



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Annual Report 2019-2020

Preserve • Protect • Enhance



Dear Members and Friends

As I write this, the coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt our lives, and harm or endanger our health. I speak for the MCL Board of Directors in stating that our hearts go out to those and their loved ones harmed in any way by the virus.



Despite the pandemic, our work on your behalf has not slowed, although we conduct it remotely. As before, agencies and jurisdictions continue to confront environmental issues, so we continue our advocacy.

I joined the MCL board four years ago. As a newly retired research faculty member at University of California San Francisco, I respected the careful research that went into MCL's policy positions. I saw that as MCL communicated with decision-makers and their staff to achieve the goal of sustaining Marin's natural systems, it strove to provide them with clear-eyed analyses and potential solutions based on accurate information that could help them, the public, and the environment. As someone who had wanted to be a more active environmentalist for years, I admired the dedication, passion and tenacity of my colleagues in their

commitment as advocates for Marin's environment. And as someone who likes to get things done, I appreciated their efforts to collaborate with and convene other environmental organizations, decision makers, and other stakeholders, to learn together, discuss issues in-depth and develop shared understandings and strategies. Even when common ground wasn't the outcome, all involved were clearer about issues and where other parties stood.

In the last 18 months, MCL has followed and actively engaged in dozens of environmental issues, often collaborating with other partners. The summaries of committee work in this Annual Report are only a sample of the breadth and depth of our efforts to protect or enhance important aspects of Marin's environment that include: protecting threatened juvenile salmon, sea birds, and eelgrass; stewarding public parks, open space, and watersheds; reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change; increasing wildfire safety for people while protecting native habitat; and more.

We thank you, our members, for making it possible to continue to "preserve, protect and enhance" Marin's natural systems. For those who want to engage in new and interesting challenges, check out our committee meetings--as I did, you can learn from interesting speakers and

perhaps decide to work with others on an environmental issue that interests you.

Past MCL President messages have typically reminded members of our long successful past—now 86 years and counting. We know one secret to our predecessors' success over the decades: thinking ahead about the future of Marin and MCL, what's likely to change, and how MCL should continue to adapt, improve and remain a relevant, effective environmental advocate.

Over the past nine months we've engaged in a strategic planning process that is helping prepare us for what's to come, by examining our core principles, mission, vision and priorities; how to improve our communications with you, the public, and decision-makers; and how to improve MCL's effectiveness as advocates for the environment on your behalf. Among other things, expect a survey from us—in order to improve, we need to know your views on what we've done, what you want us to do, and how we can best communicate with you. And expect positive changes that ultimately will benefit Marin's environment that we love. Stay tuned!

A handwritten signature of Robert Miller in black ink. The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name 'Bob' and the last name 'Miller' clearly visible.

Robert Miller, President

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A Note from the Treasurer



This Statement of Activities summarizes MCL's 2019 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 2019, this Fund provided over \$91,000 in support for MCL's activities.

This year the Unrestricted Fund, with the support of MCL's members and careful office management, had a gain. This operating gain was substantially augmented by an increase in the value of MCL's investments. The gain in the Temporarily Restricted Fund shows that this year the Friends of Bayfront Meadow and Sorich Park Area Residents Funds received more support than was spent on these projects. During 2019, the Legacy of the Land increased in value significantly because of market gains while also providing support for MCL's activities. Note: the 2018 year-end equity figures have been adjusted to reflect a correction suggested by MCL's CPA after the 2018 report was published.

