



## MCL Paying Close Attention to SB375 Local ramifications of mandated regional transportation plan unknown

*By Don Wilhelm and Nona Dennis*

Over the next few years you will be hearing a lot about two bills from the State Legislature, AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and SB 375, the “anti-sprawl bill” signed into law in October 2008. SB 375, in particular, could have a profound influence on the way we think about land use, development, and transportation. While the effects of SB375 may be more evident in rapidly growing parts of California than in traditionally

*The bill is designed to link development with transportation in a way that will encourage people to drive less*

slow-growth counties like Marin, we cannot ignore the implications for regional planning and potential loss of local control over housing and the quality of our Marin communities. MCL is studying the local ramifications of these bills. We plan to devote a Business-Environment Breakfast to the topic in February.

AB 32 establishes ambitious State goals and schedules for reducing Green House Gas emissions (GHG) throughout all sectors of the economy to 1990 levels by the close of 2020. In a future newsletter we will discuss the wide-ranging strategies to implement AB32 that were adopted in December 2008. In the meantime, SB 375 establishes a regional planning process to implement the goals of AB32 in the *transportation* sector. By providing financial and streamlined environmental review incentives to reduce sprawl, the bill is designed to link development with transportation in a way that will encourage people to drive less and thereby reduce their GHG emissions. The bill is also aimed at reducing emissions by improving vehicle fuel efficiency and promoting low-carbon fuels.

### GHG and Transit Oriented Development

It is difficult to explain how SB 375 will work without dipping into an alphabet soup of acronyms. The California Air Resources Board



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## MARIN'S LOCAL COASTAL PLAN UPDATE GETS UNDERWAY

This past fall, the County reinitiated the updating of Marin's Local Coastal Program (LCP) – reinitiated, because the process was begun in 2002 only to conflict with the initial stages of updating the Countywide Plan (CWP). The almost 30-year-old LCP was put on a back burner, pending adoption of the Countywide Plan in November 2007. One year later, the County is holding initial workshops to launch a three-year process that will involve

extensive community meetings and issue-related workshops. In view of its focus on West Marin, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) is playing a lead role in promoting strong environmental policies. MCL will also be an active participant in community and issue-related workshops.

### Background

Most of our readers in West Marin will be familiar with the LCP, since it directly affects their lands and activities; for others who enjoy the Coast but live elsewhere in Marin, some background will be useful. The California Coastal Act of 1976 created a mandate for coastal counties and cities to manage

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# UNDERSTANDING MCL'S CRITERIA FOR TAKING ACTION



You may have wondered what prompts MCL to become involved in environmental issues, given limited resources and seemingly endless environmental challenges throughout the County. How do we

determine which issues to pursue, some of them minor but others requiring years of persistence?

We occasionally receive calls from residents asking for help in a local skirmish. It might be a second-story addition next door that affords views into a neighbor's back yard; or it might be an egregious replacement of an older "tear-down" by a trophy mega-mansion. Recently, an MCL member who lives in one of the County's planning areas called us about the proposed tear-down of a 2,500 sq. ft. residence built in the 1980s, to be replaced by a home more than twice its size. The replacement would exceed the planning area guidelines that limit house size in relation to slope, floor area ratio (FAR), and median house size in the existing neighborhood.

While we might have an immediate negative response to such a proposal as a case of excessive consumption, that alone would not constitute a sufficient basis for spending MCL time on a "local issue" – this kind of overbuilding is happening all over the county, altering the character of many neighborhoods. Why would we voice our objections in this particular case?

Our decision process is informal and open to discretion but is generally grounded in three criteria, one or more of which must be met:

1. Would the project (e.g., a plan, public policy, proposed development) affect natural resources of countywide significance – such as wetlands, streams and watersheds, oak woodlands, native grasslands, air quality, or aesthetic and community quality? This broad list of concerns now includes climate change, emphasizing MCL's need to "act locally but think globally."
2. Would the project set a precedent, in either a local or broader county context? This is subject to considerable interpretation but often has involved growth and its need for

management.

3. Does the project qualify as a "legacy issue"? With a 75 year history of protecting Marin's assets, MCL continues to support principles and develop positions on traditional issues, such as water supply, open space, countywide planning, agriculture, transportation, and others, established by the founders and their successors. Such issues have frequently taken MCL into regional and even statewide contexts, such as weighing in on State propositions and legislation.

