



# County of Marin District 1 Newsletter

February, 2012

## *From the desk of...*

Last month, I had the experience of listening to members of the public who attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) joint workshop on the "One Bay Area Plan". "One Bay Area" was developed in response to Senator Steinberg's SB375 legislation which directed regional councils of governments (COGs) to plan for how the region will grow within the context of reducing greenhouse gas and coordinating land use with transportation and how limited tax dollars will be spent on those programs in the coming years. With an estimated 2 million more people in the Bay Area by 2040, it makes sense to have the conversation, but the "Top Down" approach has generated many questions, distrust and even anger with locally elected representatives and the residents they represent who believe that this process is attempting to take control over local land use decisions and take away the unique characteristics of our local cities, towns and counties.

At the Marin forum, while there were those (some from outside of Marin) who seemed more intent on shouting down and disrupting the program, there were also some co-

gent points and questions which were raised and which I will summarize.

The public outreach by MTC and ABAG has left much to be desired and the sense that people are being forced into 3 category choices without being part of the organic ground up discussions about how the Bay Area should grow or understanding how the data was derived has been a huge gap. The education and information was lacking and answers to questions were left unanswered.

While population data predictions from 20 years ago, match fairly well with what has actually happened today, the housing and jobs numbers are wildly variable and the current projections seem out of touch with the reality of foreclosed homes, unemployment numbers and self-employed home business operations.

There is concern that these unfunded state mandates for SB375, AB32 and the Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA) are eroding local control and dictating how communities should grow. Maintaining the unique characteristics of our cities, towns and counties was an important point.

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## *The Grady Ranch* **Precise Development Plan Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report**

On Monday, **February 27, 2012**, the Marin County Planning Commission will convene a public hearing regarding certification of the Final SEIR, and a decision on whether to approve the Grady Ranch Precise Development Plan. Oral and written comments on the Final SEIR and the project may be presented to the Planning Commission at the hearing. The hearing is scheduled for the regular meeting of the Marin County Planning Commission, in the Planning Commission Chambers (Room 328 -Administration Building) Civic Center, San Rafael, California, at which time any and all persons interested in this matter may appear and be heard. Please call the Community Development Agency - Planning Division at (415) 473-6269 on or after Monday, February 20, 2012, to be informed of the place on the agenda, the approximate time of the hearing, or to obtain a copy of the staff report. The staff report will also be available for review on our website at <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/SysA~pslCalendar/pubiMeetingIndex.cfm?SponsorSid=2>.

Written material on the Final SEIR should not be mailed or delivered directly to Planning Commissioners because it will not be accepted or considered as part of the administrative record for the project. Written material for the Planning Commission should be submitted to the Community Development Agency, Planning Division office by **February 6, 2012** for inclusion in the Response to Comments Amendment, which will be publicly released with the staff report prior to the February 27, 2012 hearing. Any written correspondence submitted after February 6, 2012 will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to, or at, the meeting. Please note that following the February 6, 2012 comment period deadline, any comment letters received will not be included as part of the Final SEIR document.

Community Development Agency, Rachel Warner and Neal Osborne

[http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/pdf/eir/Big%20Rock/GradyRanch\\_Final\\_SEIR.pdf](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/pdf/eir/Big%20Rock/GradyRanch_Final_SEIR.pdf)

## *Teens Turning Green*

TTG reports that Project Green Challenge 2011 was a great success as thousands of young people began the transition from conventional to conscious lifestyles, schools and communities. TTG is building on that framework with eco-initiatives to engage students on high school and college campuses nationwide. Together with a collective of 70 corporate sponsors, non profit organizations and media partners, the Project Green Challenge team crafted 30 days of themed challenges with over 2,500 participants from around the country sending in their responses. The top 12 finalists were flown to California to compete in the final round at Green University where they were mentored by eco leaders.

Take a look at their website and you will catch the enthusiasm and spirit that is turning teens to green! <http://www.projectgreenchallenge.com/index.php>

## *Marin County Parks recognized for its Integrated Pest Management program*

On January 26, the California Environmental Protection Agency recognized Marin County Parks for its innovation in integrative pest management. The recognition was focused on its use of organic products in place of pesticides, its non-chemical reliance on hand weeding and brush removal, and its cost-saving ability to round up volunteers to implement these labor intensive strategies. Pesticide use on lands owned or maintained by Marin County has been reduced by nearly 90 percent since 2002.

