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## *From the desk of...*

I attended the legislative conference at the March National Association of Counties (NACo) meeting in Washington, DC. In my capacity as vice-chair of the Health Steering Committee, I had the opportunity to engage in discussions with staff from the President's office and from the Speaker's office about the health insurance reform bill which had not yet been passed. There are elements in the bill that will 1. help protect people from being excluded from coverage because of pre-existing conditions, 2. protect people from being kicked out of their health care when they are sick and need it most and 3. close the "donut hole" for pharmaceutical coverage for senior on Medicare. But there are also elements that are of concern to local governments including a reduction of federal funding for public hospitals that provide a higher percentage of charity care for those who are not covered.

It will remain to be seen how the regulators interpret the more than 2,000 pages of the document that made it through to the president's desk. I have asked that our Director of Health and Human Services provide a presentation to the Board of Supervisors about the implications for local government and specifically for Marin County (which will of course be available on the G Channel).

While I was in DC, I also had the opportunity to meet with Jennifer Yezak, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs from the office of the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack regarding the Light Brown Apple Moth and its federal designation and the concerns about aerial spraying and toxic exposures. The office has been following the developments in California and promised to remain open to communications going forward. There were no commitments made, however, in looking at reclassification of the moth. In the mean-

time, the state released its decision that aerial spraying will not be part of any eradication method for this pest.

A contingent of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) visited the Bureau of Indian Affairs, White House staff and Senator Feinstein to discuss the impacts of Indian Gaming and the automatic taking of lands into trust for tribes without input from the local governments that have to deal with the impacts. As an example, the City of Richmond and Contra Costa County have given the green light to move forward for a massive casino on the bay front near the Chevron facilities. Marin County residents will experience the impact visually and via the traffic and social consequences of a casino in such close proximity, yet Marin's voice was not incorporated into the decision making. Senator Feinstein is considering legislation that could help provide a stronger voice for local government.

I also met with a top staff member working with Army Corps programs during a visit to the Pentagon...yes, they let me through security...and we are keeping the ball moving forward to tap into funds for Flood Zone 7 projects. Public Works Director, Farhad Mansourian, will take the information we learned from that visit and continue working with our regional Army Corps contacts. Finally, Senator Feinstein joined other senators in sending a letter to FEMA and Army Corps about the impacts of the recent mapping changes and the problems being experienced by local agencies and residents in interpreting them and adjusting to sometimes expensive changes in insurance rates as a result (see article in this issue).

I also express my appreciation to the staff members of our federally elected representatives who have been working closely with us on key issues of importance to our Marin community.

*Susan L. Adams*

## *Art houses*

Ritter Center, our local non-profit organization that helps the homeless, kicked off its "Art Houses of Marin" fundraising event with a ceremony at San Rafael City Hall on March 1. Four and a half foot tall scale model "houses" have been decorated by an eclectic group of well-known and up-and-coming Marin artists in the most creative fashion imaginable. The artists include Kathleen Lipinski, Eric Zener, Peter Allen and Nicholas Wilton plus a "RocknRoll house" which features images created by Jerry Garcia and Grace Slick. Twenty-five of these public art objects have been placed throughout the County so families can find them in a treasure hunt-like atmosphere. San Rafael's "Houses" are on display at San Rafael Library Lawn, Falkirk Cultural Center, San Rafael Community Center, Albert Park and San Rafael City Plaza. You can view all the art works until they are auctioned to the highest bidders at the Art Houses Gala Auction on May 1. For the location of the Art Houses and tickets to the Gala visit [www.arthousesofmarin.org](http://www.arthousesofmarin.org). This will be a fun and artistic way to celebrate Ritter Center's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and support its goal of eradicating homelessness in Marin.



*Submitted by Ritter Center*

## *Flood Zone 7 tax measure on June ballot*

At its meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, the Marin County Board of Supervisors voted to place a special tax measure to appear on the June 8, 2010 ballot. This tax would fund much needed flood control improvements in Santa Venetia, Flood Control Zone 7. The Zone 7 Advisory Board recommended this action after careful consideration of recurring flooding problems and a need for funding to implement necessary maintenance projects throughout Zone 7.