Obviously this is a cursory outline; these criteria are more complex than they appear. Decisions to pursue an issue also must be tempered by the availability of time! In the case of the oversized replacement home, above, we decided to voice our objection, if briefly, on the basis that a variance to clearly-stated house size limits, if sought and granted, would set an unacceptable precedent for future residential development in that community. This was one of our simpler decisions!

*Theresa Dennis*



**NEW MEMBERS: Please join us for breakfast!**  
 Friday, January 23  
 8:30 - 10 a.m.

New MCL members who would like to meet some of the League's directors and are interested in learning more about its programs are welcome to join us for our semi-annual open house on Friday, January 23 at our office, 1623A Fifth Ave., San Rafael. A continental breakfast will be provided. Please RSVP to 415-485-6257.



## Delta in Dire Straits: *SacBee* Editorial Hits Home

*Director's Note: In past years, Marin Conservation League has participated actively in State water issues, particularly when MCL opposed the Peripheral Canal. Our interest in these issues has not subsided, even though our active involvement has. Anyone who has been paying attention to State water will know that the Delta (with its huge watershed [40 per cent of the State]) is in dire straits. The editorial, reprinted here in its entirety, is a cogent summation of Delta issues. Marin draws none of its water supply from this watershed (although we tapped it in the drought of 1975-76!), but must be prepared to make informed decisions if a major state water facilities (another canal?) bond issue comes to a vote.*

### **Editorial: "Accept Reality of Limits in Delta," Sacramento Bee, December 17, 2008**

California is on the cusp of crucial decisions about its water future. Plans for new reservoirs and canals are gaining traction, pushed by interests that have the most to lose from court decisions and possible droughts. Before the state plunges feet-first into a new generation of water works, though, it must recognize the limits of its hydrological heart – the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

For far too long, California has treated the Delta and its vast watershed as a resource to be tapped and exploited. Excessive pumping and diversions, from all parts of the vast watershed, have hurt fish and other wildlife. Excessive conversion of wetlands has turned the Delta into a mono-culture of sinking islands, vulnerable to floods and earthquakes. Excessive pollution has made the Delta a filthy place to draw drinking water.

There's no need to demonize past acts. Water agencies built water pumps, farmers converted wetlands and cities built sewage plants long before anyone recognized the Delta as a fragile ecosystem – our version of the Everglades. But we know better now – or at least we should. As The Bee's Matt Weiser wrote in a special report on Sunday, "Recent events have revealed the truth: California is reaching the limit of



The delta smelt, a small, slender-bodied fish with a typical adult size of 2-3 inches, is found only in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary. Historically, it was one of the most common species in the Estuary, however, the population declined dramatically in the early 1980's. Factors thought to have contributed to the decline of the species include reductions in freshwater outflow, entrainment losses to water diversions, entrainment at power plant intakes, changes abundance and composition of food organisms, environmental contaminants, and competition and predation from exotic invasive aquatic species. The delta smelt was listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March 1993 and by the California Fish and Game Commission in December 1993. Delta smelt are considered environmentally sensitive because they only live one year, have a limited diet, and reside primarily in the interface between salt and freshwater.

*Photo courtesy of the California Department of Water Resources, Public Affairs Office*

its water supplies, and the economy and environment are suffering for it."

How can we judge if California is taking more water from the Delta and its watershed than they can handle? Consider the evidence: Smelt are at the brink of extinction. Other species, such as salmon, are in serious peril. Federal courts are using the hammer of the Endangered Species

*"For far too long, California has treated the Delta... as a resource to be tapped and exploited."*

Act to deliver a blunt message about the entire ecosystem. Dry years, when cities and farms suck more from the Delta than they do during more rainy times, are especially tough for these species. During wet years, 87 percent of the water entering the Delta makes it out to the San Francisco Bay. During dry years, the figure drops to 51 percent.