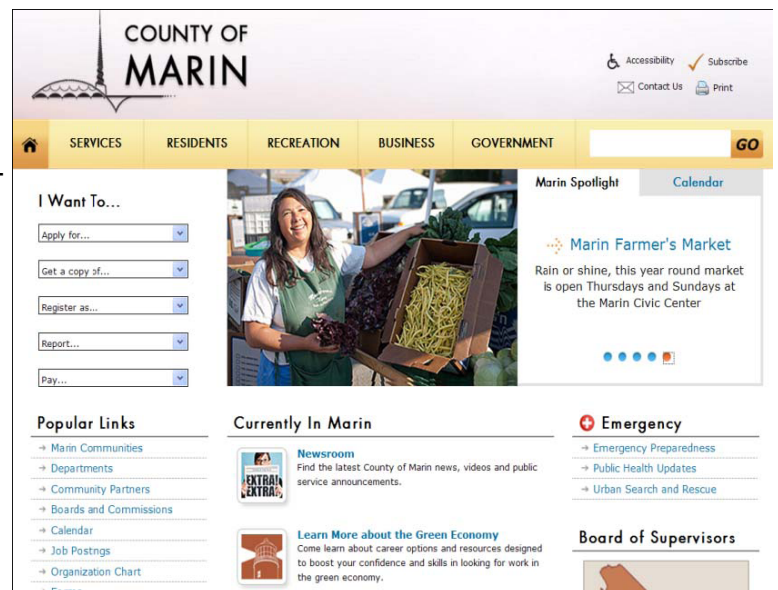
A big thank you and congratulations to Marin County Parks Superintendent and IPM Coordinator Ed Hulme and his IPM team who have so professionally and capably implemented the County's IPM Ordinance.

## *New County website—responding to customer searches*

When the designers started work on developing a new and improved website, they looked at what people searched for most. The recently activated [www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org) will on its welcome page offer you the options most people seek when they come to the county site. From there, you can go to the department pages and search as wide and deep as you have time to explore.

The website has been revamped with a fresh, clean design and organized so information and services are easier and quicker to find, such as online bill pay features. It also highlights news and events in Marin County, connects to the County's social media accounts, and provides a new interactive, full-featured calendar complete with details about upcoming events that can be imported directly into your personal calendar.

"The new site responds to the increasing demand for people to take care of County-related business electronically," said David Hill, Chief Information Officer for the County. The site includes links to pay taxes, access County records and retrieve applications for licenses and permits. "The new site, the email and phone number changes address the need for simpler and easier ways for the public to reach us."



*From the desk of... Continued from page 1*

There is concern that these unfunded state mandates for SB375, AB32 and the Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA) are eroding local control and dictating how communities should grow. Maintaining the unique characteristics of our cities, towns and counties was an important point.

None of the scenarios reduces the greenhouse gas with a population that is growing and continuing to use automobiles for transportation, and the investment of 80% of transportation dollars into freeways instead of local investments that move people out of their cars is the wrong direction.

Local remedies to greenhouse gas reductions which could include increasing access for Electric Vehicles, Clean Energy CCAs and Public Utilities and other programs are not taken into consideration.

How are city, town, county constraints considered in relationship to natural and built infrastructure and "build out" scenarios? Where will the funding come from to make the changes that are being requested especially with the loss of redevelopment money?

How does sea level rise factor into the planning decisions?

How do we create equitable housing opportunities for a full range of our workforce and how do we have the conversation about workforce housing vs. subsidized housing vs. market rate housing which allows us to respectfully engage and problem solve?

The list is longer, and these represent just a few of the comments that were raised and which both MTC and ABAG will need to address in the coming months and year. I encourage anyone who wishes to learn more about this or to weigh in with your questions to visit the web sites of these agencies, post your questions, find out the meeting schedules and become engaged. The Transportation Authority and the Board of Supervisors will be sending letters to both agencies outlining the local concerns, and I will continue to bring these issues forward to ABAG as a representative for Marin.

