

Former State Senator Fran Pavley to speak at MCL Annual Dinner

MCL is pleased to announce that recently retired State Senator Fran Pavley will be the keynote speaker at its Annual Dinner on April 28. She is perhaps best known for authoring AB32, the state's landmark 2006 global warming act that committed the state to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Pavley served 14 years in the legislature before being termed-out last year. In her final year, she also authored the sequel SB32, which extends the state's GHG reduction goals to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

Born in Sherman Oaks, Pavley entered local politics by becoming involved in the incorporation of the City of Agoura, her home town, and then its first mayor. During her four terms on the city council, she taught middle school (a 29-year career) and returned to school to earn a master's degree in environmental planning. She served on the California

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flicker Fran Pavley

Community Marin looks to the future



Dru Parker

Community Marin recommended including St. Vincents and Silveira Ranch in a Baylands Corridor in the 2007 Countywide Plan.

Community Marin 2013, a citizens' guide to environmentally responsible land use planning in Marin, is due for its fourth update. It likely will be a multi-year effort. "What is Community Marin?" you ask. And why does it matter for the ongoing conservation and development of Marin? The answers to both questions are imbedded in almost 30 years of Marin's planning history.

In 1990, the County was revising the Countywide Plan (CWP). MCL and other environmental organizations had helped to defeat a major transportation tax measure in 1988, arguing that an updated land use framework should precede, rather than follow, any transportation tax measure. Important land use decisions were facing the County: the Buck Center on Aging, redevelopment of Hamilton Air Force Base, a golf course at Black Point, urban growth north of Novato, Bel Marin Keys Unit V,

LucasFilm at Skywalker Ranch and Lucas' other ranches, and the St. Vincent's/Silveira properties.

The County Planning Director suggested that MCL and other non-profits develop their vision for the county – where and how much housing and commercial development would be appropriate; what

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A Message from the President— Finding common purpose with ranchers

On February 10, MCL was honored with the "Friend of the Farm Bureau" award at Marin County Farm Bureau's annual meeting (see photo pg. 11). The award was recognition for "MCL's efforts to increase understanding of the contributions Marin's family farms and agricultural resources make to the environment in Marin County." It was an extraordinary occasion.

MCL has a long history of protecting coastal lands from development, while supporting agriculture in West Marin. However, MCL's more recent history has focused largely on issues in East Marin. That was until three years ago, when Board members, Sally Gale and Judy Teichman, created MCL's Agricultural Land Use committee.

Their work, facilitated by Board member David Lewis, has focused on building relationships, organizing educational field trips and speaker presentations, and gathering stakeholders such as ranchers,

environmentalists, agency staff, and others at Ag Land Use meetings to discuss issues like the County's local coastal plan, ranching in the parklands of Point Reyes National Seashore, and the needs of the local agricultural community to remain viable and sustainable. Through this educational process, MCL has deepened its understanding of current agricultural issues in West Marin and has facilitated open discussions with ranchers and other stakeholders over linkages between environmental protections and productive agriculture.

Across the nation, and in Marin, farmers and ranchers make up just two percent of population and yet manage nearly half of all land. Agriculture has greater impacts on water, land, and land-based biodiversity than any other human activity, and many productive lands are in a precarious state – overgrazed, overtilled, overfished, threatened by invasive species, extreme weather, or development.

In Marin, through a proper balance of environmental protections and support for productive agriculture, it's very likely that many of our conservation heroes will be the ranchers and farmers whose stewardship is critical in protecting and preserving the grasslands, wildlife, creeks, wetlands, and fish in West Marin.

Willa Cather is quoted saying, "The land belongs to the future . . . We come and go, but the land is always here." MCL and the ranchers of West Marin are finding common purpose and working together on common ground.



Kate Powers

Tule Elk at Point Reyes National Seashore: an update

In the past six months, the MCL Agricultural Land Use Committee has heard from two of California's leading experts on elk management: Dale McCullough, Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology at U.C. Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Biology, and Joe Hobbs, Senior Environmental Scientist and Coordinator of Elk and Pronghorn Antelope Programs for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Professor McCullough met with a large group in July 2016; Mr. Hobbs met with MCL in January, 2017. Both sessions reviewed the well-documented history of tule elk recovery in California and also provided some insights into elk conditions and management issues on the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Elk and ranch planning

In early 2014, the National Park Service announced that it would prepare a Ranch Comprehensive Management Plan

(RCMP) ". . . to establish a comprehensive framework for the management of existing ranch lands administered by Point Reyes National Seashore under agricultural lease/special use permits, with terms up to 20 years." (MCL Newsletters [March-April 2014](#) and [May-June 2016](#)) The process was to be completed in 2016, and long-term management of the elk population was to be addressed in the plan.