If California is to have any hope of restoring the Delta and avoiding clashes with federal judges, it must develop a water plan that reduces its dependence on this estuary and strives for greater reliability. What would this plan look like? To begin with, it must be grounded in reality. Water contracts based

on dated premises must be renegotiated, and efficiency should be the law of the land. Each region of the state – including Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley – must find ways to reduce what it takes from the Delta and its watershed. And environmental groups must recognize that not every species will be restored to its population predating the Gold Rush.

Once all the shareholders have agreed to sacrifice, discussions over a canal – or some other option for the Delta – will go more smoothly. Without such a commitment, it's hard to imagine that environmental advocates and Northern Californians would agree to a canal that would be the vehicle for increased exports.

While this page won't render judgment on a canal until a specific project has been proposed, the status quo is clearly unsustainable. A canal holds the potential of reducing environmental conflicts and allowing the state to siphon off big flows during peak years, while safeguarding the state against natural disasters. But any canal project must be premised on a recognition of limits. Promising everything to everyone is how the Delta ended up in its current mess.

# SB375

Continued from Page 1

(ARB) will set GHG reduction targets for autos and light trucks by September 30, 2010, since they account for 31 percent of the state's GHG emissions. However, improved vehicle fuel efficiency and low carbon fuels alone will not be enough to meet emission targets. Further reductions in emissions can only be achieved by also reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), an indicator of how much people drive. In brief, this leads to a simple equation: Density + Transit Facilities = Transit Oriented Development, or TOD. TOD is not a new urban planning concept, but now it can be directly linked to measuring and reducing GHG emissions.

## GHG Emission Reduction Targets

In order to set the new GHG targets, the San Francisco Bay Region Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) establish population growth projections for this region. (As an aside, SB375 is premised on these growth projections for California and for the San Francisco Bay Region). The California ARB will establish emission targets for each metropolitan planning organization, such as the Bay Region's MTC, and update them every eight years.

SB 375 defines all of the factors ARB must consider in calculating emissions and establishing the reduction targets, such as

- Land use density in relation to vehicle ownership
- Land use density in relation to vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Impact of highway and rail expansion on development
- Mode splitting between auto, transit, carpool, bike & pedestrian
- Speed and frequency of transit service; and others

## Sustainable Communities Strategy

Each region (in our case MTC) must prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that integrates land use plans and population projections with the transportation network and other transportation policies. The intent of the SCS is to reduce GHG emissions from autos and trucks to meet targets, if there is a feasible way to do so. The SCS will include:

- Existing land use conditions
- Areas sufficient to house all populations.
- Housing availability for all economic segments of population
- Emphasis on low and very low income and emergency housing needs, etc.



## SAVE THE DATE! MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE's ANNUAL DINNER GALA

APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Mill Valley Community Center  
"75 Years of Protecting Marin:

*Celebrating the Legacy – Looking to the Future"*

*Invited Speaker: Bill Press, political commentator  
Plus—*

*A new 75th Birthday Song, by Doug Maloney*

*Special Awards: Honoring Past Presidents  
and other MCL heroes*

*Look for an invitation in your mail box and e-mail in March*

*\*Bill, who began his political career in Marin County as aide to Peter Behr, returns to his roots. He is "working on his calendar" to join us on April 17th.*

If the SCS is unable to meet emission reduction targets, then MTC must develop an alternative planning strategy that defines programs that could achieve the targets if infrastructure and programs either not currently available or inconsistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) were used.

## Environmental Incentives for "Transit Priority Projects"

SB 375 provides incentives for those projects (TPPs, see below) that best align with the targets for emissions reductions. The main incentive is to eliminate or reduce CEQA requirements. For example, a project of fewer than eight acres and not more than 200 residences, served by existing utilities, that uses energy efficient construction and provides low cost housing, might be totally exempt from CEQA (most new housing developments in Marin would fall into this category). A project meeting some but not all of these criteria might be eligible for a restricted CEQA study, i.e., it need not consider cumulative effects, growth-inducing impacts, nor traffic impacts generated by the project. Or some residential or mixed-use projects that are consistent with the SCS can do a streamlined CEQA review that ignores growth inducement caused by the project, as well as impacts of cars and light trucks from the project area. Lastly, an EIR could not propose reducing residential density as a means of mitigating significant traffic impacts.

Key features of transit priority projects (TPP) would include:

- At least 50% residential use
- Minimum density of 20 dwellings per acre
- Location within 1/2 mile of major transit stop
- Location within 1/2 mile of transit corridor having 15 minute frequency.

