

## Jared Huffman to speak at MCL Annual Meeting



MCL is honored to announce that Congressman Jared Huffman will return this year to speak to our members and guests as we virtually gather to celebrate

**MCL's 2021 Environmental Awardees**, elect new and returning MCL officers and directors, and build steam for our 87th year. Jared was scheduled to keynote our annual meeting and dinner last year before it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The congressman will cover an array of issues including the environmental challenges ahead as the Biden/Harris regime marks their first 100 days in office. Together with the new administration, members of Congress will be working to reverse almost 200 environmental rollbacks by the Trump administration, determining what's possible by overturning Trump executive orders, issuing new ones, and strategizing what's possible legislatively ie. what will draw bipartisan support and what likely will not.

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## 30x30 – Climate resilience, biodiversity, and equity converge



Photo permission Stemple Creek Ranch; Photography by Karen Pavone.

*Stemple Creek Ranch is one of over a dozen Marin farms implementing carbon farming practices in collaboration with the Marin Carbon Project.*

*by Nona Dennis*

Last October 7, 2020, while we were in the throes of Covid-19 restrictions, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order (N-82-20) that acknowledged the value of California's natural and working lands to store and remove carbon from the atmosphere; it committed the state to conserving its uniquely rich biodiversity, while at the same time boosting climate resilience; and it promised to engage the state's neediest communities in the solutions.

In adopting the Order, California became the first state to join 38 countries in support of a global effort to achieve protection for 30 percent of the planet's land and water areas – a third of the world's surface- water and land – by 2030. The 30x30 goal takes its lead from such luminaries as biologist EO Wilson and his half-earth movement to protect half of our planet to safeguard the bulk of biodiversity, including ourselves. Although a lesser goal than Wilson's, the

30x30 initiative has been championed internationally and is supported by a concerted United Nations effort, NGOs, and business groups like the International Chamber of Commerce, which has called upon corporate CEOs to push their governments to advance ambitious policies to reverse nature loss as part of a green economy. On January 27, 2021, President Biden added United States' support to the global commitment. California has already taken the lead in advancing technology to combat climate change – for example, Governor Newsom's Zero Emission Executive Order issued on September 23 requires that all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero-emission vehicles by 2035. With adoption of the governor's 30x30 Order, California became a leader in acknowledging that we haven't done enough to re-integrate

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## A Message from the President – Addressing climate change in all we do

Last issue, I mentioned that Marin Conservation League recently added "Integrate climate change understanding into our work" to five other MCL Guiding Principles. The principle also states: "Act knowing that global climate change has profound local and regional environmental effects. Recognize that actions and policies for local mitigation and adaptation--especially innovative ones--can have regional or national impacts."

I came into MCL work five years ago initially focused on climate change, so adopting this principle was especially important to me. Unsurprisingly, climate change also really matters to our members. In a recent Member Survey, respondents selected and ranked the five most significant environmental problems in Marin. Of 144 respondents to this question (thank you respondents!), 35% chose climate change/global warming (including sea level rise) as the #1 environmental problem and 27% chose wildfire--followed by such issues as development pressure, loss of wildlife habitat, wetlands, and degradation of natural lands.

Even combining the #1 rankings of ten related challenges that focus on the need for habitat, land, and water protection and stewardship, climate change still was the #1 perceived environmental problem (35% versus 32%).

Among MCL's five main Committees, Climate Action Working Group focuses primarily on advocating for policies and actions that slow climate change by rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. MCL's other Committees support policies that adapt to climate change impacts in their area of work and reduce greenhouse gases whenever possible. For MCL's Fire and the Environment Working Group (FEWG), climate change-driven megadrought and heat storms that help cause the exceptionally large and destructive California wildfires have set the agenda for FEWG's work in Marin. FEWG advocates for use of best practices to reduce wildfire risk while preserving and enhancing native habitat values—all of which is adapting to climate change while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions from catastrophic wildfires.

Similarly, climate change is interwoven into the work of our other Committees. For example, MCL's Parks and Open Space Committee is deeply engaged in tracking the effects of a changing climate on native wildlife and vegetation. The Agricultural Land Use Committee supports and advocates for sequestering carbon on Marin ranchlands that has three climate change-related benefits: it improves soil health and water retention in grazing areas which helps ranchers adapt to increasingly severe heat waves and drought; it improves habitat values in riparian corridors



stressed by climate change; and it reduces greenhouse gases.

Our committees increasingly combine climate change expertise: recently, MCL's Land

Use and Climate Action

committees joined with others to oppose installing gas pumps at the Novato Costco--a project that endangers wetlands and makes a mockery of Novato's Climate Action Plan [see [MCL's advocacy letters](#)].

MCL's climate change Guiding Principle reminds us that relatively affluent and educated Marin has increasing opportunities and (in my view) obligations to adopt, innovate, and model best practices that slow the progression of climate change and adapt to it -- and that can spread elsewhere. Collaborating with others, MCL will continue to urgently and persistently advocate for climate change policies that make that happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Robert Miller

## Annual Meeting *from page 1*

In January, Jared began his fifth term representing California's 2nd Congressional District which spans the North Coast from Marin County to the Oregon border. He currently serves on the House Committees on Natural Resources and on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. The House Select Committee recently released its report "[Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America](#)" laying the groundwork for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

During his four terms in Congress, Jared has built a reputation as a progressive leader

and an environmental expert who focuses on making a difference. Jared is committed to ensuring communities are resilient to the effects of climate change. He has been instrumental in defending America's coastlines from offshore oil and gas drilling and reducing our unhealthy dependency on fossil fuels.