At a NPS public workshop on "Tule Elk Affecting Park Ranches," November 21, 2014, NPS Wildlife Biologist David Press described the status of the elk herd and provided an overview of tule elk management planning, including the range of alternatives and management tools under consideration. The alternatives were: "no action"; "management of the elk within the pastoral zone by limiting the population size or geographic extent or both"; or "no elk in the pastoral zone." The presentation is available on the PRNS website. (www.nps.gov/pore/learn/management/upload/)

[planning_ranch_cmp_workshops_presentation_tule_elk_141121.pdf](#)) In early 2016, work on the RCMP was halted by a lawsuit against the NPS alleging that the Service had undertaken the RCMP without first updating the 1980 General Management Plan. Since that time, Park officials have not been permitted to discuss ranch planning or the elk.

Tule elk in California and Point Reyes National Seashore

McCullough and Hobbs represent two generations of biologists who have studied these large ungulates. McCullough conducted his doctoral research on elk in the Owens Valley in the 1960s. Hobbs is busy monitoring the conditions and issues involved in fulfilling the state's responsibility to oversee current management of about 5,100 tule elk that now populate 22 or

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Editorial

Marin's public lands: protecting resources and sharing recreation

"Why can't we all just get along?" That platitude is familiar in the on-going often strident dialogue between hikers and equestrians and off-road cyclists on Marin County's parklands, open space preserves, and watershed roads and trails. Actually most of us do get along. Too often the conflict is cast in black and white: any complaint from a hiker or equestrian about a reckless, speeding cyclist is viewed automatically as "anti-bike," and to those on foot or horseback, mountain bikers appear to "want it all" – unlimited access to narrow, single-track trails. This tension is not unique to Marin County, as some would claim. Is a middle ground possible in Marin?

A brief history

Since before 1900, Mt. Tamalpais has been a magnet for hikers from around the Bay. Like the earlier hiking clubs, Marin Conservation League's 1930s' origins are rooted in hiking on the mountain and Marin's coastlands. Horseback riding also has a long history in Marin. The days of "ride-and-tie" are long gone, however, replaced by trail riding and privately staged events. Mountain biking got a later start when the first rebuilt Schwinn's rocketed down Cascade Canyon Fire Road ("Repack") in the 1970s. With evolving technology, mountain biking as a sport was born, claiming Mt. Tamalpais as its "Mother."

Marin trails have seen their share of conflicts among users over the years, but the clash of cultures multiplied as mountain bikes became more prevalent on roads and trails in the mid 1980s. In October 1984, the Sierra Club complained to Point Reyes National Seashore about ". . . uncontrolled and frequently



Stu Smith

Most narrow foot paths on Marin public lands were not designed for safe shared multi-use.

irresponsible use of trail bikes on trails and restricted roads on the Seashore, disturbing the serenity, relaxation, and affinity with nature, and creating a hazard to pedestrians and equestrians." Ten years later, in 1994, MCL's Trails Committee members objected but stated their willingness to cooperate with the land managers in the "ongoing controversy over the use of bicycles on single-track trails." Twenty-plus years later hikers/walkers/joggers and equestrians constitute about 75 percent of visitors on open space lands, and mountain bikers about 25 percent, but the controversy continues as mountain bikers, some aggressively, push for more access to narrow (single-track) trails, and people on foot and horseback resist the expansion.

Natural resources and outdoor experience

MCL's founding purpose was to save Marin's scenic lands for the public's enjoyment. Appreciation for their rich ecological values would come later. From the mid 1930s through the 1970s, MCL, aided by thousands of others, enabled acquisition of many of the lands that the

public now enjoys. Criss-crossing those lands are more than 600 miles of ranch and fire roads and trails, many of them inherited and all of them accessible on foot. Today's quest for healthy living in the outdoors now brings millions onto Marin's public lands, demanding ever more active forms of recreation. Impacts on soils, vegetation and wildlife are real, especially when combined with the invasion of weeds, spread of wildfire fuel, diseases, and other stressors.

The quality of outdoor experience is also relevant. Different users seek different pleasures in the outdoors, from solitude in nature, to companionship with family and dog, to the quiet pleasure of a trail ride on horseback, to vigorous exercise for a runner or cyclist, or an adrenaline rush for a biker speeding down a trail. As total numbers of visitors have grown so have unpleasant and dangerously close encounters between different travel modes and experiences multiplied.