Or:

- Expansion and/or rehabilitation of highways or local roads
- Mass Transit, commuter rail & intercity rail expansion
- Bike/pedestrian facilities
- Environmental enhancements and mitigation such as "green building."

## MCL and SB375

As MCL begins to evaluate proposals for development in Marin, such as those around future SMART stations, we will be balancing their positive effects on global warming, affordable housing, and other attributes of sustainability, against the possibility of streamlined CEQA study (or none!), impacts on natural resources, excessive growth, and loss of local control over land use decisions. We will also be tracking how local and regional housing allocations are determined, in that SB375 will now require local governments to actually zone land needed for housing. As Tom Adams, board president of California League of Conservation Voters has said, "I think it will change forever the way we look at land use in California." This may be the state's most important land-use law since CEQA was passed almost 40 years ago.

### KEY TO ACRONYMS

- RTP - Regional Transportation Plan
- SCS - Sustainable Community Strategy
- TPP - Transit Priority Project
- ARB - Calif. Air Resources Board
- TOD - Transit Oriented Development
- VMT - Vehicle Miles Traveled
- ABAG - Association of Bay Area Governments
- MTC - Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- CEQA - California Environmental Quality Act



## Status Updates

### What's happening with local environmental issues MCL is tracking

#### Desalination or Not? MMWD's Future Water Supply

After many months in preparation, the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for a proposed desalination facility was released by MMWD on December 19, too late for comment in this Newsletter. The original intention of the District was to certify the FEIR in December as adequate and complete, without further public review. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines do permit a lead agency to certify a Final EIR without public review. However, in the case of high-profile or controversial projects, this is not good public policy. Although MCL has not yet taken a position on the environmental appropriateness of the proposed desalination plant (scheduled for the MCL Board's action January 20), we believe the public should be provided with enough information to make informed decisions regarding future water supply options – including conservation as well as desalination and other options. This information would include the District's responses to many detailed comments on the Draft EIR. MCL and several other organizations requested a public review period of 30 to 60 days for the FEIR. On December 18, the MMWD Board agreed to a 45 day review and deferred action to their meeting on February 4, at which time they will vote to certify the FEIR. They will decide on the water supply project later in 2009. After reviewing the FEIR, MCL will prepare a draft position statement for our Board's consideration and post our adopted statement and rationale on the MCL web site.

#### Hamilton Wetland Restoration Aquatic Transfer Facility (ATF)

Unless you live in Bel Marin Keys or the Hamilton Community in

Novato, you may be unaware of the current progress of the major wetland restoration project that eventually will turn 2,600 acres of diked baylands into a complex of tidal and seasonal wetlands with adjacent upland wildlife habitat. Years in the planning and initial construction, the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project encompasses the historic runways and flat lands of Hamilton Airfield, together with an adjacent State-owned antennae field, and 1,600 acres of farmed land at Bel Marin Keys. For a more complete description of this project, sponsored jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), State Coastal Conservancy, and SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission, go to [www.hamiltonwetlands.org](http://www.hamiltonwetlands.org).

In spite of informative articles about a "bay hole" (Marin IJ 10/17/2008) and "underwater pit" (Marin IJ 11/12/2008), few Marin residents are aware of the proposal by the Corps and Coastal Conservancy to accelerate the process of discharging bay mud dredged from various navigation projects around the

Bay into the restoration site. The dredged materials are necessary to raise the interior elevations, which have subsided relative to adjacent lands, to a level that will support marsh vegetation and habitat. By raising the surface elevation, this restoration project and others around the Bay are not only mitigating for the historic loss of valuable tideland habitat but also providing a beneficial use for dredged materials that need to be disposed.

