



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

**PRESERVE  
PROTECT  
ENHANCE**



## Putting MCL's Strategic Plan into Action



**F**or Marin Conservation League, it has been another future-facing year of putting into action the MCL Strategic Plan 2021-2023 in the effort of increasing our advocacy effectiveness. MCL has continued to work diligently in advocating for a wide range of important environmental outcomes—stewarding public lands, preserving ecological systems and watersheds, reducing wildfire risk while preserving native habitats, mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as managing the built environment to protect the natural world and connecting public and working landscapes—all done with the goal of preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of Marin's native species and habitats, and all enabled by your support.

Thanks to MCL's work with a broad coalition of environmental and civic organizations, Marin voters approved Measure A, a crucial victory for Marin's environment and for a landscape-scale approach to conserving all of Marin's open lands and waters, whether they be public or working (agricultural) lands.

We've been implementing our new Guiding Principle of integrating in-depth climate change understanding into all our work. Sustainable adaptation to climate change is a key element of our advocacy for protecting Marin's baylands, wetlands, water supply, and sensitive species and habitats, and reducing wildfire risk. We're also developing

policy on complex climate-change-related issues—including sea level rise, impacts on native biodiversity, and carbon sequestration—to enable MCL to advocate more quickly and effectively in a changing climate.

Also following our Strategic Plan, we've invested in communicating more clearly, more often, and in more ways in order to engage more members in our work and to educate the public.

It also has been a year of transition. Sadly, Doug Wilson a co-founder of MCL's Climate Action Working Group, died in February, a blow to the organization and a real personal loss. I took over as Chair of that committee. Terri Thomas became the new chair of the Parks & Open Space Committee. We thanked three departing board members—Kim Baenisch, Roger Roberts, Bob Berner—for years of valuable service, and we welcomed the energy and talents of three new board members—Belle Cole, Georgia McIntosh, and Nancy Hughes.

A terrific group of dedicated volunteers do this work—both our Board members and "Friends of MCL". After six years on the Board, I continue to be impressed by the sheer breadth of environmental issues our volunteers address, and by the amount of thoughtful work going into every issue and aspect of the advocacy work.

Thank you for being a member. We look forward to seeing you at our issue committee meetings and events, both online and in person.

Robert Miller

### PHOTO CREDIT:

Cover photo of serpentine prairie on Tiburon Ridge, and at right, Tiburon jewel-flower, courtesy of **Vernon Smith**.

Vernon has been taking photos of native plants for more than 50 years, but the pace increased when he retired in 2005. He gives credit to his spouse, Doreen Smith, for her encyclopedic knowledge of the plants and when and where they flower. His photos have been featured in many publications over the years, and will be again in the forthcoming book, *Wildflowers of California*, currently in preparation by the California Native Plant Society. Vernon and Doreen have been members of MCL for 23 years.



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## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

## Marin Conservation League 2021 Financial Statement

The Statement of Activities summarizes MCL's 2021 financial results for MCL as a whole and for each of the separate funds maintained by MCL. The figures are from MCL's financial records and are not audited.

MCL has three funds: The Unrestricted Fund supports MCL's daily operations, advocacy, and education programs. The Temporarily Restricted Fund records MCL's management of funds which are dedicated to specific projects. Finally, the Board Restricted Fund records the income and expenditures of MCL's Legacy of the Land (LOL) endowment. In 2021, this Fund provided \$95,677 in support for MCL's activities.

This year the Unrestricted Fund, due to greater than expected contributions, had an operating gain. The gain was accompanied by an increase in the value of MCL's investments. The gain in the Temporarily

Restricted Funds shows that this year the Friends of the Bayfront Meadow received more support than was spent on their project. During 2021, the Legacy of the Land increased value significantly because of market gains while also providing support for MCL's activities.

MCL thanks all of its members for their support during this productive year.



Richard Jensen, Treasurer

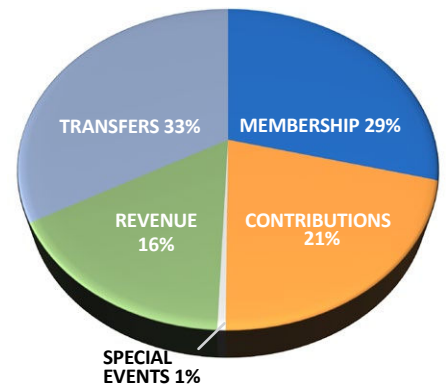
## Statement of Activities (unaudited)