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Editorial continued



With redesign, multi-use trails could become safe and environmentally sustainable.

Dru Parker

Education on trail etiquette can help reduce conflicts. To that end, MCL is collaborating to promote a spirit of cooperation among all visitors on roads and trails. This works well for the majority of mountain bikers, who are satisfied with their ability to travel long-distances at moderate speed. But it doesn't slow a group of bikers racing down a trail or deter some bikers from seeking out technically challenging "gnarly" (and, incidentally, unsustainable) trails. Over the past two years, the County has been rolling out its Road and Trail Management Plan to a persistent demand

from mountain bikers for more access to single-track trails, and recently, for trails that satisfy advanced skill-levels. Aided by ever-advancing bicycle technology for light weight, power transfer, traction, braking and suspension, experienced bikers are able to "push the envelope" of speed and negotiation. This may be

fun for the cyclist, but it can be damaging to the environment and is unacceptable on public lands that are shared by many other slow-moving visitors.

Finding a balance

In its 2013 Program EIR on Change-in-Use for Roads and Trails, California State Parks clearly addressed this kind of demand: "It is not CSP policy to provide trails for fast, highly technical, or adventure-oriented rides for mountain bikes within the State Park system... Trails are designed to provide

access to the natural and cultural resources for which parks were designated and . . . are not intended to be active recreation attractions on their own." CSP goes on to describe trails to accommodate bikes as requiring adequate tread width for safe passing, clear line of sight, and speed control features. This assumes that mountain bikers will use these trails as they were intended to be used, that is, at safe speed, yielding to other visitors, warning other users before passing, and staying on trail.

As a general rule, this design standard for safe multi-use trails could apply to all public lands in Marin. Arguably, it would preclude bikes from most of the existing narrow foot paths in Marin that were never designed for such use and, unless substantially redesigned, would suffer damage to sensitive vegetation and wildlife habitat and be unsafe for others if opened to bikes.

Protection of natural resources comes first! – then, safely designed multi-use roads and trails, combined with effective education and conscientious behavior, supported by consistent enforcement of rules. It's not a lot to ask if we want a road and trail network that can be shared amicably in Marin without destroying the environment!

Nona Dennis, Editor

MCL Director Profile Greg Zitney, Novato



photo courtesy of Greg Zitney

Greg Zitney joined the MCL Board in 2016. A resident of Marin for more than 30 years, Greg is an Environmental Planner and Certified Wildlife Biologist, with expertise in the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. In addition to projects throughout California, Greg's work in Marin includes participation in the first general management plan for GGNRA; an environmental assessment for McInnis County Park; a study of the cumulative effects of dock development and boat traffic on wildlife of Richardson

Bay; a peer review of the San Rafael Rock Quarry reclamation plan; and impact assessments for a variety of development proposals along Marin County's bay shoreline and uplands.

Greg recently served four years on the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission, including two as its Chair. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society and the Association of Environmental Professionals.

Actions and Reports of the MCL Board

California asserts leadership on climate

by Doug Wilson

Doug Wilson, Co-chair of MCL's Climate Action Working Group, was among approximately 800 people who gathered in Sacramento on January 25th and 26th at the California Climate Change Symposium. In the spirit of "Nothing unites diverse personalities like a common threat," the strong unity of purpose at the event exemplified California's commitment to maintain leadership in dealing with climate issues and to resist all attempts from Washington to roll back progress being made.

Many of the symposium's panels and discussions emphasized the need for climate scientists to get beyond their traditional roles as "scientists" and to speak out as advocates to the wider world in language that all people can understand. Likewise, there was a push for policy people to engage more fully with climate scientists, to ask relevant questions, and to keep climate policy firmly rooted in the evolving science.

Department heads from Cal EPA, California Natural Resources Agency, Office of Planning and Research, among others,

went out of their way to emphasize areas where threats from climate change will demand sharing of data, coordinated planning, and cooperation on the ground in response.

Many emerging results from California's broad Fourth Climate Change Assessment were shared by leading investigators and scientists on issues such as carbon sequestration on working lands, the effects of ocean acidification on sea grass and on shellfish, and improvements in mapping how a changing climate may affect every corner of the state.

