



Protecting Marin Since 1934

2014

ANNUAL REPORT



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



As Marin Conservation League's recently named President, I am immersing myself in the organization's history and guiding principles. I've found an easy sense of belonging because my values align well with MCL's mission to

preserve and protect Marin County's natural assets. However, it's not only natural resources that are important to MCL—people and relationships make protection and conservation happen! That is especially true in dealing with today's complex environmental challenges, and it has been evident throughout MCL's 81-year history.

The past year was a busy and productive one. It was also a year supporting collaboration. For example, MCL encouraged both natural resource conservation and agricultural stewardship in West Marin by convening meetings with various stakeholders, including ranchers, agency staff, and environmentalists, over issues raised in the upcoming Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan on Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and by amendments to West Marin's Local Coastal Plan.

Much of MCL's work happens in our Issue Committees. Last year, committees tracked, analyzed, and advocated environmental interests on projects and issues having to do with land use, development, and transportation; management of public lands including trail management and control of invasive species; and on climate change and renewable energy resources. These issues will continue in the years to come.

Last year MCL also produced numerous public education programs, open to members and the public. The year ended with the 16th Walk into Conservation History on the Horse Hill and Alto Bowl Open Space Preserves. Our sell-out Business-Environment Breakfasts included a stimulating debate on the California Water Bond. Eight speakers addressed a variety of topics in MCL's one-of-a-kind Water Program Series. And our Agricultural Workshops explored how West Marin ranchers are addressing climate change.

The MCL Board and Staff extend a warm welcome to new members and sincere thanks to continuing members for your ongoing and generous support. Your donations give us the opportunity to make a difference.

We encourage you to participate in our Committee work and to attend upcoming programs and events. I look forward to meeting many of you at our annual Picnic on the Patio, July 25th.

Kate Powers

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014 (PREPARED FROM MCL RECORDS)

	Unrestricted (Operations)	Temp. Restricted (Special Projects & Dedicated Funds)	Board Restricted (Legacy of the Land)	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Support				
Membership	\$81,475			\$81,475
Contributions	\$49,862	\$19,582	\$23,215	\$92,659
Special Events & Miscellaneous	\$19,494			\$19,494
Total Support	\$150,830	\$19,582	\$23,215	\$193,627
Revenue				
Interest & Dividend Income	\$20,168		\$34,396	\$54,564
Sales of Inventory less costs	\$15			\$15
Miscellaneous Income	\$176			\$176
Total Revenue	\$20,359	\$0	\$34,396	\$54,755
Transfers				
LOL Support for Operations	\$68,523		(\$68,523)	\$0
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$4,286	(\$4,286)	\$0	\$0
Total Transfers	\$72,809	(\$4,286)	(\$68,523)	\$0
Total Support, Revenue & Transfers	\$243,998	\$15,296	(\$10,913)	\$248,381
EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$159,069			
Management & General	\$20,121			
Fundraising	\$32,839			
Total Expenses	\$212,029	\$0	\$0	\$212,029
Results from operations	\$31,969	\$15,296	(\$10,913)	\$36,352
Investment Gain, Realized & Unrealized	\$10,657	\$0	\$92,243	\$102,900
Change in Equity	\$42,626	\$15,296	\$81,331	\$139,253
Total Equity, Start of 2014	\$367,550	\$46,803	\$1,576,910	\$1,991,263
Total Equity, Year End 2014	\$410,176	\$62,099	\$1,658,241	\$2,130,516

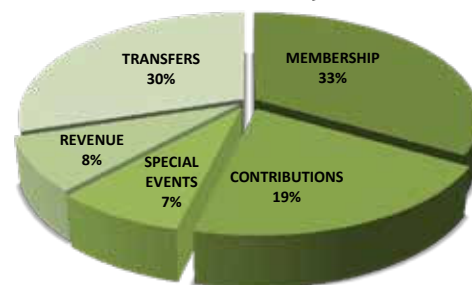
The above **Statement of Activities** summarizes MCL's financial results for the 2014 calendar year for each of the separate funds maintained by MCL and for MCL as a whole. The figures are from MCL's books and records and are not audited.