*Susan L. Adams*

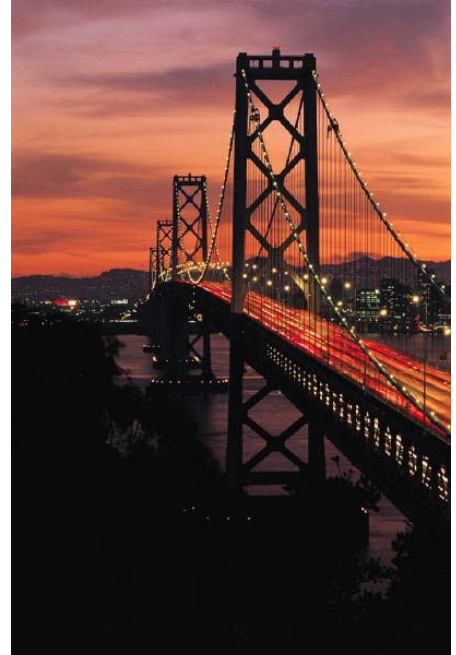
## *Green Businesses*

The Marin Green Business program, started in 2002, has certified 426 businesses to date. This program creates opportunities for businesses to embrace solutions that will protect the economic and environmental resources, recognizing businesses that go beyond compliance with regulatory requirements and conducting operations that are good for their bottom line as well as for the environment. The 21 businesses that were certified on 1/31/12 included 10 in San Rafael. They are Aloha Moving and Storage, Clough Construction, EAH Housing, Equitable Mortgage Group, Law Offices of Plastiras and Terrizzi, Marin Bocce Federation, Marin Energy Authority, Marin Modern Real Estate, Parkway Properties Investment Corporation and Snader and Associates.

[http://www.marincounty.org/depts/CD/main/comdev/advance/Sustainability/greenbuilding/gbuild\\_index.cfm](http://www.marincounty.org/depts/CD/main/comdev/advance/Sustainability/greenbuilding/gbuild_index.cfm)

## *Bay Bridge closure will mean more traffic in Marin—* **Presidents' Day Weekend**

The westbound deck of the Bay Bridge will be closed for construction 8 p.m. Friday, February 17 to 5 a.m. Tuesday, February 21. This closure will result in increased traffic through Marin County for those traveling from the East Bay to San Francisco, using the Richmond San Rafael Bridge to the Golden Gate Bridge into the City. For real time traffic conditions and public transit alternatives, visit [511.org](http://511.org) or call 511.



San Francisco Bay Bridge

## *Re-entry program receives much deserved recognition*

Marin County Sheriff's Captain David Augustus said, "In 24 years with the County, I have never seen such a paradigm shift amongst county agencies when it comes to the efforts given to inmates leaving the Marin County Jail". Sergeant Jim Hickey and Deputy Corey Monge are the two pioneers and change agents that have turned the Jail into a hub of collaboration for the partners in the Criminal Justice System—The Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, Department of Health and Human Services (Medical services, mental health, veteran services) and community based organizations including Bay Area Community Resources and Centerpoint.

The success of this program is that every individual scheduled for release is interviewed by team members, screened for mental health or substance abuse issues that could compromise their chances of a successful transition into the community, and a plan is developed with the individual to connect him or her to the appropriate supportive services in the community. Without this "warm hand-off", many would end up coming back to jail and the cycle would start all over again. The re-entry program has reduced recidivism and resulted in a remarkable culture shift in the Jail, for which the Board of Supervisors, on February 14, will recognize Captain Augustus, Sgt. Hickey, Deputy Monge, and last but not least, the visionary leadership of Sheriff Bob Doyle.

## Help Prevent Gophers from Damaging Levees & Property

**Saturday, February 25, 2012: 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

Location: Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, Kurland Lounge  
200 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael

*The Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District has a program to manage gophers found on levees, but needs residents' help to slow their continual migration to levees from surrounding areas. Gopher holes deteriorate levees and can lead to larger problems such as water seepage and, in extreme cases, levee failure.*

**Continental Breakfast from 9:00 – 9:30 AM by Santa Venetia Neighborhood Association**

### Steve Swain, University of California Cooperative Extension

- Why gophers do what they do: behavior & biology
- Managing the environment: compost bins, weeds, resistant plants, and natural predators
- Repellants and exclusion practices
- Comparison of various traps & how they work



### Raul Garcia, Owner, Forster-Kroeger

- Managing gophers at the pump station/levee
- Use of slurry to fill tunnels

**DEMONSTRATION OF TRAPS:** At 11 a.m., join a field trip to a Santa Venetia pump station where you will learn how to set and place traps.

**FREE REBATE ON TRAPS:** Participants attending this workshop will receive a coupon for a \$5.00 rebate on a trap of their choice at your neighborhood MARIN ACE, 180 Merrydale Rd., San Rafael. Coupons good through March 11, 2012.