From the fire hose of information: Terry Sawyer, founding partner of Hog Island Oyster Co. on Tomales Bay, stressed the need for coordination among scientists, the private sector and government policymakers. David Lewis, Executive Director of Save the Bay, told how last year's parcel tax Measure AA required ten years and \$5M to gain voter approval to fund \$500M in projects around the Bay's shoreline. Matt Rodriquez, new Director



Measure AA (2016) will help fund adaptation projects on the Bay Shoreline

of CalEPA, stressed that it's not enough for an agency to create a special climate program; the entire working of every agency must be involved and reconsider its actions in that light. On a grim note regarding sea level rise: "We're at the luxury end of an exponential curve!" said Susanne Moser, Social Science Research Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University. (For more information, see U.S.G.S.: the Coastal Storm Modelling System (CoSMoS) at https://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/coastal_processes/cosmos/sfbay .

Local fall-out from the new administration

by Sally Gale

We have known for some time that there would be fall-out from loss of federal funding in Marin County, but the generalized words become real when they fall close to home!

Sally Gale, MCL Board Member, rancher, and a 20-year Director of Marin Resource Conservation District, reports receiving the following note from Executive Director Nancy Scolari with the agenda for the RCD's February Board meeting. "Administration Changes – We have a freeze on our dairy grant application (EPA funded). The local office of USDA NRCS

(United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service) announced a hiring freeze that will affect four Petaluma USDA office positions until further notice: Forester, Planner, Soils Health Technician, Summer Intern. USDA employees are to refrain from using certain words such as climate change, climate adaptation, soil health, etc. unless it first is approved by the national public affairs office. All new NRCS contracts are frozen for now, which could impede EQIP contracting in a big way. (Environmental Quality Incentives Program of the USDA provides

financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land.) Once the contract freeze is lifted, it will be approximately 10–12 months to refill these positions if they still remain. "

The freeze on hiring is not unexpected. Muzzling the agencies probably shouldn't have been surprising, but it comes as the beginning of a shock wave as we look

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Marin Conservation League Business Member Profile



Markoff/Fullerton Architects

By Linda Novy

Nestled into a quiet block on Mill Valley's E. Blithedale Avenue, the busy architectural practice of Markoff/Fullerton belies its low-key setting. Bruce Fullerton and Antonina Markoff create beautiful contemporary building designs that are infused with "green" building practices and energy efficiencies. This husband and wife team of licensed architects founded their practice in 1996 in Los Angeles as "early adopters" of fledging green design practices. They approached their clients, some of whom are celebrities, with then unconventional ideas such as building with non-toxic products, integrating energy efficiencies in each design, incorporating water efficiencies and other emerging environmental best management practices. They got buy-in! Now, with LEED-certified members on their team, they use computer models to audit each project and fine tune its performance. Many of their projects utilize solar panels; one current project is all-electric, using the sun as its sole source of energy!

The company relocated to Antonina's home town of Mill Valley in 2000. Bruce was invited to join the Marin Conservation League Board and the firm became a business member. As Bruce explains it, he and Antonina

shared MCL's values of respect for the natural landscape and were attracted to MCL 's mission to not "... shut people out of Marin, but to help guide the built environment so that the character of Marin and its iconic landscape would be preserved."



Antonina Markoff and Bruce Fullerton

Bruce went on to say that Markoff/Fullerton believes in the "light touch" in the siting and design of their projects, celebrating and protecting the natural environment and merging the outdoor ecology with the building's interior space. They also design the exterior landscape to respect

the natural plant communities and contour of the site. And the firm respects the human community in which each project is located and specifies materials and designs to fit in with that local environment.

Bruce and Antonina are committed to the community through their volunteer work. Antonina helped create Mill Valley's Design Review Guidelines that aim to preserve the community and environmental character of Mill Valley; she later served as a Mill Valley Planning Commissioner. Currently she makes weekly deliveries for Extra Food, diverting surplus food that would be wasted to community-serving organizations. In addition to his past service on the MCL Board, Bruce serves on the Lark Theater Board of Directors. The firm designed the theater's renovation and is currently assisting with installation of solar panels and a transition to energy efficient heating and air conditioning. Bruce noted that the Lark Theater "...is a community asset that brings people together – it's really a cultural hub!" MCL would include Antonina and Bruce as outstanding community assets! We encourage you to look for examples of their award winning environmentally responsible and energy efficient modern architecture at www.markoff-fullerton.com.

Passing the baton-

For almost nine years Dru Parker has designed and produced this newsletter. With this issue she passes the baton to Kirsten Nolan. Thanks to Dru for creating and maintaining MCL's professional "look"!