Before serving in Congress, Jared represented the North Bay for six years in the California Assembly. He has worked as a Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and also served 12 years as a Director of the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD). When not in Washington, Jared resides in San Rafael with his wife, Susan, and his two children.

Register online at [bit.ly/MCL\\_AD2021](https://bit.ly/MCL_AD2021) or on our website, to join MCL as we prepare for our 87th year preserving and protecting Marin's natural assets in a changing environment. Invitations and ballots were recently mailed. Mail-in ballots must be received by April 16 to be counted. Nominations for MCL's 2021 – 22 Officers and Directors are listed on page 12.

### MCL 2021 Environmental Awards

In addition to the keynote, the acceptance speeches of MCL's environmental awardees are most often the hit of MCL's annual meeting programs. This year we will

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## Editorial

# Climate Change and the Case Against New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

by Kate Powers

In a letter dated March 30, 2006 to the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the Attorney General of California stated, "Climate change results from the accumulation in the atmosphere of 'greenhouse gases' produced by the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Because greenhouse gases persist and mix in the atmosphere, emissions anywhere in the world impact the climate everywhere. . . CO2 [has] warmed the oceans . . . and will continue to cause significant warming, increasing the urgency of reducing CO2 emissions." The letter goes on to list impacts:

- "Increased temperatures threaten to greatly reduce the Sierra snowpack, one of the State's primary sources of water;
- Increased temperatures also threaten to further exacerbate California's air quality problems and adversely impact human health, increasing heat stress and related deaths;
- Rising sea levels threaten California's 1,100 miles of valuable coastal real estate and natural habitats;
- The combined effects of an increase in temperatures and diminished water supply and quality threaten to alter micro-climates within the state and affect the abundance and distribution of pests and pathogens;
- Projected doubling of catastrophic wildfires [will be] due to faster and more intense burning associated with drying vegetation."

It was signed by Attorney General Bill Lockyer and though seemingly prescient, it was simply stating the climate change science of the time. In addressing the inadequacies of OCTA's Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR), the letter stated "passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks are responsible for 40 percent of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution in the state. Despite the increasing attention that governments, climate scientists, environmentalists, and other members of



*Novato City Council recently approved a new 28-nozzle gas station at Costco in Vintage Oaks Shopping Center.*

the public are rightfully directing to the issue of climate change the DPEIR never once mentions carbon dioxide, climate change or global warming."

Fifteen years later, under Governor Newsom's administration, Wade Crowfoot, who oversees 40 departments and 19,000 employees as the Secretary of California's Natural Resources Agency, recently remarked "We are all spending a lot of time on the one planetary crisis we all face, and that is climate change." According to Crowfoot, there has never been a more important and troubling moment in the life of our planet since humans have inhabited it. 2020 was the hottest year on record and global temperatures are continuing to rise. Almost four million acres burned in California alone last year, with five of the six largest wildfires in the state's 170-year history burning at the same time. Plumes of smoke reportedly reached over 50,000 feet high during record-shattering heat waves. This year, rainfall in the state and Sierra snowpack are at historic lows.

In February, the United Nations (UN) released "Making Peace with Nature", a report that specifically directs leaders on actions to take. The phrase that climate change is an existential threat is almost cliché, but what's not, is our increasing understanding of the

urgency needed for action. "The emergency is in fact more profound than we thought only a few years ago," stated report lead author and scientist Sir Robert Watson. This year "is a make-it or break-it year indeed because the risk of things becoming irreversible is gaining ground every year," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "We are close to the point of no return." The report also states, however, "We can determine the impact of climate change by the political, economic, and social choices we make today."

### It's catch-up time!

We are in a hurry. Societies and governments around the world are focused on a clear objective – achieving net zero emissions.

According to Mauro Petriccione, Director General for Climate Action of the European Commission, an incremental approach will not work. The world cannot rely on a bottom-up approach dependent on individuals acting responsibly to reduce emissions as much as they can. The world needs collective action and government regulation. Governments must uphold their responsibility to act in the public's interest. We need

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## 30x30 – Climate resilience, biodiversity, and equity converge *from page 1*



Photo: Mike Swezy

*MMWD's Resilient Forest project goals include optimizing carbon storage and water yield, reducing understory fuel, and improving habitat.*

nature in combating climate change. Terms like "nature" and "biodiversity" as strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rarely appear in the vernacular of climate change activism in California.

MCL gave the 30x30 EO a nod last October but continued to focus on local issues and adapt to the vagaries of Covid-19. Marin may represent an anomaly. After all, 85 percent of Marin County already consists of natural and working lands. In agricultural sectors and forested lands, Marin has been working for more than ten years to expand the capacity of rangeland soils and forests to capture and sequester carbon. Protecting biodiversity in Marin, one of 36 "biodiversity hotspots" in the world, has been a priority for decades. Applying nature-based techniques in adaptations to sea level rise is not a new idea in Marin.

We failed to acknowledge, however, that the EO was a renewed opportunity for the state to focus on nature-based solutions—to better recognize the capacity of our natural and working lands to help clean the air and water and at the same time protect declining biodiversity by fighting further species loss and ecosystem destruction. Nor did we recognize the opportunity to more fully engage communities of low income and color in the effort.