If the tax measure receives a 2/3 majority of favorable votes, the measure would fund replacement of Pump Station No. 2, construction of improvements to Estancia Ditch, evaluation of the Las Gallinas Creek levee, and replenishment of capital improvement and emergency reserves. These projects represent community priorities that, once constructed, would offer an immediate benefit to residents.

Funding for these projects would be possible through a 10-year annual property tax charge which would vary depending on a property's land use. Single family properties and duplexes would be charged a per parcel rate of \$530; large apartment buildings and commercial properties would be charged \$4,000 per acre, and unimproved parcels would be charged \$800 per acre.

Questions: Contact Neal Conatser at [nconatser@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:nconatser@co.marin.ca.us).



Supervisor Adams, with County Flood Control staff and budget analyst taking Congressman Visclosky and federal staffers to see firsthand the community's vulnerability

# Legislators request FEMA action on flood zone mapping

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20540

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Craig Fugate  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Dancy  
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
441 D Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Administrator Fugate and Secretary Dancy,

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and FEMA have distinct but complementary roles in flood prevention and recovery at the local level. Recent hurricanes along the Gulf Coast and flooding in the Midwest have renewed the country's focus on preventing the loss of life and property as a result of flooding, and FEMA is addressing the issue through the Flood Map Modernization Program. Updating our nation's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) is an important task, and we support the effort to secure better information to mitigate incidents about flood risk in their communities. However, we are very concerned about the way the USACE and FEMA have approached the process and the challenges that are created for affected communities.

We represent a diverse group of constituents with a variety of problems that have arisen as the FIRMs have been updated. Our constituents have expressed several concerns about the flood mapping program, including:

- A lack of communication and outreach with local stakeholders;
- A lack of coordination between FEMA and USACE in answering questions about flood mapping, flood insurance and flood control infrastructure repairs;
- A lack of recognition of locally funded flood control projects when determining flood zones;
- The affordability of flood insurance;
- Inadequate time and resources to complete repairs to flood control structures before flood maps are finalized, and;
- Potential impacts new flood maps might have on economic development, particularly in small and rural communities.

As you are probably aware, many of us have attempted to address these issues administratively or legislatively on multiple occasions in the past. However, the underlying problems with regard to the Flood Map Modernization Program have yet to be resolved. It is our hope that we are able to work together to find solutions to the overarching problems that our constituents are facing. If legislative solutions are called for, we would welcome your guidance.

To that end, we respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you to discuss levee certification, the Flood Map Modernization Program, and issues relating to the implementation of new FIRMs. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue with our staff, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Mark Pryor*  
Senator Mark Pryor

*Richard Durbin*  
Senator Richard Durbin

*Thad Cochran*  
Senator Thad Cochran

*Charles Grassley*  
Senator Charles Grassley

*Tom Harkin*  
Senator Tom Harkin

*Christopher Bond*  
Senator Christopher Bond

*Dianne Feinstein*  
Senator Dianne Feinstein

*Scott Brown*  
Senator Scott Brown

*Mary Landrieu*  
Senator Mary Landrieu

*Blaine L. Lurie*  
Senator Blaine Lurie

*Frank Lautenberg*  
Senator Frank Lautenberg

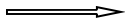
*David Vitter*  
Senator David Vitter

*Robert Menendez*  
Senator Robert Menendez

*Clare McCaskle*  
Senator Clare McCaskle

*John Tester*  
Senator John Tester

*Richard Blumenthal*  
Senator Richard Blumenthal



Sorry for the small print, but I wanted you to get the full impact of the letter that was sent to FEMA requesting changes to the FEMA updated maps that were issued by FEMA this past year redrawing what parcels are in a

federally defined flood plain and setting flood insurance rates. The impact of these newly issued maps was to pull parcels into a designated flood plain that were not previously so designated, resulting in the need to purchase expensive flood insurance.