Elk *from page 2*

more private and public reserves. Both researchers acknowledge that the recovery of a species that once numbered 500,000 in California under pre-European conditions is remarkable. By 1860, elk had been extirpated by hunting from Point Reyes and reduced statewide to fewer than ten individuals in the San Joaquin Valley by 1870. In 1971, when Senator Peter Behr introduced a bill that prohibited elk hunting until the statewide population reached 2,000, elk had made a comeback to 500 animals in three herds. The 2,000 goal was reached in 1987, and since that time controlled hunting has been permitted in select locations by CDFW, in part to align elk herd populations with available resources.

In 1976, the federal government agreed to make lands at Point Reyes available for "the preservation and grazing of tule elk." McCullough was an advisor to an interagency task force which recommended that two males and eight females from other populations be introduced to the Tomales Point Wilderness in 1978. CDF&W (CDF&G at that time) insisted that the 2,600-acre site be fenced to protect the animals. From an initially slow start due to poor range conditions, the herd had reached 465 by 1997. To address the problem of the growing herd in a 1998 Elk Management Plan, the Park Service

analyzed various management alternatives, rejecting an alternative that would have established a free ranging herd in the pastoral zone. In 2001 the Park Service released 28 individuals into an unfenced area in the Philip Burton Wilderness near Limantour Estero. Within a relatively short time a few elk began migrating onto Home Ranch and other ranches around Drakes Estero, in effect, creating a third herd in the pastoral zone. As of May of 2016, 95 elk were free-roaming on ranches in the Drakes Beach area, 130 remained in the Limantour Beach (Wilderness) area, and the population at Tomales Point was at 285, down from an average of about 450. This is a brief synopsis of a long, complicated history!

Management issues continue

McCullough and Hobbs are noteworthy for their professionalism and objectivity on a subject in which opinions differ and emotions run high. They both applaud the miraculous comeback of a native species that had all but disappeared from California before the end of the 19th century. They also acknowledge that the recovery has not been without controversy. Conflicts have accompanied virtually all relocations. Typically, the initial herds have thrived and grown, but often at the expense of broken fences, damaged crops and livestock

rangeland, and local ill-will. Elk are social animals, naturally forming herds. They prefer open-range so, not surprisingly, are drawn to cultivated pastures or field crops like alfalfa where they are accessible.

Both McCullough and Hobbs believe that elk should be managed to the extent possible as the "wild animals" that they are. They are not "pets" for public display. This means allowing passive, natural regulation to control population size with annual cycles of resource abundance and scarcity driving birth and death rates. For many reasons this is not always possible, primarily due to the absence of natural predators and a herd's ability to access cultivated forage, both of which encourage expansion, and secondarily to the public's romanticized image of the animals. To manage expanding or problematic populations, options include contraception or sterilization, relocating individuals to other areas, or culling the herd where permitted through hunting or other means. All of these options were identified in Press' November 21, 2014 presentation. No option is without technical difficulty, cost, and public controversy. Given the presence of John's Disease among the elk in Drakes Beach herd (four tested positive in two recent years of testing), relocation to another reserve is not possible. John's disease is a bacterium-caused intestinal disease that can be transmitted by both domestic and wild ruminants. It can cause diarrhea and weight loss or be asymptomatic. At this time, the only truly reliable tests involve examining tissue from the internal organs of deceased elk.

The meetings with McCullough and Hobbs did not produce solutions to the management of these animals, which are a major source of attraction for the two million annual visitors to the seashore, even as they jeopardize the operations of ranchers. Over the long term, their numbers, whether behind the Tomales Point fence, or in the Limantour area, or "free-ranging" on the ranches, will have to be managed in some manner. Either the RCMP, if it goes forward, or an updated General Management Plan, will have to address this dilemma.



Tule elk at watering hole on Tomales Point

Point Reyes National Seashore

Senator Mike McGuire captures his audience

With rapid-fire delivery that is his style, Senator Mike McGuire touched on more than a dozen issues for an audience of sixty at MCL's Business-Environment Breakfast at McInnis' Park Club Restaurant on February 10. He began with the positive news that California's economic forecast is strong. Individual earnings are rising and consumer spending is up. The state will be in the black by June 2017, with a "rainy day fund" of \$8.5 billion, and California continues to lead in job creation with almost 400,000 jobs created in 2016. McGuire then descended into "challenges," which include California's disgraceful state of investment in public education: California managed to bottom-out as 50th in per pupil state spending but with recent gains has risen to become 41st. With renewed investments in this year's state budget, California has set a modest goal of achieving number 25.