Among the many challenges that have faced this ambitious project is the fact that San Pablo Bay is very shallow. The hydraulic off-loaders (a kind of scow) that transport the mud from dredging sites, such as the Port of Oakland, to the restoration site must anchor several miles offshore and discharge their contents – actually mud – into a pipeline with water, which in turn transports the slurry to the restoration area. The current method is to offload one scow at a time – a three-hour process. At this rate, it would take 18 years to achieve the planned configuration of the wetland. What if

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*An endangered salt marsh harvest mouse is released into its wetland habitat* Photo courtesy of the California State Dept. of Water Resources

# Local Coastal Plan

*Continued from Page 1*

the conservation and development of their coastal resources through a comprehensive planning and regulatory program. While the California Coastal Commission is the primary body that administers the Coastal Act, it is the local LCP that sets the ground rules for use of coastal resources and future development. Marin County certified its LCP in 1980 and 1981, covering the communities of Muir Beach, Stinson Beach, Seadrift, and Bolinas (Unit I), and Olema, Pt. Reyes Station, Inverness, Dillon Beach and Oceana Marin, Marshal, and Tomales (Unit II).

## Changes prompt review

Since the Marin LCP was certified nearly 30 years ago, conditions have changed that prompt substantial review: for example, changes in the Coastal Act itself due to judicial precedents; adoption of the new Countywide Plan and the need to reconcile differing policies; changes in physical circumstances, such as anticipated sea level rise; shifts in agricultural practices and the need to balance the protection of coastal resources with agricultural viability; trends in visitor-serving uses that must be balanced with the needs of local residents;



increased demand for alternative energy such as wind turbines; increased emphasis on watershed protection and water quality in Tomales Bay and local waterways; heightened concern over the protection of endangered species; issues involving public trail access through private agricultural lands; and social changes, such as the lack of affordable housing for workers in West Marin.

## Environmental issues and public involvement

Community workshops are already underway and will continue into January 2009. They will be followed by issue-

specific workshops throughout 2009. From an environmental perspective, MCL anticipates that conflicts may arise over policy differences between the CWP and the LCP, which currently places greater emphasis on protection of coastal resources than the CWP. The environmental community is concerned over possible intensification of agriculture and introduction of ancillary commercial uses to “add value” to agriculture. We are also concerned about intensified agriculture in Stream Conservation Areas, which need special protection for fisheries and other riparian values. At the same time, a spokesperson for the agricultural community stated that West Marin is a “working landscape” and needs flexibility (e.g., in diversifying crops) to maintain economic viability. MCL understands that agriculture is essential to our economy and integral to our landscape, but also believes that environmental values such as stream habitats can be protected within that working context.

We will send out e-alerts as community and issue workshops are scheduled. If you wish to be alerted and are not on MCL's e-list, send your e-mail address to [mcl@marinconservationleague.org](mailto:mcl@marinconservationleague.org).

## What does “Sustainability” really mean to our communities?

The Environmental Forum of Marin announces its 5th Sustainable Communities Seminar series, beginning January 31, 2009, and continuing for 8 weeks on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (excluding Presidents' Day Weekend). This series, which covers topics such as Introduction to Sustainability, Water Resources and Watersheds, Fossil fuels, Climate Change and Clean Energy, Waste Reduction and Toxics, Land Use, and Transportation Issues, is designed to expand the awareness of community leaders, decision makers, and interested citizens in the critical environmental issues facing our communities and ourselves. This year the series is being offered in modules of one or more classes, or on a group basis (one registration for different individual attendees). For further information go to the Environmental Forum of Marin at [www.marinefm.org/workshopseries.html](http://www.marinefm.org/workshopseries.html), or e-mail Valerie Merrin at [Seminar@MarinEFM.org](mailto:Seminar@MarinEFM.org).

**When one tugs at  
a single thing in  
nature, he finds it  
attached to the rest  
of the world. ~John  
Muir**

## Meet Your MCL Board Members

Three of the 19 **volunteers** working to make a difference!



**PETERASMUS**, Stinson Beach, is an editor and author/journalist specializing in energy policy and corporate social and environmental responsibility. He is author or co-author of several books, including Reaping the Wind: How Mechanical Wizards, Visionaries and Profiteers Helped Shape our Energy Future (Island Press, 2000). Peter has also worked with a

variety of public organizations, such as the Local Government Commission and the State Department of Fish and Game. He hosts a radio show entitled, "Eyes Wide Open," on KWMR, contributes regularly to magazines and journals on renewable energy technologies and he recently hosted a day-long symposium on solar energy in Stinson Beach. He advises the MCL Board on matters involving energy policy and corporate environmental responsibility, and assists in developing MCL marketing strategies.

