



Save the Date!

*Thursday, June 26,
7:30 - 9:00 AM*

MCL Business Breakfast,
Embassy Suites, San Rafael.

Speaker: Ashley

Boren, Executive Director,
Sustainable Conservation.
(Details, page 3)



*Saturday, July 26,
3:00 - 6:00 PM*

Picnic on the Porch,
MCL headquarters, 1623A
Fifth Ave., San Rafael



Photo: David Yearsley

REDWOOD LANDFILL EXPANSION

If you have followed the proposal to expand Redwood Landfill, you will have read over the past several months abundant newspaper articles, opinion pieces and editorials. You may wonder, where does MCL stand on this issue?

The proposed Landfill expansion involves a complex, review process divided into two basic parts: first, a review of an environmental impact report (EIR), and second, separate consideration of an operating Permit. Several volumes of the EIR prepared over the past six years have analyzed significant environmental impacts of the expansion and proposed mitigation measures. The Permit will translate the mitigation measures into detailed conditions for Landfill operations. MCL has been and will continue to be active in both of these steps.

The EIR noted many significant impacts of the proposed expansion and proposed a so-called "Mitigated Alternative" designed to reduce or eliminate most of the impacts. MCL and many others argued that this Alternative, while an improvement over the original proposal, did not go far enough. Recent County Planning Commission hearings (April 28 and May 5) focused on the adequacy of the Final EIR to fully mitigate impacts. MCL argued that specific mitigations should be tightened and completed PRIOR to considering the Permit for expansion. These include (1) analysis of slope stability of the surrounding levees; (2) long-term flood protection plan; (3) plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; (4) contingency plan in the event of a leak or spill of leachate from the designed control system; (5) a specific maintenance plan for post-closure of the landfill; (6) adequate long-term financial assurance in the event of failure in the distant future; (7) increased "tipping fees" to fund an evolving Zero Waste program in the County; and (8) an objective third party to monitor performance of the Landfill and report to the public.

County Staff and EIR consultants responded to most of MCL's concerns in a further amendment to the FEIR. Other critics proposed that capacity for expansion be permitted in phases, each

**"...the proposal to add
more waste requires
extreme precautions!"**

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

MCL's special committees focus on the specific issues that affect Marin and beyond. But we need more help! If you have a particular interest in *Land Use; Transportation; Creeks, Wetlands & Watersheds; North Marin; or Parks & Open Space* please consider attending one of our monthly committee meetings and help make a difference in your community. A meeting schedule is on page 2, or call 485-6257 for information.

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A Message From the President

For Marin Conservation League, the beginning of May marks a transition. It is the traditional time of year when new officers, together with new and continuing directors, assume the responsibilities of the “new” Board and, without missing a beat, carry on the work of the organization.



As the incoming President of MCL, I am following in the footsteps of 22 previous presidents – a list of so many notable names in the remarkable history of Marin’s environment that it would be unfair to single out any one of them. I think: well, I am simply number 23! How can I honor the impressive legacy of the 22 who preceded me and at the same time continue to move MCL further into a century in which many of the familiar environmental issues remain but many new ones, such as global climate change, now demand attention. Next year MCL will turn 75, and we will celebrate the anniversary! Tempting as it will be to focus on the illustrious history of MCL – our accomplishments over the past three-quarter century – it also will be necessary to look to the future: how will MCL’s mission, which is to “protect and restore the natural assets of Marin,” translate into solving problems that extend well beyond Marin’s boundaries and may not yet be fully known? This is one of the challenges facing us.

Thinking of the future, in this issue of the Newsletter we will begin introducing our Board of Directors. I’ll tell you why. I ran into a long-time member of MCL shortly after I became President. She commented that there seemed to be “many of the same old names.” Yes, I said, there are familiar names on the Board – and we’ve certainly all gotten older! Some of us just can’t stop caring

about the lands and habitats that make Marin a special place. But what are we doing to develop the next generation of activists? There is no shortage of younger people who care and are eager to volunteer; in fact, a number are on the 20-member MCL Board. As you read more about them in this and subsequent Newsletters, you will be impressed by the

depth and diversity of talent and interests that make up the Board of MCL!

