\$163,654			
Management & General	\$18,893			
Fundraising	\$47,238			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$242,525</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$242,525</b>
Results from operations	\$8,046	(\$14,859)	(\$33,689)	(\$40,502)
Investment Gain, Realized & Unrealized	\$23,783	\$0	\$246,518	\$270,301
<b>Change in Equity</b>	<b>\$31,830</b>	<b>(\$14,859)</b>	<b>\$212,829</b>	<b>\$229,799</b>
Total Equity, Start of 2013	\$335,721	\$61,662	\$1,364,081	\$1,761,464
<b>Total Equity, Year End 2013</b>	<b>\$367,551</b>	<b>\$46,803</b>	<b>\$1,576,910</b>	<b>\$1,991,263</b>

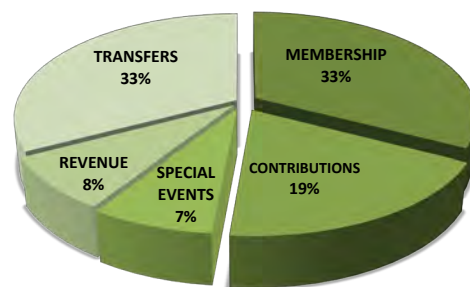
The above **Statement of Activities** summarizes MCL's financial results for the 2013 calendar year for each of the funds maintained by MCL and for MCL as a whole. The figures are from MCL's books and records and are not audited.

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.

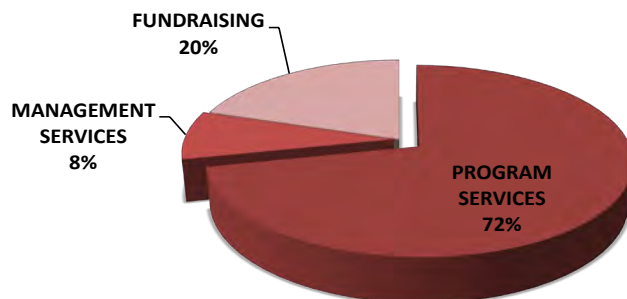
MCL's results in 2013 were ahead of budget and resulted in a gain for both the Operations fund and MCL as a whole. This favorable outcome was the result of increased support by MCL members, prudent management by MCL's staff and increases in the market value of MCL's investments.

In 2013, as in prior years, MCL's ability to do its environmental work depends on the active support of members. We thank you for your support.

### 2013 Income—Operations



### 2013 Expenses—Operations



## JANUARY

Following the ballot success of County Parks, Open Space and Farmland Preservation **Measure A**, urged the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to establish a balanced Citizens' Oversight Committee to review Measure A expenditures annually.

Continued to monitor the work of the **County's Regulatory Improvement Advisory Committee** ("Red-tape Committee") appointed by the BOS in 2012 to review and recommend efficiencies in County planning permit procedures.

Testified at public hearings on the serious inadequacies of the "Draft Environmental Document" concerning proposed **Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project**, and demanded that a full EIR be prepared.

Testified before BOS on outstanding issues in the Agriculture and Biological Resources sections of the **Draft Local Coastal Program** during final stages of BOS review.

## FEBRUARY

Hosted Business-Environment Break-fast meeting featuring **Assemblymember Marc Levine**, who presented an overview of current environmental bills facing the 2014 legislature, including two of particular interest to him: one regulating "fracking", and a statewide ban on single-purpose plastic bags.

Submitted scoping comments to the City of Larkspur for a Draft EIR on the **SMART Station Area Plan**, noting that the Plan calls for excessive development in a highly constrained area.

Submitted comments to the Community Development Agency (CDA) on the Final Supplemental EIR on the County's **2012 Draft Housing Element**, citing obstacles to viability of developing affordable housing on numerous sites listed in the 2014-2022 housing cycle.

Wrote to Governor Brown and the California Air Resources Board recommending natural resource conservation and restoration projects in Marin as appropriate candidates for use of **Cap and Trade Auction revenues**, including the Marin Carbon Project, which sequesters carbon on rangeland.

## MARCH

In response to an application to CDA for a temporary use permit for vehicle and boat storage at **Binford Road** on a tidal canal near Gness Field, expressed concerns about encroachment of storage areas into waterway setbacks and requested specifics on site cleanup and drainage.

Participated in a **Stream Conservation Ordinance** Public Workshop and recommended the CDA adhere to County-wide Plan policy to assure protection of riparian and aquatic resources.

Hosted a Walk into (Conservation) History at **Olompali State Historic Park** to review the long cultural history of human habitation and how permanent conservation of the site within the State Park system had been accomplished by many volunteers.

MCL's North Marin Unit critiqued a proposal to construct a very large **multi-sports facility at Hamilton**, including nine baseball fields, four soccer fields and an

indoor sports facility.

Attended the signing of an agreement between California Department of Parks and Recreation and Friends of China Camp (FOCC) to provide matching funds under **AB 1478**, a bill supported by MCL that allows FOCC to operate China Camp State Park and helps Tomales Bay and Olompali Parks extend open days.