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED – SPACE IS LIMITED TO 30 PERSONS!

Please RSVP to: Gina Purin, 473-3202 or [gpurin@marincounty.org](mailto:gpurin@marincounty.org)



If you are a person with a disability and require accommodations, please call (415) 473-4381 (voice) or (415) 473-3232 (TTY) at least four work days in advance of the event. Copies of documents are available in alternative formats upon written request.



**SAFE  
PASSAGE  
LVR**

**Lucas Valley Rd Lover**

REMINDERS:  
Wear long sleeves and pants  
Wear closed toe shoes  
It's a go: Rain or Shine!  
Minors with Parent/Guardians only

QUESTIONS?  
Call Ray—479-9193  
RayLorber@yahoo.com

Call Carolyn—499-9234  
CarolynLenert@msn.com

<http://safepassagealonglucasvalley-road.blogspot.com/>

A nonprofit project of MarinLink, our fiscal sponsor

*WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR THE NEWS!!*

**Bust the Broom**  
with Safe Passage  
on Lucas Valley Road

**AT OUR FIRST QUARTERLY  
CLEANUP OF 2012**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012**  
Only Stay for 75 Minutes  
9:00—10:15AM

**AND/OR**

*Join Us for the*  
**3RD ANNUAL VOLUNTEER  
CELEBRATION**  
10:30—11:15AM

**MEET AT 101 Lucas Valley road  
Office Building Parking Lot!  
Watch for Signs**

**Special Guest Scott Schneider,  
Associate Civil Engineer,  
County of Marin, Public Works**

**SEE OLD FRIENDS—  
STRETCH OUT—  
FEEL GOOD—  
BE EFFECTIVE—**

**Who will win the Mark Macmil-  
lan Public Safety Award this  
time?**

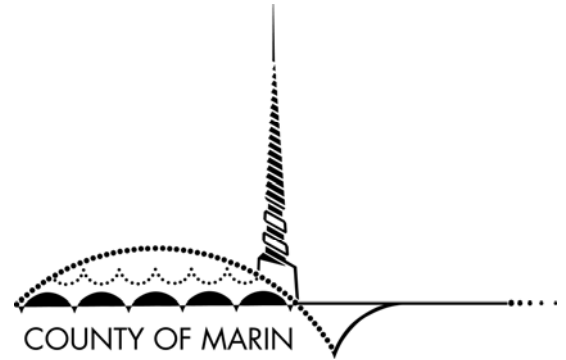
**Be a Lucas Valley Road LoVer!**



**Susan L. Adams, Ph.D., R.N.**

*Supervisor, District 1*

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Calendar—February, 2012

**Board of Supervisors Meetings**, Feb. 7, 14 and 28;  
Board of Supervisors Chambers, go to website for starting time and agendas, [www.marincounty.org/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm](http://www.marincounty.org/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm)

**Community Development Block Grant Countywide Priority Setting Committee Meeting**, San Rafael Area, Feb. 16, 7:00 p.m., San Rafael City Council Chambers. For agenda and packet, go to: [www.marincdbg.com](http://www.marincdbg.com)

**Marin Transit District**, No meeting in February BOS Chambers [www.marintransit.org](http://www.marintransit.org) for agenda

**Transportation Authority of Marin**, Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m., BOS Chambers, [www.tam.ca.gov](http://www.tam.ca.gov) for agenda

Public is always welcome. Check websites to confirm meeting date and time.

If you wish to subscribe to the Cyberagenda, there is a link on the Cyberagenda page to do so. This will include notices of **Marin Housing Authority** meetings, dates for which change each month.

<http://www..marincounty.org/g-channel/Default.aspx>



<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/g-channel/Default.aspx>

**Administrative Aides:**

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[rfraites@marincounty.org](mailto:rfraites@marincounty.org)

**Susannah Clark**

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<http://www.marincounty.org/bos1>

Check out the abundant material posted on our GChannel, meet our County staff and learn about the many great programs and services your County government proudly provides.

<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/g-channel/Default.aspx>. Click on categories to see what might be of interest to you.



If you are a person with a disability and require this document in an alternate format (example: Braille, Large Print, Audiotape, CD-ROM), you may request an alternate format by calling Susannah Clark at 415-473-7342, TTY number 415) 473-3232) or by e-mail at [sclark@marincounty.org](mailto:sclark@marincounty.org) not less than four days prior to event.