### Implications of 30x30 examined

In a recent February morning Symposium, hosted by California's Planning and Conservation League, a panel of experts led by Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of California's Natural Resources Agency, examined key elements of the "30x30 Order." Among their observations: statewide and globally we are all focused on combating climate change, reducing carbon pollution, and building climate resilience. We know far less about another planetary crisis, that is, the loss of biodiversity in our world – the natural richness of life – due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and massive non-native species invasions. Across the planet over a million species face extinction due to human activity. Two-fifths of plant species face extinction, which is double the portion that scientists estimated just a few years ago. Populations of key species have declined over 70 percent since 1970, a brief moment in natural history time. Half of the world's tropical forests have been destroyed, and we are in danger of losing 80 percent of terrestrial biodiversity with cascading impacts to human populations. The loss of biodiversity across the world is as pressing a crisis as climate change! The good news is that initiatives like 30x30 are fostering a burgeoning international movement to restore

and protect biodiversity, which is the foundation of all life.

In California we have good laws in place to protect species on the brink of extinction but have to do a lot more upstream work to protect biodiversity, thus demonstrating to the world that its fifth largest economy can continue to prosper while protecting the state's natural environment and its biodiversity. Ninety percent of California's land mass of 100 million acres is made up of natural and working lands. To conserve biodiversity, however, we can't just look at wilderness areas— putting up a fence and keeping people out. We have to utilize all of these areas including working lands, including farms, ranchlands, forests. How do we advance conservation across such different landscapes and different functions and ensure that people are not separated from land?

### 30x30 goals are also about people

People have been stewarding California's natural environment since time immemorial. As one panelist observed, conservation problems are human problems. They're about people working together with common purpose. The more people understand the value of biodiversity and nature, the more they'll be thoughtful about their own communities.

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## 30x30 – Climate resilience

*from page 4*

Therefore, in the effort to maintain biodiversity and combat climate change, we must also foster equitable access. The state's remarkable natural environment is not enjoyed and accessed equally across state. To achieve a "California for all" – a mantra in the Newsom administration – as we advance efforts like 30x30, we have to use the opportunity to advance equitable access.

Nature-based solutions that protect biodiversity and combat climate change must include not only natural and working lands but also the greening of urban spaces, parks and infrastructure. And they must engage communities of low income and color as a part of the solutions: healthy living environments, good green and blue jobs, and good access to our parks, nature and the coast. We need to build in equity for those who have been forgotten too long. The 30x30 Executive Order brings these opportunities together. ###



*Photo permission Straus Family Creamery*

**Straus Family Creamery implements carbon farming and climate-positive agricultural practices.**

## An electric vehicle (EV) for every lifestyle and budget– *including yours!*

*by Annika Osborn & Ken Strong*

At the County, State and National levels, governments have reached a policy consensus on the need to rapidly electrify transportation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). In Marin, 52% of GHG emissions come from transportation, passenger cars, commercial vehicles and buses. California will no longer permit the sale of gas vehicles after 2035. The good news is EVs are fun to drive, wonderfully quiet with fast acceleration, and reliable. So as more and more consumers are looking at making an EV their next car, are there still barriers to taking the plunge?

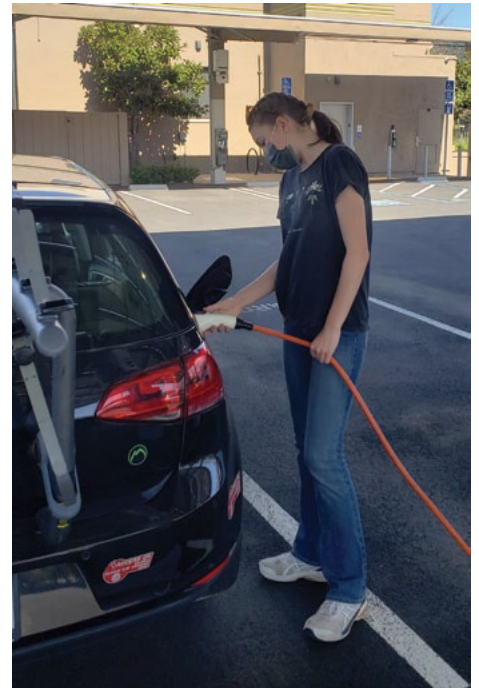
Brett Wiley, MCE's Customer Programs Manager, recently identified three perceived obstacles consumers often have about buying an EV: 1) that EVs are too expensive, 2) that EVs are difficult to charge at home, and/or 3) that EVs are difficult to charge away from home. Let's look at why these perceptions no longer are true.

### EV options and affordability

**AVAILABILITY:** There are now over 60 plug-in hybrid (PHEV) and battery electric vehicles (Battery EV) on the market, with an EV for every lifestyle and budget. There are EV sedans, hatchbacks, wagons, crossovers, SUVs and minivans. Light duty trucks will start arriving this summer. There is also a growing stock of used EVs for sale on websites such as CarMax.

**PRICE:** The price, with incentives, is often comparable to gas-powered cars. The average purchase price of a new car at the end of 2020 was \$40,000 (Edmunds). The MSRP for EVs, before incentives, starts at around \$26,600. There are at least 6 battery EV models with over 240 miles of electric range available for under \$40,000. Used EV's are a particularly good choice for a commuter car and are available for as low as \$10,000.

