



Kate's Corner...

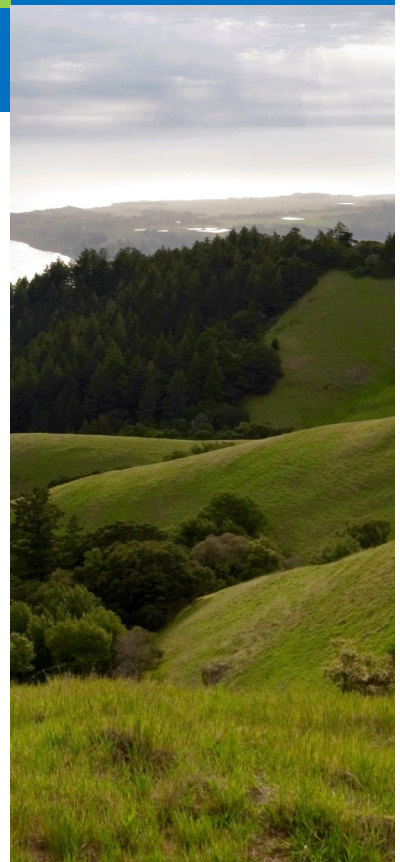
Dear Friends & Neighbors,

The election of Donald Trump on November 8 as the next president of the United States came as a shock to many of us. A campaign suffused with hurtful language about women, minorities and the disabled, with wanton disregard for the truth and untethered emotional outbursts, shattered our notions of basic human decency and fanned distrust, disdain and division. In the swirl of post-election thoughts, fears and predictions, what resonates most for me is the power of community and the importance of acting locally. We need to “double-down” on our efforts to address critically important issues such as climate disruption and sea level rise, and protect the values we cherish: community, acceptance, respect, integrity and compassion.

There is so much we can, and must, do here in Marin and working with our State leaders. So let’s join hands and go forward with energy and engagement, working together to creatively solve problems and enrich the lives of everyone in our community.

This newsletter features our county priorities for this year, including affordable housing, equity safety net, homelessness, roads and congestion, and climate change and sea level rise.

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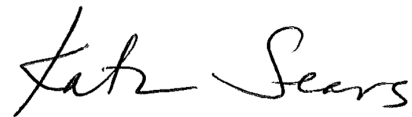
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It also takes a look at the health of Mt. Tam, the status of SMART's start of passenger service, our green power achievements, and three of the wonderful local organizations we have celebrated in 2016. I hope you will forward this newsletter to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to subscribe to our electronic communications.

I am grateful to all of you for your commitment to our community, your attentiveness and thoughtful engagement on issues that matter, and look forward to continuing to work together. With much to be thankful for, my staff and I send you and yours best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Warm regards,



STATE OF THE COUNTY

Marin County is in good shape but there is plenty to be done to make Marin an even better place to live.

For the first time, County departments collaborated to create a **"State of the County"** webpage and video to provide information about our highest priorities. I hope you will watch the video in particular – it's good!

The Board of Supervisors is focusing on five areas in FY 2016-17: affordable housing, equity safety net, homelessness, roads and congestion, and climate change and sea level rise. These topics are introduced below and more information is available on the County website at the link above.

FOCUS ON THE ISSUES

Affordable Housing

It's no secret Marin County is one of the most expensive places to live in the country. As of October 2016, the average Marin apartment rent was \$2,600 per month, up 75 percent since 2005. The median rent for a single family home was \$5,000 per month. With no new affordable housing developments under construction in unincorporated Marin, the County's focus has turned to preserving the existing stock of affordable homes and encouraging the creation of junior second units in existing homes.

Homelessness

At the latest count, there were 1,309 individuals in Marin without a place to call home. The County is maximizing its resources and collaborating with cities, towns and public agencies to make more help available to people living without permanent shelter and identify permanent solutions. Having a home is key to employment and better health.

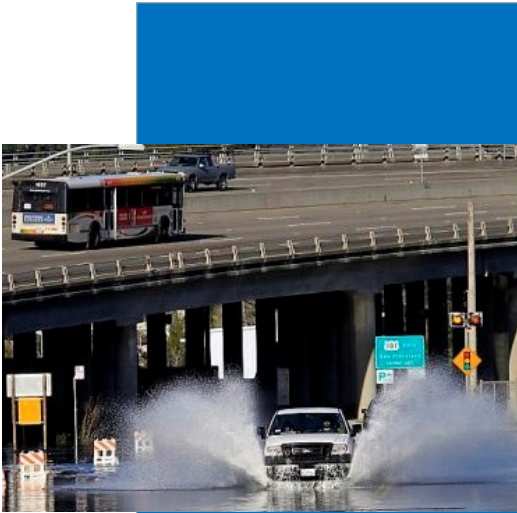
Equity

Income disparity in Marin is on the rise, negatively affecting quality of life and even life expectancy for those lower on the socioeconomic scale. Six County departments - the Marin Free Library, Parks and Open Space, Health and Human Services, Probation, Human Resources, and the County Administrator's Office - are part of a countywide pilot program designed to increase fair inclusion and deliver services to those who need help the most.