As for myself, a native Californian and resident of Mill Valley for 48 years, I can’t imagine a better time in my life to take on the task of being your President. Many of you I already know – from our past years as parents of kids in local schools; from other volunteer organizations such as the Environmental Forum of Marin; from my 25 years as an environmental consultant; and from our encounters at myriad community events. But most of you I don’t know. Certainly we must have many values in common; otherwise, we would not all be dedicated to the work of MCL. In the coming year, the Board and I look forward to hearing from you or meeting you at MCL events such as our quarterly Business Breakfasts, monthly committee meetings, open houses, or special forums. As a Board and membership organization, we may not always agree on specific environmental issues facing Marin – this is part of a healthy dialogue as the Board, in a fashion that has become the hallmark of MCL, carefully deliberates before reaching positions and advocating for sound actions from our decision-makers. So we welcome your involvement, and above all, thank you for your continued support. You are the mainstay of MCL’s continued presence in the community of Marin. *-Nona Dennis*

MCL Supports Marin Clean Energy

At its monthly board meeting May 20, the board of Directors of Marin Conservation League resolved to support MCE, a plan to create a new green power agency in Marin County. Under the MCE business plan, Marin County and Marin’s cities and towns would form a Joint Power Authority to buy renewable power collectively directly, while PG&E would continue to be responsible for transmission lines, billing and other duties. For more details on this potentially precedent-setting plan, see the Feb./Mar. 2008 issue of the MCL Newsletter or go to www.marincleanenergy.info.

Local Conservationists Honored at ‘08 Dinner

At the MCL 2008 Annual Dinner, held April 25 at the Mill Valley Community Center, MCL was delighted to honor the following six awardees for their outstanding contributions to environmental causes:

Clem Shute, *environmental and land use attorney, for his long career in promoting environmental integrity.*

Marin Farmers Market, *for consistent service in bringing local food to the Marin community*

Jana Haehl, *Past-President of MCL, for a lifetime of environmental activism*

SPAWN, *for courageous action in the protection of fish habitat in West Marin*

Sustainability Team, Marin Community Development Agency, *for putting sustainability to work*

Max Perrey, *sophomore at Tamalpais High, for leading the next generation of environmentalists*

Meet your MCL Board Members

Three of the twenty volunteer board members working to make a difference!



BRUCE FULLERTON, Mill Valley. Bruce is a partner with his wife in the Mill Valley architecture firm Markoff/Fullerton Architects. As a member of Architects, Designers and Planners for Social Responsibility, he applies “green” technologies in his practice. Bruce has been active in preserving open space and supports numerous environmental non-profits. A graduate of the Environmental Forum of Marin, Bruce holds a Master of Architecture degree from Harvard Graduate School of Design. At MCL, Bruce contributes his expertise in planning and the built environment and has taken the lead in organizing the Business Breakfast series.

BRANNON KETCHAM, Fairfax.

Brannon has been the park hydrologist at Point Reyes National Seashore since 2000 where he manages the water resources program. His responsibilities include oversight of watershed planning, water quality management and protection, fisheries monitoring, and restoration of hydrologic and ecological process. Brannon is a member of the Fairfax Planning Commission and holds a Masters in Environmental Management - Water Resource Management from Duke. At MCL, Brannon applies his diverse expertise in watershed management to the MCL “Water Team” and has served on the Executive Committee.



DANIEL SONNET, San Rafael. Dan is a former Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the AARP Pharmacy Service and has held executive and management positions at HealthNet, Shaklee, and Alberto-Culver Company. He has served on the San Rafael Dominican / Black Canyon Neighborhood Association and currently is a member of the San Rafael Planning Commission.

Dan also is a graduate of the Environmental Forum of Marin. At MCL, Dan serves as First Vice President; he recently applied his expertise in marketing to the very successful fund-raising campaign for acquisition of the Baltimore Canyon Trail Access.