**INCENTIVES:** To reduce the purchase price for new EVs, there are up to \$11,000 in rebates and tax credits for BEVs and about half of that amount for PHEVs. The CA Clean Fuels Reward provides \$1,500 off MSRP at point of sale and the CA Clean Vehicle



*Katrina Osborn charges her EV at MCE's parking lot in downtown San Rafael. MCE is currently providing free public charging.*

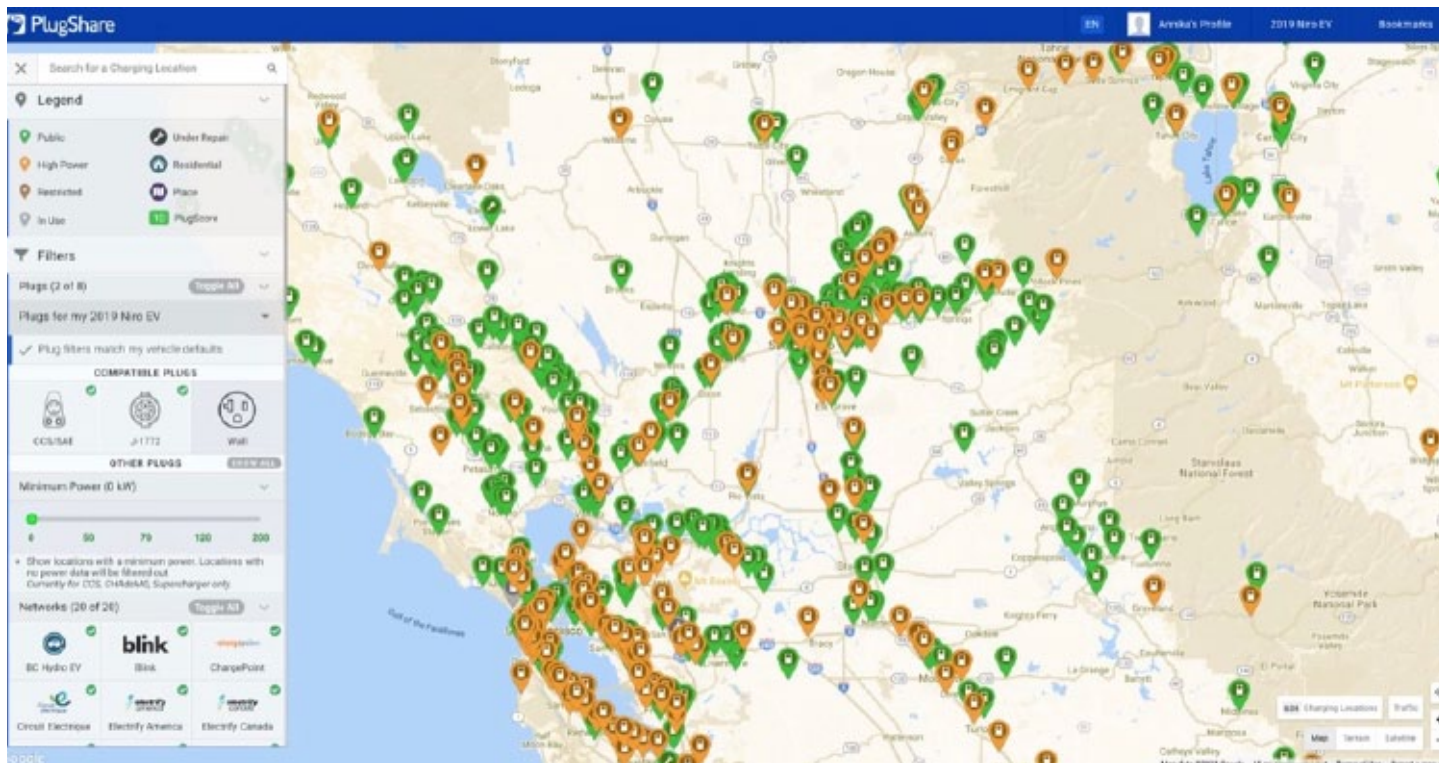
Standard Rebate is \$2000, with some restrictions. Up to \$7500 is available for most EVs as a federal tax credit on tax liability. For income qualifying individuals, the available rebates and grants increase to \$13,500, including the MCEv \$3500 rebate. There is also a Clean Vehicles Assistance Program that offers grants of up to \$5,000 for the purchase of a new or used EV depending upon income; this grant must be approved before an EV purchase. [Here is a link to the PG&E website](#) that explains and lets you calculate these rebates.

There are also considerable savings operating a battery EV over a gas-powered car. EVs have fewer moving parts so many regular maintenance costs are avoided. [Consumer Reports estimates a \\$4,600 savings in maintenance costs over the life of the car.](#)

Fueling costs are also lower. While the cost of electric charging varies depending upon where you charge, Consumer Reports

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## An electric vehicle (EV) for every lifestyle and budget – including yours! *from page 5*



Sample map from Plugshare of public EV charging locations in Northern California.

estimates that an owner who does most of their charging at home will save \$800-\$1000 per year in fueling costs.

### How to charge an EV at home

The next perceived barrier to buying an EV is wondering how to charge an EV at home. There are 3 levels of vehicle charging. Level 1 is easy and affordable; you simply plug the charging cable that comes with the EV into a standard outlet. It gives about 40 miles of charge in 8 hours (usually overnight). The average person in the Bay Area drives 23 miles in a day, so this easy solution works for many people.