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 funds which are dedicated to eight specific projects or uses. The Board Restricted Fund records the income and expenditures of MCL's Legacy of the Land endowment fund. The income from this fund provides ongoing support for MCL's programs.

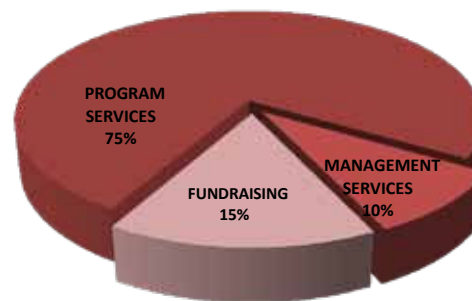
MCL's results in 2014 were ahead of budget and resulted in a gain for the Operations and Projects and Dedicated Funds and MCL as a whole. This favorable outcome was the result of continued support by MCL members, prudent management by MCL's staff and increases in the market value of MCL's investments.

We thank you for your support.

2014 Income—Operations



2014 Expenses—Operations



JANUARY

- ✿ Submitted recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS) on the scope of an Environmental Assessment (EA) of local traffic and transportation conditions and parking outside **Muir Woods National Monument**.
- ✿ In comments to Marin County Parks on its Draft **Road and Trail Management Plan** (RTMP) revisions, recommended that resource protections be maintained and there be no net increase in road and trail footprint, mileage, and impacts.
- ✿ Hosted a joint meeting of Parks & Open Space, Land Use and Agricultural Land Use Committees to explore the **Pt. Reyes National Seashore Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan** process, including the impact of free-roaming elk on ranches.
- ✿ Submitted comments to County Parks on the scope of the forth-coming Draft Tiered Program Environmental Impact Report on the **Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan** for open space preserves.
- ✿ Hosted a Water Program Series presentation on **Corte Madera Baylands** Sea-level Rise Adaptation Strategy by a coastal planner from San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

FEBRUARY

- ✿ Supported establishment of the **Tamalpais Lands Collaborative** to work on joint projects and restorations on Mt. Tamalpais.
- ✿ Commented on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Draft **Dog Management Plan** and Supplemental Draft Environmental

- Impact Statement, in general supporting Alternative F, which allows dogs off-leash on Rodeo Beach, but recommending that a portion of Muir Beach also be opened to dogs under voice control.
- ✿ Continued MCL's campaign with League of Women Voters to encourage local Marin cities and towns to adopt local **disposable bag** reduction ordinances.
- ✿ Held a Water Program Series presentation, "**What MMWD is doing about the drought,**" by Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) board member Jack Gibson.

MARCH

- ✿ Urged Marin Board of Supervisors not to certify the **Easton Point** (Martha Property) Amended Final EIR because of its failure to provide any alternative that would substantially lessen significant impacts and its inclusion of proposed mitigation measures of questionable feasibility.
- ✿ Conducted Walk Into (Conservation) History at Audubon Canyon Ranch's **Cypress Grove Preserve** where participants heard about the history of the Preserve's acquisition from Ranch founder Dr. Marty Griffin.
- ✿ Participated in County Parks workshop on revisions to its Draft **Road and Trail Management Plan** and the criteria for assessing future trail project proposals.

APRIL

- ✿ At the MCL Annual Dinner, heard **Felicia Marcus**, Chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board, discuss the implications of current drought conditions on the Delta and other drought-related

environmental concerns.

- ✿ Established an **Agricultural Land Use** issue committee to address agricultural activities and strengthen ties between MCL and West Marin's agricultural community.
- ✿ Created a **Climate Action Working Group** to study and take action on the broad range of climate change issues.
- ✿ Presented **Marin Trail Partners'** campaign to transform trail culture on Marin public lands at State Parks' Trails & Greenways Annual Conference in Palm Springs.