Photo courtesy of Carole Mills

State Senator Mike McGuire

attention from actions that could seriously impact California and its environment. For example, water bill HR 23 would upend the flow of water in the state to benefit San Joaquin Valley agribusiness at the expense of northern California salmon and streams. And even as California leads the nation in action on climate change, the EPA's power to enforce clean air and clean water laws could be completely stripped by eliminating the enforcement division.

Equally critical is the human fall-out of the "Muslim travel ban" and possible actions against undocumented immigrants. According to McGuire, California is home to the most Muslims of any state, and to the highest population of undocumented residents. California will pass legislation to protect its non-felon undocumented residents, and working with former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, hone

its defense against Trump's threat to withhold federal funds if California and its cities assert "sanctuary" status.

Transportation also poses major challenges in California. Marin has among the worst commutes in the Bay Area. Locally McGuire sees improvements to the Highway 101/580 approach to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and completion of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows as highest priorities. With the help of emergency funds, he is currently working to accomplish quick fixes to flooding problems on State Route 37. On a completely different front, with 60 percent of the state's \$7 billion Cannabis industry in his district, McGuire also is confronting the monumental challenges of establishing a taxing and tracking infrastructure following the passage of Proposition 64, which legalized recreational use of pot. Although not raised in this meeting, the need for environmental controls of the tens of thousands of "grows" in his district will certainly bring its own trials.

MCL encourages members and others to contact Senator McGuire either directly or through his staff in Marin or Sonoma County at sd02.senate.ca.gov, or at (415) 479-6612.



Senator McGuire's district faces huge challenges since the legalization of pot.

flicker creative commons laviedecannabis

The central interest, however, was in possible threats of the Trump Administration for California and the state's strategies for dealing with them. McGuire sees the main battle with the Trump Administration as one of constitutional values and how to uphold them. The daily skirmishes distract



Senator McGuire responds to questions at MCL's Business-Environment Breakfast.

Kristen Nolan

Annual Dinner *from page 1*

Coastal Commission and the Santa Monica Conservancy Advisory Committee, and was President of the LA County Division of the League of California Cities.

Pavley launched her career in the state assembly in 2000 by taking on controversial vehicle emissions. By building a coalition, she was successful in 2002 in authoring AB 1493, which required reductions in emissions from vehicle tailpipes. That bill led to adoption of national clean car standards by President Obama in 2009 and became known as the "Pavley law." Termed out after three two-year terms in the assembly, she easily won her place in the Senate, where she served two terms representing the 23rd and 27th Senate Districts, including portions of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Along the way, she established herself as Sacramento's lead

on legislation addressing climate change, energy, and the environment. According to one journalist, she is "the mother of California climate change policy."

Pavley also successfully authored bills dealing with issues as diverse as regulation of groundwater basins, banning lead and cadmium in children's jewelry, and setting new safety standards for gas storage wells; and she worked on legislation concerning the developmentally disabled as well as guide dogs for the blind (she and her husband raised several). It is

unlikely that she will actually "retire" anytime soon, especially as she gears up to defend her legacy work on climate.

Environmental Awards

MCL will also present its 2017 Awards for Environmental Achievement at the dinner. The event will be held at 5:30 p.m., Friday, April 28, in the Key Room at Homeward Bound in Novato. Invitations will be sent to MCL members in early March. No tickets will be sold at the door.

This year's honorees are:

Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award
Marin Green Award for Environmental Leadership
Ted Wellman Water Award
John M. McPhail, Jr. Green Business Award
MCL Volunteer Award
MCL Special Award for Environmental Leadership

Fran Pavley
Tamra Peters
Roger Roberts
Equinox Landscape
Sally Gale and David Lewis
Jack Liebster

Seniors walking into the conservation history of Marin

At this writing, MCL's first of five 2017 Senior Walks into Conservation History, originally scheduled for February 16, had been rescheduled to March 2. The plan was to explore **Bothin** (pronounced Bo-then) Marsh along the McGlashan Pathway-boardwalk and Mill Valley-Sausalito Multi-use Path.

Those who have been around Southern Marin a while will recall in the 1960s that tidelands fringing the northern arm of Richardson Bay between Sausalito-Manzanita and Mill Valley had been diked for eventual fill and development. Former wetlands along Miller Avenue, from Tamalpais High School to Coyote Creek in Tam Valley, were dry and bare of vegetation. Only a one-way tide gate held back the tide (periodically disabled by eco-vandals). Further up the Bay, a dredger was slowly chewing away at the marshes at the mouth of Corte Madera del Presidio to create the small craft harbor that was Mill Valley's waterfront plan in those days. That a tidal marsh would survive and thrive in that urban context after the levee was

opened, is a story in itself. Bothin Marsh is now an open space preserve owned by the County, and plans for its further enhancement are in store. That was one topic for the morning's walk, followed by a snack in the Tamalpais Community Service District popular "Log Cabin." Cheryl Longinotti promised to join us on the walk with her "trishaw" for occasional rest along the way!