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

Kenneth Drexler

Ken Drexler, Treasurer

Statement of Activities

January 1 to December 31, 2019 (Prepared from MCL Records)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	Unrestricted (Operations)	Temp. Restricted (Projects/Ded'ed)	Board Restricted (Legacy of the Land)	Total
Support				
Membership	\$81,138			\$81,138
Contributions	\$68,829	\$7,215		\$76,044
Special Events & Miscellaneous	\$30,711			\$30,711
Total Support	\$180,678	\$7,215	\$0	\$187,893
Revenue				
Interest & Dividend Income	\$19,827		\$46,882	\$66,209
Sales of Inventory less costs	\$19			\$19
Total Revenue	\$19,846	\$0	\$46,882	\$66,228
Transfers				
LOL Support for Operations	\$91,971		(\$91,971)	\$0
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$7,540	(\$7,540)	\$0	\$0
Total Transfers	\$99,517	(\$7,540)	(\$91,971)	\$0
Total Support, Revenue & Transfers	\$280,041	\$1,675	(\$45,089)	\$236,627
EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$229,597			
Management & General	\$18,120			
Fundraising	\$32,917			
Total Expenses	\$280,634	\$0	\$0	\$280,634
Results from operations	\$5,407	\$1,675	(\$45,089)	(\$38,007)
Investment Gain, Realized & Unrealized	\$48,785	\$0	\$13,706	\$62,491
Change in equity	\$54,192	\$1,675	\$11,917	\$67,784
Total equity, Year End 2018	\$529,690	\$29,088	\$1,720,464	\$2,279,242
Total equity, Year End 2019	\$583,882	\$30,763	\$1,732,381	\$2,346,926



2019 Income—Operations



2019 Expenses—Operations

MCL's committees—constant yet adapting

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."

MCL's mission, dating from its early years, is to protect, preserve, and enhance Marin's natural assets. The committees that carry out this mission have been steadfast in their dedication to that mission, even as the volunteering landscape has changed radically since the onset of COVID-19.

Land Use, Transportation, and Water

A convergence of three former committees, Land Use, Transportation, and Water always has a packed agenda. The past 18 months were no exception. Informed by the committee's on-the-ground work, the MCL Board . . .

☞ Supported Trust for Public Land's purchase of the former San Geronimo Valley Golf Course and actively campaigned with others to successfully defeat Measure

D that would have derailed TPL's plans for salmon and other habitat restoration, a public park and community center, and other amenities open to the public.



☞ After **20 years** of advocating for a shorter alternative to a proposed 1,100-foot runway extension at Gness Field Airport in Novato, we succeeded: the approved 300-foot extension alternative minimizes loss of seasonal wetlands, flooding

from sea level rise and reduces air, noise, and runoff pollution.

☞ Advocated for a phased removal of anchor-out vessels from Richardson's Bay to protect eel grass beds that provide shelter and forage for fish, shellfish and seabird populations.

☞ Supported U.S. Fish and Wildlife's application to California Coastal Commission for approval of their plan to restore habitat for South Farallon Islands' ash storm-petrel population and other native sea birds by eliminating nonnative mice populations through limited rodenticide use.

Fire and Environment Working Group

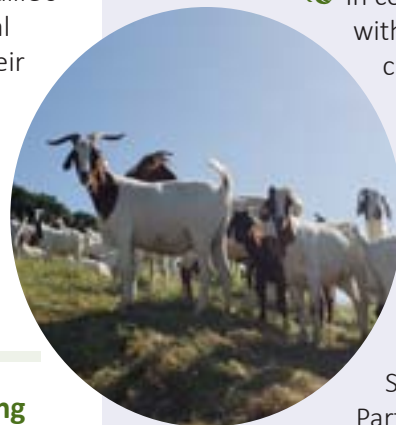
MCL's newest committee, Fire and Environment Working Group, aka FUEGO (Spanish for fire), was formed in late 2018 to better understand the role of fire in the landscape and to promote ecologically sound policies and practices that support both wildfire protections and ecological resilience. Over the past 18 months, MCL...

☞ Successfully supported Measure C, approved by over 70% of Marin

voters, funding the county-wide Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) that will provide \$19 million a year for wildfire safety actions. Among our activities: convening stakeholders for discussions, doggedly testifying at local agency hearings and helping to craft ballot arguments and initiative language.

☞ In collaboration with over 70 Marin climate and other environmental activists, the MWPA and local agencies, helped form the Ecologically Sound Practice Partnership

(ESP) to work with fire safety professionals to include ecological and climate best practices in wildfire prevention and defensible space plans, and offer expertise and recommendations on specific projects.