MAY

- ✿ Supported Measure B, which allows a permanent home for the popular **Marin Farmers Market** at the Civic Center.
- ✿ Submitted comments to California Coastal Commission staff requesting clarification of outstanding issues in the proposed **Marin County LCP Amendment** (Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan).
- ✿ Requested further analysis of environmental impacts of the **Corte Madera Inn** Rebuild Project.
- ✿ Conducted a Walk Into (Conservation) History on **Old St. Hilary's** Open Space Preserve and discussed the possibility of public acquisition of the adjacent 110-acre Martha property, slated for development for over 40 years.
- ✿ Supported State Coastal Conservancy's application to the National Coastal Wetlands Program for funding to assist in acquiring 5-acre Madera Bay Park as part of **Corte Madera Ecological Reserve**.



JUNE

- ✿ Submitted comments on the Draft EIR for the **Larkspur Station Area Plan**, pointing out that the massive plan would have significant impacts on local traffic and on adjacent Bay marshlands.
- ✿ Submitted written comments to NPS on the scope of the **Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan** and Environmental Assessment, to authorize 20-year leases for ranches on Pt. Reyes National Seashore.
- ✿ Sent letters to California legislators urging defeat of AB2145, which would hinder or block development of local **Community Choice Aggregation** energy programs.
- ✿ Hosted a Business-Environment Breakfast forum on a partnership between Central Marin Sanitation Agency and Marin Resource Recovery in which **power to run the sanitation plant is generated from restaurant food waste**.

✿ Toured the site of the proposed **Cooley/Porter solar project** on Mt. Burdell and submitted comments to the County supporting approval of its permit and design review application.

✿ Supported expansion of the **Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries**.

✿ Organized a visit to **Nicasio Native Grass Ranch** to learn how compost added to agricultural grasslands can remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequester it in soil, thereby also increasing water retention capacity (Marin Carbon Project).

✿ Hosted a Water Program Series talk on **salmon habitat in Marin** by MMWD Fisheries Program Manager Greg Andrew.

JULY

✿ Requested support from Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Jared Huffman for funds to complete the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-

neers' **Corte Madera Creek Flood Control Project**, which will enable further work on flood control projects in Ross Valley.

✿ Supported use of **goat grazing** to reduce invasive plants and abate fire hazard due to homeless encampments at San Rafael's Canalways property.

✿ Requested San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to require more information before issuing Water Quality Certification for Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit's Initial Operating Segment 2 to **mitigate impacts to small wetland and riparian areas** near Rafael Meadows.

✿ Criticized the failure of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Administrative Draft and Draft EIR/EIS to examine impacts of reductions in **Delta out-flows on shore-line areas in San Pablo Bay** or to identify acceptable mitigation measures.

AUGUST

✿ Submitted a letter supporting **MMWD Drought Resiliency Task Force's** leadership in exploring a broad range of water conservation options.

✿ Testified at hearings in Sacramento urging **defeat of AB 2145**, a bill that would set up significant roadblocks to local participation in a Community Choice Aggregation energy supply system. The bill was defeated.

✿ Urged the Board of Supervisors to deny developer's request for vacation of streets which would enable a proposed **Manzanita-area hotel project** to conform to Tamalpais Area Community Plan floor area requirements. The request was denied.

✿ Entertained MCL members and guests at the annual **Picnic on the Patio**.

SEPTEMBER

✿ Urged Governor Brown to sign SB 270, which establishes a **state-wide ban on distribution of single-use plastic bags** by certain retail stores and imposes a fee on single-use carry-out bags. The Governor signed the bill.

✿ Submitted comments to Marin County

Expanding Issue Committees

MCL has always worked through its issue committees, some of them long-standing, such as Land Use and Transportation, Parks and Open Space, and Water and Watersheds. Other committees have come and gone—and then returned, perhaps in a different form or focused on new or modified issues.

Last year, an Agricultural Land Use Committee was established, prompted by the Board's interest in strengthening ties between MCL and the West Marin agricultural community and better understanding its unique issues. Some years ago MCL's Rural Land Use Committee filled that bill. Beginning in 2013, rancher Sally Gale and West Marin resident Judy Teichman began to organize a series of visits to ranches engaged in notable forms of conservation, such as the Nicasio Native Grass Farm, home of the Marin Carbon Project. In 2014, the committee expanded its visits to workshops and engaged a broad array of interests concerned with, for example, the

future of ranches in Pt. Reyes National Seashore and Local Coastal Program amendments.