January 1 to December 31, 2021 Prepared from MCL Records

## OPERATIONS

	Unrestricted	Temp. Restricted	Board Restricted	Total
	(Operations)	(Projects/Dedicated)	(Legacy of the Land)	
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
<b>Support</b>				
Membership	\$85,311			\$85,311
Contributions	\$62,218	\$3,765	\$200	\$66,183
Special Events	\$1,550			\$1,550
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$149,079</b>	<b>\$3,765</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$153,044</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Interest & Dividend Income	\$46,516		\$32,311	\$78,827
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,200			\$1,200
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$47,716</b>		<b>\$32,311</b>	<b>\$80,027</b>
<b>Transfers</b>				
Legacy of the Land Support for Operations	\$95,677		(\$95,677)	
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$1,677	(\$1,677)		
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>\$97,354</b>	<b>(\$1,677)</b>	<b>(\$95,677)</b>	
<b>Total Support, Revenue &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>\$294,149</b>	<b>\$2,088</b>	<b>(\$63,366)</b>	<b>\$232,871</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services	\$213,041			\$213,041
Management Services	\$28,951			\$28,951
Fundraising	\$36,209			\$36,209
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$278,201</b>			<b>\$278,201</b>
<b>Results from Operations</b>	<b>\$15,948</b>	<b>\$2,088</b>	<b>(\$63,366)</b>	<b>(\$45,330)</b>
<b>Investment Gain, Realized &amp; Unrealized</b>	<b>\$7,493</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$326,852</b>	<b>\$334,345</b>
<b>Change in Equity 2021</b>	<b>\$23,441</b>	<b>\$2,088</b>	<b>\$263,486</b>	<b>\$289,015</b>
Total Equity, Year End 2020	\$563,001	\$34,237	\$2,228,094	\$2,825,332
<b>Total Equity, Year End 2021</b>	<b>\$586,442</b>	<b>\$36,325</b>	<b>\$2,491,580</b>	<b>\$3,114,347</b>

## 2021 Income—Operations



## 2021 Expenses—Operations

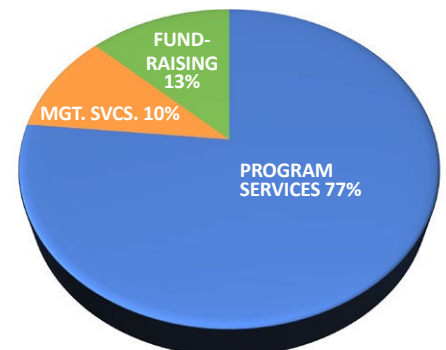






Photo: Sylvia Barry

## PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH STEWARDING PUBLIC LANDS

MCL's Parks and Open Space and Land Use Transportation and Water Committees advocated for:

- » **Marin's parks, open space, and working lands – renew Measure A funding.** MCL donated funds, staffed information tables, mailed postcards, sent emails, wrote letters to the editor and more, to promote renewal of Measure A that funds protection of Marin's County's open space preserves, enhances parks across the County, and sustains working lands.
- » **Tule Elk – Point Reyes National Seashore.** We recommended that the National Park Service, in updating its elk management plan, extend the project geographic area beyond Tomales Point and address opportunities for habitat connectivity among all three Tule elk herds as well as adequate water and food resources within and outside the enclosed area.
- » **Serpentine habitat – Ring Mountain.** We advocated for adjustments to the County's proposed trail improvements on Ring Mountain that would better protect sensitive habitat and rare species, and educate visitors.
- » **Rich, diverse, sensitive native habitat – Bowman Canyon.** We urged the County to add to its Bowman Canyon Conservation Plan a primary goal of protecting sensitive serpentine habitat to other stated goals that focus on access and recreation.

## PRESERVE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS

The Land Use, Transportation, and Water Committee advocated for:

- » **Baylands wetland habitat and air quality – San Rafael Rock Quarry.** We joined the efforts of the Point San Pedro Road Coalition and other organizations in advocating that the Rock Quarry implement mitigation measures for the environmental impacts of extending the quarry's operations, including restoring the wetland area and controlling particulate emissions.
- » **Tidal marsh function and habitats – State Route 37 alignments.** We urged Caltrans to align interim highway projects intended to reduce near-term flooding and congestion with

## Realizing our Goals –

Marin Conservation League's (MCL's) mission is ***"to preserve, protect, and enhance Marin's natural assets in a changing environment."*** Last year, we established goals and objectives that, if met, together would accomplish that mission. Guided by these goals, MCL's dedicated committees researched and deliberated issues, drafted and vetted MCL policies and positions, advocated from those positions

planning for longer-term causeway solutions designed to protect marsh functions and native species as they adapt to sea level rise.

- » **Stream habitat and endangered coho salmon – San Geronimo Valley.** MCL supported the County's draft Expanded Stream Conservation Ordinance for the San Geronimo Valley, whose intent is to protect stream habitats from the impacts of possible build-out of the Valley.

## MANAGE BUILT AREAS SO AS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTE EQUITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Over the past year, the Land Use Transportation and Water Committee advocated for:

- » **Marin Water's supply planning.** As Marin Water continues to study all its water supply options, MCL supported continued conservation goal setting and incentives, in addition to Marin Water's exploration of an intertie pipeline over the Richmond/San Rafael bridge, cap and penalty fees for excess water use, and long-term and region-wide water supply planning.