Roads and Traffic

Road maintenance is one of the most basic and necessary components of local government service. In January 2016, the state cut funding by \$754 million over the next five years - the largest cutback in nearly 20 years - due to projected reduced revenue from gasoline tax. To deal with this challenge, over the next 3-5 years, the County is leveraging its road funding to get \$31 million in federal grants for major road and bridge infrastructure improvements. The County also is enhancing resources for local streets and roads through careful planning, innovative design, and the use of cost-effective paving technologies.





FOCUS ON THE ISSUES

Sea Level Rise and Climate Change

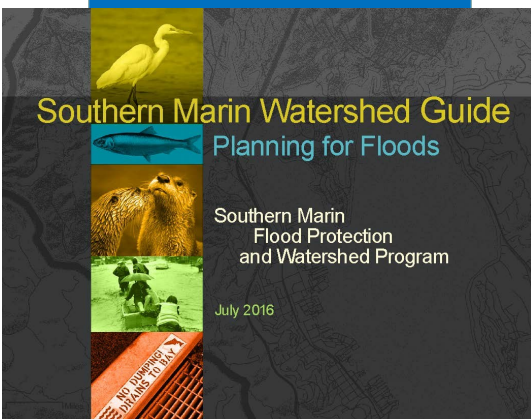
Sea level rise is already affecting us in Southern Marin and elsewhere in the County, and not just the water-front communities. Marin can expect billions in financial losses as bay and ocean waters rise a predicted 3 feet by the year 2100, if not earlier, and overflow the existing levee structure. The County recognizes that sea level rise needs to be addressed now and we are aggressively promoting public education and adaptation measures. For more information go to www.marinslr.org. Through the **Marin County Climate Action Plan**, we also are reducing greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging all forms of sustainability, such as zero waste, energy efficiency, water-saving features and more.

And Speaking of Sea Level Rise . . . Bothin Marsh Restoration Project Moves Forward

In September, the Board of Supervisors approved adjustments to increase the FY 2016-17 Measure A Parks and Open Space budget to include funding to move forward the Bothin Marsh restoration project. These funds will make possible a feasibility analysis and pre-planning study in preparation for a vegetation restoration project within Bothin Marsh to help address sea level rise.

Southern Marin Watershed Guide – Planning for Floods

When it comes to water two things are certain: there will be another drought and there will be another flood. The **Southern Marin Watershed Guide** is a springboard to understand and get involved in planning for flood and habitat protection in Southern Marin.



MT. TAM SCIENCE SUMMIT: HOW HEALTHY IS OUR MOUNTAIN?

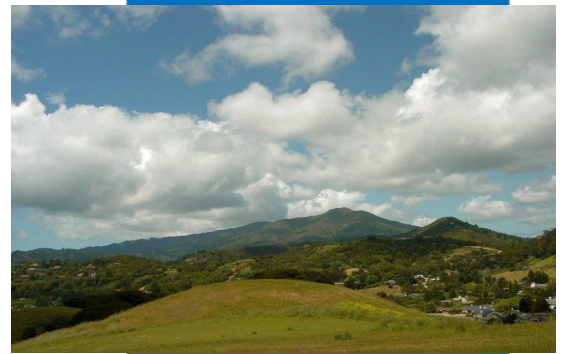
Mt. Tam is one of our greatest natural treasures and a special part of our lives. It also is a biodiversity hotspot with a remarkably diverse array of climates and habitats. I was stunned to learn that Mt. Tam has over 10 times more native plants per acre than Yosemite National Park, which is 20 times as big. The ecological health of Mt. Tam has important implications not only for the plants and animals that inhabit its lands but for all of us who live in its shadow and recreate on its slopes.