For travel of more than 50 miles a day, EV owners consider a home charging station, which is typically a Level 2 charger. A Level 2 charger runs off of a 240 V outlet, similar to an electric clothes dryer hookup, and can be located in a garage or on an exterior wall. A Level 2 charger will charge a battery at a rate of about 20 - 30 miles per hour so most EVs can easily achieve a full charge overnight. MCE offers a special Time of Use EV rate which costs less to charge after 12 am

and before 3 pm. The chargers come with timers that make nighttime charging easy. An electrician will need to be consulted to see what is involved in adding a charging station at home. [Here are answers from MCE to other questions about charging.](#)

Multifamily apartment buildings may not have a dedicated parking space for a resident to charge an EV. This is one of the most significant obstacles to wider EV adoption by the 37% of Marin residents who are renters and also some condominium owners. MCE and PG&E both have incentive programs offering rebates to cover much of the cost of installing Level 2 chargers in multifamily housing. This is also a major focus of the State. Much more needs to be done. An increasing number of employers have installed EV charging stations and charging at work can take the place of charging at home for those employees.

### Charging an EV away from home

Many potential EV buyers worry about charging their EV away from home or their place of work, which is often called "range

anxiety." While that was a real concern in the past, it no longer is true for newer EVs and most car trips. Most fully electric EVs offer 200 to 300 plus miles of range and some go even further on one charge. This means it's possible to drive from Marin County to Tahoe with just a 15-minute charging break or from Marin County to Sacramento and back without stopping to charge.

Public charging stations are often located at shopping centers and public buildings making it convenient to charge when running errands. Public charging stations are either Level 2 chargers, similar to those installed in homes, or Level 3 chargers. Level 3 "Fast Chargers" use Direct Current and most new EVs can charge up to 100 miles of range in about 20 minutes.

According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), there are now 30,000

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## Editorial

### The case against new fossil fuel infrastructure from page 3

to move "from doing our best, which is not good enough, to doing what we have to do. It becomes a top-down exercise. Fix where you want to be at a certain point in time and work backwards. What do you need to do tomorrow to get there?" He said, "What we are trying to achieve is a policy framework, a short to medium term strategy to achieve a longer-term goal." Whether that goal is net zero GHG emissions by 2030, or carbon neutrality by 2050, what really matters is what we do now. The effort to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 is a Herculean task. How do we "get to it" in the near term? Not by piecemeal, slow or toothless action.

#### The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and the role of cities

Former President Trump's 2017 decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Agreement, the largest international effort adopted by nearly every nation to curb global warming and its negative impacts, formally took effect the day after the November 2020 election. Almost immediately, "We Are Still In," a joint declaration to continue and ramp up support for climate action to meet the Paris Accord, was signed by CEOs, mayors, governors, college presidents, and other leaders across the country. Then in one of his first acts in the Oval Office, President Biden signed an executive order to have the United States rejoin the Agreement. As the Paris Agreement matures, nations including the United States must firmly commit to phasing out fossil fuel investment (locally and abroad) and investing in a global clean energy transition.

California's Secretary of Environmental Protection, Jared Blumenfeld, has said, however, that international treaties are completely ineffectual unless implemented, and he said that means they must include cities. Cities are responsible for 70 - 80% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. "They have the power to make significant contributions to the global effort to stop climate change." But the effort must be embedded

in all planning. What is needed is a unity of purpose and working together.

#### Transportation as a target

To manage emissions toward net zero, we must identify where emissions are coming from, measure them using standard methodologies (emissions "count" at every link along a value chain including resource extraction, production, transport, use and waste disposal), and then reduce or eliminate them.

Transportation, as a sector, is the largest source of GHG emissions as a percentage of total emissions in Marin County (52%), the state (40%), and the nation (28.2%). Many governments are moving away from fossil fuel dependence in transportation and toward zero emission vehicles in order to meet their climate and emission goals. Last Fall, through Executive Order, Governor Newsom placed a moratorium on the sale of gasoline-powered cars by 2035. Rapid phasing out of fossil fuel vehicles in countries worldwide has sent a message, and the effects are rippling through the auto industry. In the last two years, carmakers have rushed to roll out plans to electrify their vehicles. In order to meet demand, there must be build out of charging infrastructure and a hold on building new fossil fuel infrastructure.

#### Which side of history?

In Fall 2020, Novato became the third municipality in Marin, following Fairfax and San Anselmo, to adopt a climate emergency declaration. Berkeley, San Francisco, and Petaluma among other nearby cities have joined hundreds of governments around the world that adopted similar resolutions. A Declaration of Climate Emergency is legislation that puts the government on record in support of taking emergency action to reverse global warming. While Novato's declaration appears to be a largely symbolic gesture, for Petaluma its Declaration became a jumping-off point for real action. Petaluma resolved to direct the Sonoma

County Regional Climate Protection Authority to make a comprehensive assessment of its citywide GHG emissions, to track them, and to publicly report annually on its progress toward its goal of zero net emissions. Furthermore, on February 22nd, the Petaluma City Council made history when it unanimously voted to ban new gas stations, becoming the first city in the nation to do so.

That same evening, Novato's Planning Commission voted 5-2 to recommend the approval of a 28-nozzle gas station use permit and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that claimed the gas station would actually reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). California's SB 743 requires VMT as a measure of traffic impacts with an intent to reduce GHGs. Novato's City Council then approved the project and the IS/MND. Councilmember Amy Peele was the lone dissenting vote. After listening to more than two hours of public testimony, Peele said she heard from the youth "that we're leaving them with bad decision after bad decision and this is the reason that we are in the position we are in with our climate change."