☞ In collaboration with California Native Plant Society, Bee Audacious, and Marin Art and Garden Center, produced a sold-out conference entitled "Home Landscaping in a Changing Climate: Fire Smart, Water Wise, and Biodiverse."

Climate Action Working Group (CAWG)

MCL's CAWG continued to convene climate activists and public agencies to learn from technical experts, share activities, and advocate for progressive climate policies. MCL...

- Advocated with MCE Clean Energy to accelerate its adoption of renewables in its energy portfolio and its implementation of innovations in renewable energy generation and use.

- Advocated against on-going legislative attacks by big utilities community-based energy purchasers.

- Partnered with Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) to present a symposium comparing the efficacy of two carbon pricing models in reducing greenhouse gases: the Cap-and-Trade and Fee and Dividend model. Our Newsletter described how Cap-and-Trade funds, including funds received by Marin County for transportation and a healthy forests initiative, are being spent.

- Hosted speakers on such critical climate change-related topics as: Local Climate Action Plans; microgrids and PG&E's options for reducing impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoff events; County progress on planning for sea level rise; and advances in zero-net CO2 building efficiency.

Parks and Open Space

The Parks and Open Space Committee serves as a sounding board for Marin's public land managers and the public to seek ways to enjoy public lands while advocating for projects and policies

that protect sensitive resources. Over the past 18 months, the committee . . .

- Participated in Marin County Parks Department's "Environmental Roundtable," a forum for exchanging views on environmental features of proposed projects and habitat management of open space preserves.



- Participated in Roundtable field visits to proposed projects, including recent Bowman Canyon acquisitions in Novato, which will become part of Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve, a recently discovered habitat of Foothill Yellow-legged frog (State species of special concern, candidate for listing as threatened species) in Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve.

- Signed on as co-plaintiff to lawsuit by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) challenging the National Park Service for directing all park units to permit electric bikes wherever conventional bikes are permitted. Continued to support e-bikes on paved multi-use facilities, but oppose them on natural surface (off-road) roads and trails on public lands in Marin.

- Tracked the health of Marin's plant and wildlife habitats and sensitive species through the regular reporting of One Tam and its partner agencies.

- Toured Muir Woods to view restoration projects underway in a multi-year program of improvements

designed to restore Redwood Creek's salmonid habitat.

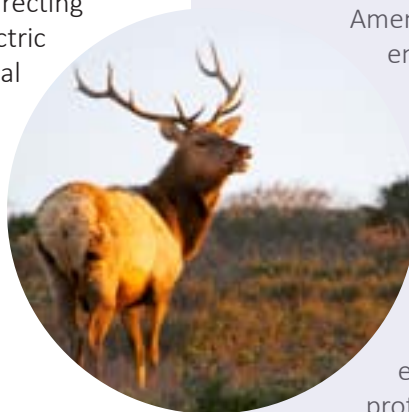
- Continued to collaborate in Safe Trails Marin's "Slow and Say Hello" campaign.

Agricultural Land Use

MCL's Agricultural Land Use Committee continued to connect agricultural and environmental interests in Marin, meeting quarterly to consider challenges of ranching, and resource values of plants and wildlife that inhabit coastal areas, including ranch lands.

- Continued to host quarterly meetings in Point Reyes Station on agricultural and West Marin topics of interest, including: Marin Resource Conservation District's restoration activities and the County's Urban Streams program, climate-smart agricultural programs, dairying and sustainable farming.

- Continued to monitor progress of the Point Reyes National Seashore General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) and environmental impact statement (EIS), favoring Alternative B, which would continue multigenerational cattle and dairy ranching, subject to additional environment protection measures in the EIS.



- Convened a public workshop to advise people on how to comment on the Draft EIS for the Seashore's GMPA.

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if we believe in preserving,
protecting, and enhancing for
the future.



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 and protect the natural resource values and assets of Marin, focusing its action on issues of countywide significance or issues which may prove to be precedent-setting.

MCL places particular emphasis on those issues having important land use implications or impacts on Marin's environment and quality of life.

MCL looks for effective solutions through its own advocacy and educational efforts as well as through working in close collaboration 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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