Our voices were heard by Senator Dianne Feinstein and our legislators have requested the opportunity to work with FEMA to correct the issues that have resulted from the updating of the maps.

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If you would like to see a copy of this letter, contact Susannah Clark by email and she will send you a copy. [sclark@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:sclark@co.marin.ca.us)

*Venetia Valley School PTA seeks to offset budget cuts with largest fundraiser of the year* – **Community can help save enrichment programs**

Venetia Valley K-8 School, the public elementary and middle school serving District 1 communities, is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Tropical Night and Silent Auction fundraising event May 1, 2010, and 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Online Auction from March 19 to April 20, 2010. The Tropical Night and Auctions are the Venetia Valley PTA's largest fundraisers of the year, with funds going directly to support student enrichment programs including physical education, music, art and the organic teaching garden.

Venetia Valley School invites District 1 community members to please participate in the exciting online auction, March 19 through April 20. **Simply visit [www.venetiavalley.cmarket.com](http://www.venetiavalley.cmarket.com) to view and bid on a wide array of items.** At one convenient site, you will find valuable products and services, and tickets for sporting events and family activities. This year, some of our popular auction items include dining gift certificates for Dream Farm restaurant in San Anselmo, and San Rafael's own Mulberry Street Pizza and Broken Drum Brewery; a family

membership for the Terra Linda Community Pool; admission for four to the Marin County Fair; two tickets to Opening Day of the Mountain Play on Mount Tam; and for those daring bidders – tickets to I Fly Indoor Skydiving! Many of the things people already buy can be found at a discount using the auction site.

The success of this year's Tropical Night and Auctions is particularly critical as the San Rafael City Schools District has suffered cuts of more than \$4 million in the past two years, and is currently addressing a \$1 million shortfall in the Elementary District. Members of the Venetia Valley School community are working hard to save and revive enrichment programs for the school's 750 students. Auction donations or questions can be directed to Nicole Burak, Venetia Valley School PTA Silent and Online Auction Chair, [nburak@comcast.net](mailto:nburak@comcast.net), or 415-850-4495.

Venetia Valley School and its strong PTA membership urge community members to shop locally, support the community school, and help students achieve a well-rounded education.

*Submitted by Venetia Valley School PTA*

*Upcoming volunteer opportunities with Marin County Parks and Open Space*

**April 4<sup>th</sup>:** California Trails Day, Indian Tree Preserve, 9am-1pm

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** King Mountain Restoration (Earth Day), 100+ students from Hall Middle School

**April 24<sup>th</sup>:** *Earth Day service projects*, McInnis Park cleanup 9am-12pm Pt. Reyes Playground volunteer event, Agate Beach event

**May 1<sup>st</sup>:** King Mountain Meadow restoration, 9am-

1pm

**May 13<sup>th</sup>:** McNear's Beach Cleanup with San Rafael High School, 9am-12pm

**May 15<sup>th</sup>:** Goatgrass at Terra Linda Sleepy Hollow Preserve, 9am-1pm, meet at Wintergreen Terrace

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Bothin Marsh restoration, 9am-1pm, meeting at Sycamore

For more information, contact Quianne Hunter 507-2818 <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/pos/parks.cfm>



Dominican University's Sustainable Practices Certificate program is for professionals and other adults who share a commitment to sustainable issues and wish to take positive steps to enhance their workplaces and communities.

The program is geared toward working professionals, those in career transition, adult learners, as well as recent graduates who wish to enhance their vocational skills through a firm grounding in sustainable issues and regenerative practices. The unique curriculum structure offers affordable and flexible sustainable education and provides practical application through internships and capstone projects with Bay Area organizations.

### **Upcoming Information Session**

Saturday, April 17, 2010

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Guzman Hall, Room 111

**To RSVP, contact Chrise de Tournay Birkhahn  
at 415-458-3712 or [certificate@dominican.edu](mailto:certificate@dominican.edu)**

For more information, visit [www.dominican.edu/suscert](http://www.dominican.edu/suscert)

## *Budget workshops*

If you would like to view the budget workshops held with the Board of Supervisors on March 29 and 31, you may go to the county website and see the video and review the documents submitted.

