

July 25, 2013



Protecting Marin Since 1934

Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Marin Coast Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Small:

The Marin Conservation League is pleased to join with other leading environmental non-profits in Marin County in offering its strong support for the "Collaborating on Sea-level Marin: Adaptation Response Team (C-SMART) project." The County of Marin, in collaboration with a top tier team of organizations is submitting this grant application in response to the Ocean Protection Council, California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy's Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation grant program announcement.

Marin Conservation League, established in 1934 and one of the oldest conservation organizations in the State, was founded at a time when Marin's unprotected scenic lands were about to be threatened by rampant development that would follow the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. The first targets for public acquisition were on the coast – Stinson Beach, Drakes Beach, Tomales Bay, Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and later, the lands and coast of the Marin Headlands. Since public acquisition, these shorelands have been enjoyed by millions of visitors from around the world. Protecting agricultural lands within the Coastal Zone through restrictive zoning came later and continues to be a conservation priority for MCL.

MCL's interest in the long-term welfare of these shorelands has never wavered, even as the threat has shifted from development to the prospects of radical change to the area's diverse and sensitive biological and recreational resources from the advancing sea, and of serious damage to human infrastructure in difficult to defend locations.

All of Marin's Pacific Ocean shorelands are vulnerable to sea level rise, and it is incumbent on the County to understand that threat and help prepare for it. The grant offers an ideal opportunity to build on efforts that have already used the Marin coast as a laboratory for advancements in adapting to sea level rise. These efforts include Our Coast-Our Future project involving the USGS, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Point Blue Conservation Science and others who have invested over one million dollars in sophisticated modeling and analysis. Working within the framework of the Marin LCP Amendment process, the C-SMART team we have described in our grant application also

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will be able to utilize existing staff commitment and a public process that is already in place. With all the elements in place, the team will be able to take on the challenge of sea level rise effectively.

The many benefits that can accrue from this project are enumerated in the grant proposal. Among them, MCL would emphasize the important opportunity to better understand and seek alternatives to protecting the sensitive biological resources that qualify the Marin Coast for international significance; to enable the recreational and visitor-serving resources that attract visitors from around the world to continue; and to minimize or avoid damage to the land use and critical infrastructure that have developed in the region.

We look forward to supporting and learning from the important advances this project will make in planning for adaptation to sea level rise on the Marin County coast and for all of California's coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Schnapf', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

David Schnapf, President

cc: Jack Liebster, Planning Manager
Marin County Community Development Agency