## APRIL

Attended final round of regional public meetings on **Plan Bay Area** (prepared by the Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission to fulfill requirements of SB 375) and criticized the final Plan for overstating future job growth in Marin.

Hosted the MCL Annual Dinner and heard **Congressman Jared Huffman** describe the challenges facing a freshman Democrat as minority member of House Committee on Natural Resources.

Participated in online forum "**CEQA-Works.org**" to counter widespread misinformation and ongoing attacks on CEQA by business and development interests.

Submitted a letter and testimony to the Novato City Council supporting a proposed ordinance banning **disposable polystyrene food packaging**, and also urged the City to **ban the use of plastic bags** and impose a fee on single-use bags as other Marin cities and the County have done.

## MAY

Co-hosted a public forum at Dominican University to engage the local community in discussion of the **Draft Plan Bay Area**:



"Choosing the Future We Want: What Does Plan Bay Area Mean for Marin?"

- ✿ Provided written commentary to the CDA with additional suggestions and requests for clarification of the draft **Stream Conservation Ordinance**, and urged CDA not to amend stream protection policies in the Countywide Plan.

- ✿ Recommended to the County Planning Commission that an ordinance covering **ground-based solar facilities** be drafted by the County before approving an application for a photovoltaic solar project near Novato on an agricultural-zoned site within the historic marsh margin of the Bay.

## JUNE

- ✿ Hosted a Business-Environment Breakfast featuring **Jamison Watts**, Executive Director of Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), who outlined new initiatives to ensure long-term stewardship of agricultural lands under MALT easement.

- ✿ Affirmed MCL's support of Tiburon Open Space Committee's efforts to acquire the **Martha property** on South Tiburon Ridge for open space.

- ✿ Recommended to the BOS the proposed **Stream Conservation Ordinance** include strong implementation mechanisms and that it apply to the entire unincorporated county, not only to San Geronimo Creek.

- ✿ Submitted a letter to County Planning Commission criticizing the Final Supplemental EIR on the **2012 Draft Housing Element** and repeating that Grady Ranch property is unsuitable for affordable housing and should not be pre-zoned as such.

## JULY

- ✿ Submitted letters to federal and state agencies requesting more information on impacts to threatened and endangered species from construction of **SMART in Marin County**, and that mitigation for two acres of wetlands loss be required at a 2:1 ratio and be located near the site of impact.

- ✿ Visited Fresh Run Farms near Bolinas to inspect site of a **restoration project for coho salmon and steelhead on Pine Gulch Creek** that will entail storing surplus winter runoff off-stream to supplement low dry season flows for juvenile fish.

- ✿ Submitted a letter to BOS condemning

the **illegal use of trails** on County Open Space Preserves, which degrades natural resources and compromises safety for other users, and calling for increased enforcement of regulations.

- ✿ Submitted a letter to the State Coastal Conservancy supporting County's application for a **Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant** for the Marin coast.

- ✿ Urged the County Planning Commission deny certification of the Final EIR on **Easton Pt., Tiburon**, because it offers no alternative substantially lessening significant impacts of the project and relies on mitigation measures that have no assurance of being implemented.

- ✿ Hosted 90+ MCL members and friends at the annual **Picnic-on-the-Patio** at the Tamalpais Valley Community Center.

## AUGUST

- ✿ Reviewed an assessment by Little Hoover Commission ("Beyond Crisis: Recapturing Excellence in California's State Parks") and urged the new **Parks Forward Commission** to exercise caution before considering an "enterprise model" that might lower standards for protecting natural and cultural resources in California's State Parks.

- ✿ Supported successful appeal of **Balestreri Use Permit** for photovoltaic solar facility, challenging the Planning Commission's approval in the absence of a county ordinance.

- ✿ Participated in **Climate Change Forum** with Congressman Jared Huffman and others at Mill Valley Community Center.

- ✿ Requested the BOS to adopt the interim Countywide **Stream Conservation Ordinance** and instruct the CDA to initiate the comprehensive work program that will support implementation.

- ✿ Urged Governor Brown to reject amendments to **SB 731** proposed by Office of Planning and Research as a radical threat to **CEQA** that would expand exemptions, shorten public review, and compromise the public process.

## Focus on Water

As 2013 came to a close, no one could anticipate that a severe drought would follow in 2014. Nonetheless, MCL paid close attention to a variety of topics related to water throughout 2013.

The Water and Watershed Committee continued to host its popular monthly series of talks on many aspects of water, ranging from an update on the effectiveness of conservation and efficiency programs at Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD); the continuing successes of the Marin Resource Conservation District in assisting cooperating ranchers in restoring their creeks to control sediments and other pollutants; overview of the Federal Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load program and its relation to Marin County watersheds; effects of ocean acidification associated with rising atmospheric

CO<sub>2</sub> levels on phytoplankton, a vital food source; the need to preserve fish flows in the San Francisco Estuary; and the status of current water supply in the MMWD system that serves much of Marin. The Committee also spent considerable time studying the best approaches to a countywide Stream Protection Ordinance and testifying before the Planning Commission.