The time is now to further the "right side of history" of what sustainable cities of the future will be built upon. When it comes to planning for new gas stations in order to continue an addiction to fossil fuel, our youth and the generations that will inherit the Earth are pleading, forcefully, "Just say No!" Their rights to a livable planet are as valid and as worthy as our own. ###

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[Access MCL's advocacy letters urging Novato's rejection of a Costco Fuel Facility use permit and our assertion that the IS/MND did not adequately evaluate the impacts for the proposed project on our website.](#)

## Project Status Updates

### Revising Marin County Stream Conservation Area Ordinance



Photo: Ann Thomas

*Lagunitas Creek supports one of the largest remaining populations of threatened coho salmon and is home to threatened steelhead trout and Chinook salmon.*

On March 2, the Marin County Board of Supervisors received a progress report from the Community Development Agency on work to revise and update the county's Stream Conservation Area (SCA) ordinance. This major planning tool protects nature and regulates development along the county's extensive waterway network. The process now underway will cap off several years of effort, including legal challenge in which Marin Superior Court found that the county's existing regulations were not protective enough of endangered salmon habitat.

Marin County has had an SCA ordinance on the books since the early 1970s. It was updated during revisions to the Countywide Plan (CWP) in 1982, 1994, and 2007. During the March 2 status report, county planners said that an SCA ordinance will be developed that is consistent with and implements CWP's strong stream protection policies, fulfills mandates stemming from the Court

decision, and will continue setback requirements as a conservation tool. The revised ordinance will focus on the San Geronimo Creek. Staff reported that the ordinance will not require further CEQA review.

The expanded ordinance would restrict development in an SCA to a limited set of allowable uses, allowing for modest additions of up to 500 square feet to existing structures and limiting new development on vacant lots unless strict criteria are met. Site assessment would be required for all incursions into the SCA. The new ordinance is anticipated to require discretionary review and assurance of CEQA compliance for most projects that are proposed in an SCA, regardless of scope.

Enacting an SCA ordinance following the 2007 CWP update was controversial – some San Geronimo property owners objected to being constrained too severely on the use of their properties on or near the creeks in San

Geronimo Valley. SPAWN (Salmon Protection and Watershed Network) challenged the ordinance as not strong enough. A number of other environmental groups, including MCL, eventually supported the draft ordinance, and the county adopted it as an implementation of the 2007 Countywide Plan. SPAWN then sued the county. Eventually the court agreed with SPAWN and the ordinance was suspended.

In February of 2020 the Board of Supervisors directed staff to lay out a plan for finalizing a revised ordinance that will not trigger a new CEQA document. Part of the intent of the revision is to strengthen the language to protect salmon, and also support property owners' need to provide accurate environmental information about their property if they want to make any changes. The new ordinance will have ample public input and is expected to be ready for adoption in about a year. ###



## Annual Meeting *from page 2*

We are honored this year to present the **Peter Behr Award for Lifetime Achievement** to MCL's own, **Susan Stompe**. The Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a person whose lifetime achievements reflect exemplary standards for preservation and protection of Marin's natural assets. Susan is one of MCL's most dedicated and longest serving board members. She has served as President and as long time Chair of MCL's Land Use, Transportation and Water committee as well as its North Marin Unit. Susan has been active in conservation and civic affairs most of her life and has been an inspiration to others. She has served Novato as mayor, councilmember, planning commissioner and as co-chair of Novato Clean and Green Day. Susan received Novato's Citizen of the Year Award for 2013. She has also served on a plethora of other boards including The League of Women Voters, Sierra Club/San Francisco Bay Chapter, Marin Baylands Advocates, Environmental Forum of Marin, The Novato Human Needs Center and The Olompali People.

This year the **Marin Green Award for Environmental Leadership** goes to **Terrie Green** in recognition of outstanding contributions toward preserving and protecting the natural assets of Marin County. In her leadership role with Shore Up Marin City, Terrie worked to promote an equitable community process for Marin City residents and their allies to plan for protection from flooding and sea level rise and for implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Using her experience in program development and non-profit management, Terrie facilitates community development leadership amongst Marin City

residents in facing the environmental challenges and opportunities ahead.

The **Ted Wellman Water Award** is presented to an individual or organization who

### 2021 Environmental Achievement Award Winners

Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award:  
**Susan Stompe**

Marin Green Award for Environmental Leadership:  
**Terrie Green**

Ted Wellman Water Award:  
**Chris Choo**

Youth Award for Environmental Leadership:  
**Jeremy Lewis**

John M. McPhail, Jr. Green Business Award:  
**Cyane Dandridge for SEI and SEL**

MCL Volunteer Award  
**Jeff Stump**

MCL Special Award for Environmental Achievement  
**Burr Heneman**

maintains Ted's high standards for protecting and preserving water resources in Marin and the state. This year, the award will recognize **Chris Choo**, Marin County Senior Planner for her major contribution to and delivery of the groundbreaking BayWAVE Assessment and Mitigation Plans for Marin County. Chris's tireless commitment to the education of our community about the importance of this work and planning has positioned Marin County as a leader in adaptation for increased water inundation as climate change changes our landscape.

MCL's **Youth Award for Environmental Leadership** recognizes Marin students who have made significant contributions to the

community by seeking innovative solutions to environmental problems and issues. This year's award goes to **Jeremy Lewis**, a student at College of Marin (COM) majoring in environmental policy with a focus on climate change. He plans to attend law school with a goal of helping to develop policies that regulate corporate environmental impacts on climate change, transitioning the future to a clean energy economy. Jeremy is Vice President of the Environmental Action Club and helped pass a fossil fuel divestment campaign at COM.