Photo: Larry Scheibel

- » **Housing that's environmentally sound, affordable, and socially inclusive.** We supported Habitat for Humanity's plan to build affordable housing in Novato while asking that emergency access, supportive infrastructure, and potential safety concerns be addressed.

## REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK WHILE PROTECTING NATIVE HABITATS

To strengthen ecological safeguards in Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority's work on both public and private lands, the Parks & Open Space committee continued to participate in the Ecologically Sound Practices (ESP) collaborative and engage in on-going discussions to determine:

# - Fulfilling our Mission

and discussed them with decision-makers and their staffs, reached out to our members and the public in letters, newsletters and e-news articles, and continued to educate ourselves and others in a changing environment.

In this Annual Report, we are proud to bring you examples of how our advocacy over the past year has contributed to accomplishing MCL goals.

- » **Appropriate fuel break placement and design, and specifications for defensible space.** With the intent of preserving and enhancing native vegetation and wildlife habitats while protecting people and property from wildfire risk, we have convened state-of-the-art professionals as part of working with others on the best possible solutions.
- » **Fuel abatement techniques** – MCL continued to review potential ecological benefits of prescribed fire as well as track the impacts of grazing on native vegetation.

## RAPIDLY REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, INCREASE CARBON SEQUESTRATION, AND SUPPORT TIMELY ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

MCL embraced climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency as overarching considerations influencing all our advocacy work – in public land stewardship, ecological systems and habitats, wildfire risk abatement, and others. MCL's Climate Action Working Group continued to convene Marin's climate activists focused on accelerating clean energy use and worked with MCE Clean Energy. We advocated for innovative investments and policies for:

- » **More locally produced and controlled clean energy** that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, at the same time increasing energy resilience to power shutoffs, particularly in underserved communities.
- » **Rapid electrification of vehicles and building appliances that use clean energy.** MCL supported ordinances requiring electric vehicle charging infrastructure, all-electric heating and cooling systems and appliances for new buildings, on-going replacement of gas appliances, and comprehensive, county-wide collaborative planning and projects for electrification across agencies and jurisdictions.

## WORK ACROSS BOUNDARIES TO CONNECT NATURAL AND WORKING LANDSCAPES

The Agricultural Land Use Committee continued to take a landscape-scale approach to connecting conservation across natural and working lands in Marin.



Photo: Courtesy Marin County Parks

We advocated for:

- » **Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA)**– Expediting implementation of the GMPA to enable essential environmental improvements to ranch operations as directed by the environment impact statement (EIS) and Record of Decision.
- » **Funding for local food production, regenerative techniques, as well as agricultural easements,** to sustain a vibrant agricultural sector in Marin County.
- » **Funding for carbon farming** as a part of managing greenhouse gases, at the same time restoring riparian and other habitats in working landscapes.

## PRESERVE AND ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY OF NATIVE SPECIES AND HABITATS

Cutting across all the work that MCL does is a fundamental commitment to preserve and protect the biodiversity of Marin's lands and waters. Among specific efforts this past year:

- » **Breeding seabird habitat – Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.** We supported the US Fish and Wildlife Service's plan to eradicate house mice due to their contributing role in habitat destruction and predation on breeding seabird species.
- » **Sensitive eelgrass and bay habitats – Richardson Bay.** We joined with others in urging the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency to take steps to remove illegal vessels and restore damaged eelgrass beds, in order to enhance marine biodiversity so essential to the bay ecosystem.

**IN SUMMARY:** Over the past year, Marin Conservation League advocated on our members' behalf for wide ranging environmental needs: stewarding Marin County's public lands and open spaces; enhancing baylands, streams, riparian, and upland habitats; focusing on habitats at risk, such as serpentine, breeding seabirds, and eelgrass; reducing wildfire hazard without ecological damage; sustaining and enriching Marin's working lands; adapting to and slowing climate change; ensuring adequate and sustainable water supply, transit, housing; and more. Marin Conservation League continues its legacy of effectively advocating for Marin's natural assets and its communities.





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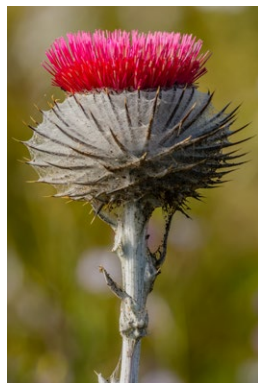
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All photos pages 6-7: Larry Scheibel



## MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

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## A Legacy of Conservation

MCL played a major role in preserving and protecting many of Marin's most stunning and well-loved landscapes.

## MCL MISSION AT A GLANCE...

Marin Conservation League (MCL) works to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural assets of Marin in an era of climate and other environmental changes, focusing its action on issues that are significant countywide or may be precedent-setting.

MCL places particular emphasis on issues having important impacts on Marin's environment—especially native biodiversity and on equity, and quality of life.

MCL seeks effective solutions by advocating and educating, and by collaborating closely 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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