McGlashan Boardwalk

The second Walk moves to North Marin. On **March 30**, MCL will lead a group around the two-mile Loop Trail around **Deer Island Open Space Preserve**, an excursion that was originally planned for last fall and rained out. The next destination on April 27 will be **Ring Mountain Open Space Preserve**, from the Taylor Road entry. To enjoy the spectacular 360-degree views of Southern Marin, Tamalpais, and San Pablo Bay, as well as the abundant wild flowers, will require some mild uphill walking. We promise a comfortably slow pace! The fourth Walk will take us north to **Rush Creek Open Space Preserve** and a walk

around Cemetery Marsh on May 25. The location of Walk #5 on June 29 is still to be determined.

The Senior Walk Program is made possible by the Measure A: Community Grant Program. Walks are open to all seniors and typically require the ability to walk between one and two miles on fairly level but possibly uneven terrain. They are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30, including transportation by van, with pick-up at designated stops. Reservations are required. For information and [reservations](#), call Marin Conservation League at 415-485-6257.

Community Marin *from page 1*

areas should be protected; and what rate of development would be consistent with the capacity of Marin's resources? MCL, Marin Audubon Society, Sierra Club-Marin Group, and the Environmental Forum of Marin responded and formed a collaboration that became known as "Community Marin," chaired by Marge Macris, former Marin County Planning Director.

Community Marin, Our Future...Our Choice

The group's first work in 1991—Community Marin, Our Future...Our Choice—provided policy recommendations to guide planners, elected officials, and citizen groups in making environmentally sound decisions about transportation, housing, community development, environmental protection, agricultural preservation, and the economy. The report focused on the eastern urban portions of the County, but it provided a useful basis for discussing the County's overall growth, and it established a set of common environmental planning principles supported by the four organizations. Although not all of its recommendations were adopted by the County, it played a significant role in shaping the 1994 CWP update.

By 1997, conditions in the County were changing and it was time to update Community Marin. Some land use issues had been decided, not necessarily as hoped. The Buck Center was approved and constructed. Novato passed an Urban Growth Boundary to contain development from going north. The first homeowners had moved into the redeveloped Hamilton Field. The Black Point battle had been lost, and LucasFilm had won approval for another phase of development, in spite of serious zoning issues. Bel Marin Keys' Unit V 1,600 acre expansion site was purchased by State Coastal Conservancy for eventual tidal restoration, even as wetland restoration plans were taking shape at Hamilton. The St. Vincent's/Silveira Ranch



Dru Parker

An updated Transportation section in Community Marin will take into account the operations of SMART, shown here leaving Civic Center Station

properties remained at risk, and a future commuter rail line was being debated.

In addition to updating planning and transportation recommendations, Community Marin 1998 took an ecosystem approach to land, water, air, agriculture, and wildlife issues. The revision also advocated for incorporating a "fourth corridor" into the CWP – a Baylands Protection Corridor – to prevent diked, undeveloped shorelands along San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, such as St. Vincent's/Silveira Ranch, from being developed.

In 2001, as the County began its third major update of the CWP, the environmental collaborators again went to work. The resultant Community Marin 2003 recommended reducing the amount of new commercial retail and office development in the County in an attempt to ease the growing imbalance between affordable housing and jobs and to curb mounting traffic congestion. (Lacking an environmental consensus, the report dodged the subject of a commuter rail system.) The revised report played a key role in the County's 2007 CWP. After more than 20 years of advocacy, the 2007 CWP added a fourth (Baylands) corridor to the three-corridor framework

dating from the first 1973 CWP, and placed a reasonable cap on development of the St. Vincent's/ Silveira properties, which still stands.