The **John M. McPhail, Jr. Green Business Award** is awarded to a Marin enterprise that exemplifies environmental sensitivity in business and which has supported and improved communication between the business and environmental communities. This year's award recognizes **Cyane Dandridge**, a pioneer in the field of environmental sustainability, and the founder and executive director of Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI), as well as the Marin School of the Environmental Leadership (SEL)

at Terra Linda High School. SEI is an environmental nonprofit that builds leaders to drive sustainability solutions. Its initiatives include career development for emerging climate professionals, creating and supporting campuses as living labs, and a diverse curriculum library on environmental sustainability and valuable career skills. SEL is a project-based, environmentally focused program that emphasizes development in leadership and 21st century skills.

The **MCL Volunteer Award** honors a volunteer who has generously shared their time and talent to help MCL realize its mission.

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## Annual Meeting *from page 9*



2017's Peter Behr Awardee for Lifetime Achievement, former State Senator Fran Pavley, with 2021's Awardee, MCL's own Susan Stompe.

This year's award goes to MCL board member **Jeff Stump**. Jeff joined MCL in 2018 as co-chair of the Agricultural Land Use committee. Since then, he has contributed to the Long-Range Planning and Evaluation ad hoc committee that facilitated MCL's recent update to its strategic plan; he served as Chair of this year's Nominating Committee; and spearheaded MCL's new Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion ad hoc committee. MCL has greatly benefitted from Jeff's consistent leadership.

Annually, Marin Conservation League bestows six awards for outstanding environment achievement in various sectors.

On rare occasions, MCL also selects an individual whose accomplishments fall outside the traditional parameters for an **MCL Special Award for Environmental Achievement**. This year, we have selected a long-standing member of MCL –

**Burr Heneman**, resident of Pt. Reyes Station– for that Special Award. Burr has been guarding the coast and marine environment for more than 40 years with little local fanfare.

According to his bio as a Fellow in Marine Conservation of the PEW Charitable Trust, Burr's interests have shifted among fisheries management reform, oil spill prevention and response, marine debris policy, and global seabird conservation. Invariably he has focused on marine and coastal environments – locally, regionally and around the world. Locally, Burr served as executive director of Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science. He co-founded Commonweal and directed their Ocean Program. Because MCL has not consistently engaged in the coastal and marine environments, we are grateful that Burr has. He deserves MCL's special recognition and gratitude! ###

## Electric vehicles *from page 6*

public charging stations statewide including 24,880 Level 2 and 5,404 Level 3. In Marin County there are now 500 Public Charging stations with 417 Level 2 and 87 Level 3 stations. If planning a road trip, it'll be important to look for Level 3 "Fast Chargers". There are a number of cellphone "Apps" such as Plugshare that provide maps of public charging stations and allow you to plan where you can charge ([see sample page 5](#)). All of these Apps offer App-based or charge card-based stations, making it easy to tap, charge and go.

### What's next?

In order to serve the increasing number of EVs, California must rapidly expand its charging infrastructure. Current funding plans by the California Energy Commission and state utilities call for adding 117,000 Level 2 chargers and 4,300 Level 3 chargers by 2025. However, this falls short of the state's goal by 66,000 chargers.

Everyone has the opportunity to get involved in promoting electrification, advocating to MCE, the County of Marin, the California Public Utilities Commission and local cities and towns to promote EV charging infrastructure. For those who want to learn more about EVs, [Drive Clean Bay Area](#) offers weekly webinars, buying and driving guides, and twice-yearly discounted pricing on electric vehicles. ###

*Ken Strong is a retired attorney and a member of MCL's Climate Action Working Group and Renewable Energy Ad Hoc Committee. Annika Osborn is Outreach and Program Director for Drive Clean Bay Area, a collaboration of nonprofit organizations, agencies, cities, schools, and businesses with a goal of greatly reducing carbon emissions by advancing the adoption of electric vehicles.*



## Vicki Nichols, outgoing Director on MCL Board

When Vicki joined the Board 12 years ago, MCL was commemorating its 75th Anniversary. Vicki admits that she knew very little about the organization. A local history buff, Vicki was active in the Sausalito Historical Society and on the Historic Landmarks Board. She is also an active civic volunteer, at that time leading the charge to pass an upcoming bond measure to fund Sausalito's new public safety building. Most recently, Vicki spent 7 1/2 years as a Sausalito Planning Commissioner, shepherding the adoption of its 2040 General Plan.

MCL's combination of rich conservation history and legacy of advocacy were enough to intrigue her when Sausalito's Mayor Ron Albert encouraged her to become involved in MCL; Ron was on the MCL Board. Over the next dozen years, Vicki was true to her calling: she learned everything she could about MCL's women founders and the accomplishments of the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who followed them – such varied

and remarkable feats as saving thousands of acres of public lands, staving off off-shore oil development, instituting curbside pick-up of waste and recycling, preventing development in wetlands and other sensitive habitats, supporting family farms, to name only a few. She loved sharing MCL's history on Walks into Conservation History and Senior Walks. And she was a tireless advocate for Marin's environment. At each of the many environmental battles that MCL took on, Vicki was there – at meetings, volunteering her time, and arranging refreshments at special workshops.

Vicki also has loved MCL gatherings – Holiday Open Houses, Picnics on the Patio, Breakfast Forums, Annual Dinners. She attended every one! At the same time, Vicki has been an attentive and constructive contributor to MCL administration, closely following finances and offering recommendations to a sequence of officers, including herself when she served as a Vice President.