**KEN DREXLER**, Fairfax, is a general practice attorney in the firm Drexler and Leach in San Rafael. He formerly chaired the State Bar Commission on Administration of Justice and served as Secretary to the PRE Road Advisory Board for Marin Board of Supervisors. He is a member of the California Planning & Conservation League, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club, among environmental non-profits, and serves on the Board of Environmental Action Committee of West Marin. Ken has been an active member of MCL's Board for many years, serving as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee.



**PRISCILLA BULL**, Kentfield, is an environmental activist with a long history of involvement in land use and water issues in Marin County, frequently representing MCL in the public arena. Initially joined the MCL Board in 1987 and continued for nearly 20 years, serving as President in 1995-96. She was the first Chair of the MCL's Land Use Committee and

also chaired the Water Resources Committee, becoming one of the County's most respected advocates of water conservation. For these efforts, was awarded MCL's Ted Wellman Water Award in 2004. Priscilla has also served on the County Planning Commission, and since 2001, has co-chaired the "Community Marin - 2003" working group and continues to be closely involved in monitoring the ongoing Marin Countywide Plan update.

## Status Updates *cont. from page 5*

this process could be accelerated by excavating a large basin in the Bay to store mud from several dredging operations in the Bay, and thereby deliver the slurry to the restoration site more efficiently?

That is the preferred method that is being proposed by the Corps and Conservancy: a 77-acre unconfined basin – Aquatic Transfer Facility (ATF) – would be excavated in San Pablo Bay north-east of China Camp and south-east of Hamilton. Storing and transferring dredged material in this manner could finish the restoration work in 10 years rather than 18, for \$200 million reduction in cost. At stake, however, is the balancing of benefits (e.g., earlier establishment of habitat in the restoration site, reduced emissions of greenhouse gases over time, more efficient disposal of dredge materials from various

### *The dredged materials will raise elevations to support marsh vegetation and habitat*

navigation projects), against potential impacts to San Pablo Bay recreational fisheries and habitat of the threatened North American green sturgeon, burial of benthic (bottom-dwelling) organisms, turbidity from suspended sediment and potential indirect impacts to tidal habitats along China Camp shoreline and the mouth of Gallinas Creek, which are inhabited by the endangered California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse, and eelgrass beds to the east.

MCL submitted these latter comments on the Draft EIS/EIR to the Corps and Conservancy on December 22. The final environmental document will be finished in mid-2009. If approved, the ATF would be constructed in 2010.

### Redwood Landfill

MCL has been following the progress of Redwood Landfill's application for a permit to expand operations for the past ten years. We have supported the "Mitigated Alternative" as amended by the County Planning Commission, provided that strict performance standards and controls on operations and closure were in place.

In December, the permit process moved from County (Local Enforcement Agency) to Sacramento, with hearings before the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). MCL continued to press for three provisions: an independent third party to monitor the landfill's compliance with conditions of the Permit for the entire period of operations under the permit; tying the utilization of increased capacity to satisfactory completion of performance milestones, such as completing levee improvements within three years; and requiring financial bonding from a secure source in amounts sufficient to remedy catastrophic landfill failure should that occur. The third party monitor is now provided for in the permit; the other two requests were rejected by the CIWMB, who approved the permit on December 16. The possibility of a challenge to the adequacy of the EIR still lies ahead. MCL would not be a party to that challenge.



Marin Conservation League

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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  
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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  
**All meetings are at 1623A Fifth Avenue, San Rafael (Fifth at F)**

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**Marin Conservation League**

**NEWS**

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January - February 2009

## Renew Your Membership for 2009

Your continuing support helps MCL shape public policy and provide community education on issues of critical importance to our environment. It also ensures that the vision of the League's founders - to protect and enhance the County's natural resources through careful planning and appropriate development - will be maintained. If you have already sent in your membership renewal, **THANK YOU**, and please consider passing this newsletter on to a friend who may be interested in joining the League.

**Yes!** I want to protect Marin's environment!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please renew my membership for 2009 at this level:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$35 Basic</b>                      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$250 Oaks &amp; Woodlands</b>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$50 Creeks &amp; Streams</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$500 Mountains &amp; Ridges</b>     |
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