The Climate Action Committee, after a brief hiatus, also reformed as a Working Group last year, ready to tackle issues such as the need for coordinated response to sea level rise and strategies to broaden energy efficiency programs that are essential if we hope to meet California's increasingly ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals. Co-chaired by Pam Reaves and Doug Wilson, the working group is benefitting greatly from the experience and collaboration of other organizations that have focused on climate for a number of years, such as Sustainable San Rafael.

You can either join one of these committees, or attend their interesting meetings and events. There is room for both advocacy and learning! Visit the MCL website for information on meeting times, locations and events.



Parks on the Recirculated Draft TPEIR for the RTMP, noting the lack of criteria for **safe design of multi-use trails**. Submitted a second letter focused on the impact of new trails on spread of invasive plants.

- Organized volunteers and hosted **Coastal Cleanup** sites in Novato and Sausalito.

- Launched a fundraising campaign and raised more than \$15,000 to contribute towards Marin Audubon Society's **purchase of Madera Bay Park**.

OCTOBER

- Hosted a Business-Environment Breakfast featuring a debate between a proponent and an opponent of the November ballot's **Proposition 1: Water Bond**.

- Submitted a letter to Community Development Agency charging that the **Draft Housing Element** (2015-2023) Program EIR failed to address the potential impact of the State density bonus program, and recommending modification to limit total allowable units at St. Vincent's/Silveira.

- Submitted comments on the scope of MMWD's **Water Storage Improvement Project** EIR.

- Honored MCL Leaders Circle members at a luncheon at **Pacheco Ranch Winery** in Ignacio, which has been in one family's ownership since the mid-1800s.

- Sent comments on the County's Draft **Climate Action Plan Update 2014** urging the County to take leadership by committing adequate resources, coordinating with other planning entities in Marin, and engaging the public more effectively.

- Submitted recommendations to the

Parks Forward Commission on its Draft Report, including a suggestion that a management track be opened to qualified employees who are not sworn peace officers.

- Hosted a talk by Rebecca Burgess on **Harvesting Fiber and Color** from plants at Nicasio Native Grass Ranch.

- Introduced new **Marin County Urban Streams Coordinator Sarah Philips** at Water Program Series talk.

NOVEMBER

- Submitted critical comments to County planners on an application for a proposed 15-bedroom single-family residence at **135 Balboa St., Inverness Park**, as inconsistent with neighborhood character.

- Sent a letter to **Martha Company**, urging its Board to consider public acquisition instead of the lengthy, costly, and possibly litigious road to developing the 110-acre Easton Point in Tiburon.

- Held a well-attended meeting to discuss major issues raised in 3,000 comments to NPS on the scope of the **Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan and EA**, and to preview issues for public workshops.

- Conducted a Walk In to (Conservation) History in the **Horse Hill and Alto Bowl Open Space Preserves**, Mill Valley, and heard about the grassroots citizen campaign to "Save Horse Hill."

DECEMBER

- Hosted a tour of the historic **Lafranchi Family Dairy** in Nicasio and learned about traditional cheese making methods.

- Supported Marin County's application

to the State Coastal Conservancy for funds to address sea level rise under the **Climate Ready Grant program**.

- Participated in stakeholder meetings convened by Rep. Jared Huffman concerning NPS's planned reservation system at **Muir Woods National Monument** and on ways to eliminate hazardous and pollution-causing roadside parking.

- Testified before Board of Supervisors in a final hearing on the Draft RTMP that the Plan lacks parameters for **design of safe multi-use trails** on open space preserves.

- Entertained members and guests at the **MCL Holiday Party**.

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 Good Earth Natural Foods
 Greg Zitney Photography
 Insalata's and Marinitas
 Marin Brewing Company
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 Slide Ranch
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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.

This Annual Report is printed in Marin on recycled paper. Text by Nona Dennis. Design and production by Dru Parker. Photos by Jana Haehl, Dru Parker, Tim Rosenfeld, Frank Schulenburg and Judy Teichman. Cover photo by Tim Rosenfeld.