Climate and sustainability enter the scene

In response to the looming threat of climate change, the 2007 CWP adopted sustainability as its overarching theme, and the "3-E" sustainability principles (Environment-Equity-Economy) were threaded throughout the document. Community Marin group once again began in 2010 to revise Community Marin 2003 to reflect this new priority. The updated Community Marin 2013 incorporated many strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and Marin's carbon footprint, and emphasized the need to begin planning now for adaptation to future sea level rise and other effects of global warming. It also acknowledged the need for workforce housing but continued to advocate for limiting total growth, especially commercial development in accordance with environmental constraints, community character, and availability of services. It advised that new development, where warranted, should occur only in existing developed areas, enhancing the community-centered

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character of Marin by protecting greenbelts and community separators. The maximum size for new residences should be limited, to reduce the impacts of mega-houses on resource consumption and community character. Public transportation should be designed to serve existing communities and simultaneously protect the environment and the County's natural character.

Looking to the Future

As yet another revision to Community Marin is now getting underway, its overriding vision will continue to make preservation of Marin's natural environment a priority in all land use planning. At the same time, the revision must show how to achieve economically and ethnically diverse and affordable communities; maintain a thriving agricultural economy that keeps

roughly one-third of the County in productive and scenic open space; and ensure long-term protection of public lands that make up half of the County. It will need to address the seemingly intractable problem of transportation and traffic congestion, even as SMART begins to operate. At the same time, the next revision of Community Marin will need to recognize that the potential for growth is finite and over-development erodes the quality of both human life and the natural environment.

As in the past, the revision process will be slow and deliberate; each section must be drafted, discussed, revised, and eventually approved by the constituent organizations. The time will be well spent, however. The Community Marin report continues to provide a foundation for advocating before County supervisors, city councils, planning commissions,

and other decision makers in favor of environmentally informed policy for Marin. Although the collaborating environmental non-profits that prepared the earlier versions of Community Marin have changed somewhat, they continue to form a core group, drawing as necessary on the specialized expertise of the several dozen other non-profits that now make up the broader "environmental community" of Marin. Bringing these environmental non-profits together in critical times is an important collateral benefit of Community Marin.

This story is an adaptation and update of two previous articles that appeared in the MCL May-June 2010 and November-December 2012 Newsletter. Marge Macris, Don Dickenson, and Nona Dennis contributed to those articles.

Fall Out *from page 5*

forward to a possible "correction" in terms and facts across federal agencies. The large majority of the MRCD's projects funded through the state by EPA federal dollars are designed to save pastureland and protect water quality by preventing erosion and curtailing runoff, typically by fencing off and restoring creek beds. MRCD also collaborates in the Marin Carbon Project, which is conducting research to determine opportunities for and benefits of carbon sequestration, a project that directly supports Governor Brown's statewide Healthy Soils Initiative.



Marin Resource Conservation District

Riparian restoration projects such as this could lose federal funding.



Sharon Knudson

MCL Board members join Senator Mike McGuire and Supervisors Judy Arnold, Katie Rice, and Dennis Rodoni on stage after receiving the Friends of the Farm Bureau award.

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
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Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the MCL office and are open to the public.

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

Land Use and Transportation:

1st Wed. of the month, 9:00 AM—11:00AM

Parks and Open Space:

2nd Thurs. of the month, 3:00—5:00 PM

Invasive Plant Subcommittee of POS:

3rd Wed. of the month, 3:00—5:00 PM

Climate Action Working Group: 3rd Fri. of the month, 9:00 AM—11:00 AM

Agricultural Land Use: meets quarterly; Water and Watersheds, North Marin Unit: Check website for times and locations

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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Marin Conservation League Annual Meeting & Election, April 28, 2017

Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2017—2018

The Marin Conservation League's Nominating Committee, chaired by Nona Dennis, has nominated the following persons for election as MCL Officers and Directors at the 2017 Annual Meeting and Election. All MCL members who attend the meeting are eligible to vote.

Nominated for Election as Officers for 2017-2018

President—Kate Powers, San Rafael
First Vice President—Linda Novy, Fairfax
Second Vice President—Doug Wilson, Mill Valley
Secretary—Pat Nelson, San Rafael
Treasurer—Ken Drexler, Fairfax

Nominated for re-election to the MCL Board:

Term ending April 2019
Judy Teichman, Point Reyes Station

Term ending April 2020
Nona Dennis, Mill Valley
Larry Minikes, San Rafael
Vicki Nichols, Sausalito
Susan Stompe, Novato
Ann Thomas, Corte Madera

The following Directors will continue to serve existing terms:

Term ending April 2018
Heather Furmidge, Point Reyes Station
Doug Karpa, Mill Valley
Ralph Mihan, San Rafael
Bob Miller, San Rafael
Pamela Reaves, San Rafael

Term ending April 2019
Sally Gale, Petaluma
David Lewis, Novato
Arlin Weinberger, San Rafael
Greg Zitney, Novato