Join MCL and Ashley Boren at the Business Breakfast June 26!

Ashley Boren, Executive Director of the San Francisco-based non-profit group Sustainable Conservation, has brought sustainability down to earth in her pioneering work with businesses, agriculture, and government leaders throughout California. In her talk entitled “Partnering for Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Solutions,” Ms. Boren will discuss the practical ways in which the private sector can protect healthy ecosystems. One Marin official called SusCon the kind of organization that will “roll up its sleeves and do something by partnering to make change!” This accolade resulted from a 10-year collaboration between SusCon and the Marin County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to secure a “one-stop-shop” permitting process for instituting near-stream/instream conservation practices. Other successful alliances have been with dairies to generate electricity from manure, nurseries and plant retailers to stop the sale of invasive plants, auto recyclers to reduce pollutants, and private landowners to protect and restore habitat on their properties. Ms. Boren, who holds a Stanford MBA, will follow her remarks with a Q&A period.

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phase contingent on demonstrated compliance with specific conditions. With these amendments, MCL recommended that the FEIR should be certified; further delay in certification of the FEIR would merely extend unsatisfactory conditions at the Landfill.

Because the Landfill was established at the edge of Petaluma Marsh fifty years ago, before people recognized the ecological importance of wetlands, the proposal to add more waste without compromising the Landfill’s integrity requires extreme precautions! Therefore, during hearings on the operating Permit itself, MCL will continue to advocate for rigorous operating conditions as well as assurances that they will be strictly enforced.

As this Newsletter goes to press, we are preparing testimony for a workshop on the merits of the Permit, scheduled for June 10 by the County Department of Environmental Health Services (EHS). The EHS has responsibility for certifying the FEIR and will determine the conditions of the Landfill operations. Final authority for the Permit lies with the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) in Sacramento.

Marin Conservation League

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Periann Wood, Mill Valley

Board of Directors meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at 1623A Fifth Ave., San Rafael, and are open to all members.

Dru Parker, Operations Manager
Jessica Leah Grace, Operations Administrator

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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.

Monthly Committee Meeting
Schedule (subject to change):

Land Use: 1st Wednesday of the month. 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Parks & Open Space: 2nd Thursday of the month 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Creeks, Watersheds, Wetlands: 4th Thursday of the month 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Transportation and North Marin Unit: Call 415-485-6257 for schedule

All meetings at 1623A Fifth Avenue, San Rafael



**Marin
Conservation
League**

NEWS

APRIL - MAY 2008

NEWS BRIEFS

EAH Housing at Drake's Way, Larkspur Landing. Ecumenical Association for Housing will break ground May 29th for development of 24 new affordable homes. The project exemplifies all of the key environmental practices that MCL encourages: A "Smart Growth" infill location near transportation, employment, and services; and LEED-certified sustainable materials and maintenance, including solar photovoltaic panels.



Should EIRs Evaluate Climate Change? Yes! Senate Bill 97, passed in 2007, requires the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to consider the contributions of projects to climate change, and, conversely, the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, on projects. Guidelines for mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including effects associated with transportation and energy consumption, are due out July 1, 2009 for public review, with adoption January 1, 2010.



Lawsons' Landing Master Plan. After protracted environmental review of this controversial recreational site on Tomales Bay, hearings on the revised Master Plan began in late May before the Marin Planning Commission and will continue into June and August. MCL will continue to advocate for eliminating camping in wetlands and for protection of the sensitive Tomales Dunes.



Baltimore Canyon Trail Head Access (Former "Joplin Property"): Fund-Raising Campaign. MCL presented a check for \$68,000 to the Marin County Board of Supervisors at their May 6th meeting. Contributions for the purchase of this "largest half-acre in the world" that provides access to Baltimore Canyon Reserve, Blithedale Ridge and Mt. Tam continue to flow in, and we expect to raise over \$75,000 for this land acquisition. Thank you to all our members for their support of this effort.