*Vicki, Greg Zitney, and Nona Dennis hosting MCL's June 2017 Senior Walk at Lake Lagunitas*

Vicki will be missed on the MCL Board as she steps down, but she won't be far away! You can count on seeing her at every political contest, rooting for the most qualified candidates or the soundest ballot measures! We look forward to seeing her at MCL events. She may even return to delve into MCL archives, a task in serious need of attention. Our thanks, and see you around, Vicki! ###

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## MCL Director Profiles



**Richard Jensen** joined the Marin Conservation League Board of Directors as Treasurer in February 2021. He retired after working in the financial services industry for over 40 years. Before joining Wells Fargo, he worked for Bank of America and American Express. He is now a Business Management Consultant to nonprofits in Marin County, providing strategic and marketing planning advice with a focus on goal formation, fundraising, board governance and financial control. Richard received his BA in Economics and MBA in General Management from Golden Gate University in San Francisco and serves on a variety of nonprofit boards.

### *What was it like growing up in the Bay Area and why did you move to Marin?*

I grew up in San Francisco and moved to Marin County in my early 20s. To me, after living among the cement sidewalks, busy streets, and fog, Marin County was a big park. When I moved here, I felt a strong connection with trees, hills, the bay and ocean views, the history of Marin, and the people who have lived here for generations. I got to live in the big park and was and still am overwhelmed with its beauty and magnificence.

### *Why volunteer your time as a Board Member of MCL?*

I have always been a volunteer in the community working on non-profit projects in the arts, education and thought it was time to get involved in the preservation of our pristine environment. I grew up with the Sierra Club and in college had an internship with the Nature Conservancy. Learned a lot about Ecology in High School, it left me with a lasting concern for our environment. One of my most disturbing days was learning about Global Warming and Climate Change. I looked around and felt helpless as our lifestyles revolve around carbon producing externalities. What can we do to reverse this?

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After many years as Treasurer of MCL, **Ken Drexler** has stepped down from that position to resume his past role as a Director on the Board. In that role, he will continue to bring to more recent members of the board the valuable knowledge of MCL history acquired over his decades of serving the organization.

## MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Bob Miller, San Rafael, President  
Mike Swezy, Fairfax, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Greg Zitney, Novato, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Susan Stompe, Novato, Secretary  
Kenneth Drexler, Fairfax, Treasurer

### Directors

Kim Baenisch, San Rafael  
Bob Berner, Dillon Beach  
Nona Dennis, Mill Valley  
Roger Harris, Corte Madera  
Larry Kennings, Mill Valley  
David Lewis, Novato  
Larry Minikes, San Rafael  
Vicki Nichols, Sausalito  
Linda Novy, Fairfax  
Kate Powers, San Rafael  
Pam Reaves, San Rafael  
Roger Roberts, San Rafael  
Jeff Stump, Inverness  
Terri Thomas, Sausalito  
Doug Wilson, Mill Valley

*Board of Directors meetings are held at  
6:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.*

### Staff

Kirsten Nolan, San Rafael  
Communications & Outreach Coordinator  
Martha Richter Smith, San Anselmo  
Office Administrator

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[marinconservationleague.org](http://marinconservationleague.org)  
[mcl@marinconservationleague.org](mailto:mcl@marinconservationleague.org)

Issue Committee Meeting Schedule  
(subject to change—check website)

Land Use and Transportation:  
1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of the month, 10:00 AM—12:00 PM

Parks and Open Space:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month, 3:00 PM—5:00 PM

Fire and Environment Working Group:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. of the month, 3:00 PM—5:00 PM  
Climate Action Working Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri. of  
the month, 9:00 AM—11:00 AM

Agricultural Land Use: meets quarterly;  
North Marin Unit: Check website for times

Marin Conservation League was founded in  
1934 to preserve, protect and enhance Marin  
County's natural assets. MCL is a non-profit  
501(c)3 organization. All contributions and  
memberships are tax-deductible to the extent  
allowed by law.

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# NEWS FROM MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

March – April 2021

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## Marin Conservation League's Annual Meeting & Election – April 30, 2021 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2021-2022

The Marin Conservation League's Nominating Committee, chaired by Jeff Stump, has  
nominated the following persons for election as MCL Officers and Directors at the  
2021 Annual Meeting and Election. All MCL members are eligible to vote.

### NOMINATED FOR ELECTION AS OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022

President	Robert Miller, San Rafael
First Vice President	Mike Swezy, Fairfax
Second Vice President	Terri Thomas, Sausalito
Secretary	Susan Stompe, Novato
Treasurer	Richard Jensen, Corte Madera

### NOMINATED FOR ELECTION AS DIRECTORS TO THE MCL BOARD:

*Term ending April 2022*  
Kenneth Drexler, Fairfax

*Term ending April 2024*  
Paul Jensen, San Rafael  
Madeline Kellner, Novato  
Greg Zitney, Novato

### NOMINATED FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE MCL BOARD:

*Term ending April 2024*  
Roger Harris, Corte Madera  
Larry Kennings, Mill Valley  
Kate Powers, San Rafael

### THESE DIRECTORS WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE EXISTING TERMS:

*Term ending April 2022*  
Bob Berner, Dillon Beach  
David Lewis, Novato  
Pamela Reaves, San Rafael  
Roger Roberts, San Rafael  
Doug Wilson, Mill Valley

*Term ending April 2023*  
Kim Baenisch, San Rafael  
Nona Dennis, Mill Valley  
Larry Minikes, San Rafael  
Linda Novy, Fairfax  
Jeff Stump, Inverness

Event Committee: Nona Dennis, Vicki Nichols, Kirsten Nolan, Linda Novy, Martha Richter Smith, Susan Stompe