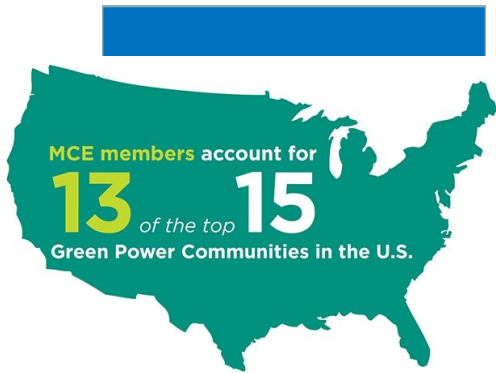
This spring, the four land management agencies on Mt. Tam (California State Parks, Marin County Parks, Marin Municipal Water District, and the National Park Service) joined together with scientists and other experts from around the Bay Area to share their knowledge and expertise to try to answer the question: How healthy is Mt. Tam?

On October 28-29, scientists, students, community members, local conservation organizations and land managers came together to learn about the condition of Mt. Tam's plants, animals and natural processes at the Mt. Tam Science Summit 2016. They shared highlights of the natural resources report "Is Mt. Tam at Peak Health?" The report explains why the answer to that question is "NO" - the overall condition of Mt. Tam's natural resources is FAIR.

While some of the mountain's plants and wildlife are thriving, others are suffering the effects of invasive species, plant disease, altered fire frequencies, and climate change. There also are information gaps about some species. But the good news is that there is much we can do to help.

Please visit the [**One Tam website**](#) and take a deeper look at the [**Health of Mt. Tam**](#) link to explore the information presented at the summit and to download the report.





US GREEN POWER COMMUNITIES - MARIN TOPS THE LIST!

Marin Clean Energy member communities accounted for 13 out of the top 15 **Green Power Communities** nationwide – Wow! The Environmental Protection Agency program ranks communities by green power percentage of total electricity use. This is the fourth year many of MCE’s member communities have received the honor.

MARIN TRANSIT BOARD APPROVES A ZERO EMISSIONS BUS PILOT PROJECT

Reducing emissions in our bus fleet is a priority. Marin Transit currently operates 18 hybrid diesel buses, and will be adding 10 more in 2017. Testing EV technology now by piloting two electric buses will help us transform the fleet to 100% zero emissions by 2040 or sooner. They should be on the road by September 2017.

SMART DELAYS PASSENGER SERVICE LAUNCH DATE TO SPRING 2017

The Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit (SMART) board of directors and staff were aiming to start passenger service late this year and have been working hard to make that happen. Residents along the train route and many of our County employees are eager for service to begin so they can get out of the traffic that snarls Hwy 101. A newly discovered problem with the train engines – a flaw in the crank shaft design – together with ongoing system-wide testing of crossing gates, train cars, and the train control and communications system led to a decision in October to put safety first and delay the start of passenger service until late spring 2017. SMART got its priorities right in choosing to take extra time to make sure operation is safe and reliable on Day One of passenger service.

For more information, please see the **Staff Report**.



CELEBRATING ORGANIZATIONS THAT DO SO MUCH FOR MARIN!

SAN FRANCISCO - MARIN FOOD BANK MARKS ITS FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In July, the **Board of Supervisors recognized the SF-Marin Food Bank** for five years of extraordinary community service, bringing healthy food where it is most needed. Six days a week, the SF-Marin Food Bank's "Fresh Rescue" program picks up perishable items such as eggs, meat, dairy and other nutritious items from 16 grocery store partners which are then redistributed directly to Marin pantries. In 2015, this program redirected 1.5 million pounds of food that would otherwise have gone to waste. The SF-Marin Food Bank has had an immeasurably positive impact in Marin by serving thousands of families, children, seniors and individuals in need, helping to transform people's lives with healthy food. Thank you!

BOOK PASSAGE TURNS 40!

In October, the Board **of Supervisors honored Elaine and Bill Petrocelli** for their vision in opening the independent bookstore "Book Passage" in 1976. In the 40 years since, Book Passage has become a center of community and literary activity, an incubator for many literary careers, and a nationally-recognized home for some of the Bay Area's most memorable literary events, hosting over 10,000 events with renowned individuals and novelists, including Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize winners, three U.S. Presidents, as well as new and aspiring authors. We are thrilled that a new Book Passage store will be opening in Sausalito!



MARIN AUDUBON CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

In 1912 there was a proposal to cut a four mile channel from Tennessee Valley Cove over to Richardson's Bay, thus creating a backdoor shipping canal into the Bay. This idea came up again in 1936 when the Navy was eye-balling Richardson's Bay as a potential submarine base. In December 1935 Joseph Strauss, chief engineer for the Golden Gate Bridge, proposed filling in the northern half of Richardson's Bay to create an amusement park, coliseum and airfield. Fortunately, none of this happened and instead we have the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary! Richardson Bay is now a place of refuge and rest for birds traveling along the Pacific Coast flyway and also a sanctuary for our eyes and spirit.



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