Other MCL Board members continued to participate in meetings of the North Bay Watershed Association. And the MCL Newsletter devoted two issues to exploring the volunteer work of numerous "Friends of the Watershed" organizations that collaborate with the County Watershed Program to engage local communities and neighbors in the protection of their own watersheds.





## SEPTEMBER

☼ Hosted a Business-Environment Breakfast featuring biologist Terry Sawyer, co-owner of Hog Island Oyster Company, who discussed **ocean acidification** caused by excess atmospheric carbon dioxide, and its detrimental effect on shellfish.

☼ In celebration of **Coastal Cleanup Day**, led volunteers in cleaning up Scottsdale Marsh in Novato, Mahon Creek in San Rafael, and the Sausalito waterfront.

☼ Acknowledged the need for affordable housing in the County but criticized the **2012 County Housing Element** and the Final SEIR for over-reaching and covering two housing cycles for a total of 32 sites, many of them infeasible.

☼ Adopted an internal MCL policy for evaluating appropriate locations and conditions for **ground-based solar installations** and determining when environmental review, should be required.

## OCTOBER

☼ Hosted MCL's annual recognition luncheon for Leaders Circle members, featuring Supervisor Kate Sears, who is leading the **Southern Marin/Richardson Bay Pilot Project** to ascertain assets vulnerable to sea level rise and develop methods to communicate information to the public.

☼ Supported **Redwood Landfill's** application to Marin County Environmental Health to expand and upgrade composting at the Landfill.

☼ Submitted extensive recommendations on the Amended Final EIR for **Easton Pt.**, reiterating that many impact issues still



have not been resolved.

☼ Visited the Nicasio Native Grass Ranch, home of the **Marin Carbon Project**, to learn of results from research into range enhancement through compost applications, and the potential benefits of carbon sequestration in mitigating climate change.

## NOVEMBER

☼ Worked with League of Women Voters to encourage those cities and towns that have not already done so, to **adopt single-use plastic bag ordinance**.

☼ Urged the Novato City Council to approve a Resolution of Intention to form a Mello-Ross District to enable acquisition of a **Pacheco Valle** site for public open space.

☼ Gave provisional support to the Marin County Farm Advisor for a proposed 10-year **invasive weed management program**, while requesting that the results of a one-year pilot program be made public and that Integrated Pest Management methods be described.

## DECEMBER

☼ Sent detailed comments to the County Parks Department, citing the failure of the Draft EIR for the **Road and Trail Management Plan** to identify significant impacts and its reliance on policies and best management practices for mitigation of future trail projects on County open space.

☼ Submitted comments to the County of Marin on the Final EIR concerning the proposed **runway extension at Gnos Field**, noting that the absence of an alternative for a shorter extension and urging that mitigation for loss of wetlands be carried



out as near to the site of loss as possible.

☼ Celebrated the holiday season with a hundred members and friends at a **Holiday Open House** at the MCL office.

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*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

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 Karl Baeck  
 Katharine Baker  
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 Joyce Johnston  
 Rachel Kamman  
 Esther and Sandeep Karkal  
 Christine Kelly and Tony Weinress  
 Fritz Kemp  
 Claudia Kennedy  
 Julie and Steve Kimball  
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 Harriet and Thomas Kostic  
 Caroline and Astrid Kristensen  
 Erik Krumrey and Sunny Lee  
 John Kunzweiler and Julie La Nasa  
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Anna Everest and James Kennedy  
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Phyllis Faber  
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Barry Flicker  
Heather Foote  
Brenda Foster  
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Dianne Fruin  
John Gage  
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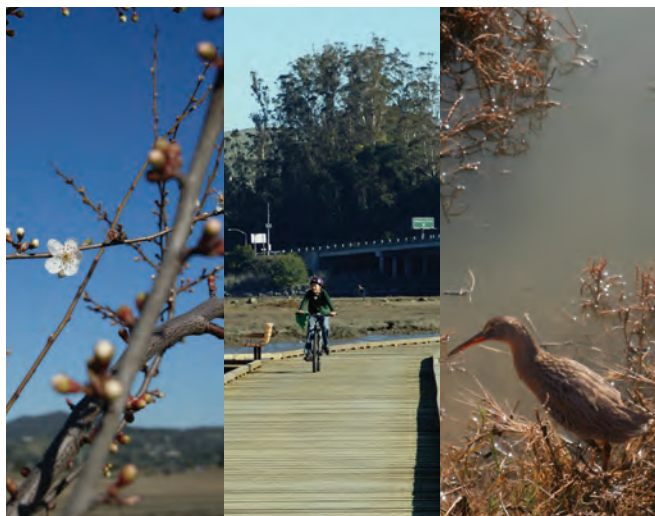
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# MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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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