For all written material: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/AD/main/BudgetInfo.cfm>

For details on the process for proposing which cuts are being considered:

<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/AD/main/Reductionsratings.pdf>

To view the meetings and workshops: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/g-channel/default.aspx>

## *Carpool, walk, bike or bus to school and help us all win big—Schoolpoolmarin.org*

Did you know that 21% of Marin's morning traffic is school related? Now you can do something about it by signing up at [www.schoolpoolmarin.org](http://www.schoolpoolmarin.org). SchoolPool Marin is a web-based trip matching service that connects interested families to carpool, walk, bike or take the bus to school together.

SchoolPool Marin is part of Green Ways to School, a campaign from the Transportation Authority of Marin's Safe Routes to Schools' camp program. The Campaign focuses on reducing automobile trips to Marin County schools and the related traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.



The Campaign also includes incentives to families to register on the website, contests between classrooms and a Challenge among all Marin schools to win up to \$2000 for the most increase in green trips. The County of Marin encourages all families to look into the many benefits of SchoolPooling at [www.schoolpoolmarin.org](http://www.schoolpoolmarin.org).

### *Safe Routes to Schools Program and Dixie School District work together to obtain new bike racks*

Dixie, Mary Silveira, and Vallecito schools have all received brand new bike racks. This was made possible through grant funding obtained from the Bay Area Air Quality Control Board for bike parking facilities. At Dixie, new blacktop was added to create an all weather surface under new green racks that hold 60 bikes. These improvements compliment two new bike enclosures and pathway renovations built in 2008 at Miller Creek Middle School. Now every Dixie District school has new facilities. Thanks to Superintendent Tom Lohwasser, district project manager Ray Nagai, SR2S Chairperson Kel Harris, and the Marin County Department of Public Works for making these great improvements possible.

*Submitted by SR2S*

Also, stay up to date on the County's study of **Miller Creek/Las Gallinas** bike/ped corridor. [http://www.walkbikemarin.org/projects\\_lasgallinas.php](http://www.walkbikemarin.org/projects_lasgallinas.php)





## *Wind energy conversion systems*—public hearing



A public hearing will be held at a Planning Commission meeting on Monday, April 26 in Room 328, Administration Building, with respect to a negative declaration of environmental impact on the modification of development code (Title 22) amendments regarding the allowed uses and permit requirements with respect to wind energy conversion systems (WECS). The purpose is to allow and encourage the safe, effective and efficient use of WECS, while reducing consumption of utility-supplied electricity. The amendments establish appearance, visibility and operational standards for all WECS, including, but not limited to: siting criteria, safety measures, avian protection and noise standards. The public review and comment period commenced on October 24, and closed November 12, 2009. A copy of the Negative Declaration and comments can be obtained from CDA, Room 308, Administration Building.

Project specific environmental effects will be considered through subsequent environmental review conducted prior to approval of individual development projects, pursuant to CEQA..

Maika Llorens Gulati, Sun Valley School PTO Vice President  
(415) 717-7410  
maikallorens@gmail.com  
www.sunvalley.cmarket.com

### **Support San Rafael Schools Suffering in Budget Crisis** Community Invited to Help Save Enrichment Programs

**San Rafael, CA, March 22, 2010** – Sun Valley Elementary School, located at 75 Happy Lane in San Rafael, is launching its exciting online auction April 9 and invites the community to enjoy guilt-free shopping for an excellent cause. This is an essential fundraising event that makes under-funded enrichment programs possible, including art, music, science, P.E. and library programs. As schools face extreme state budget cuts, any amount of support from the surrounding community means so much to Sun Valley School's 400 students.

The catalog for this year's auction, which will run online from April 9-25, features hundreds of items. Shop for Mother's Day (a spa package, Beach Blanket Babylon tickets, house cleaning services, jewelry) and Father's Day (Cal football tickets, wine, an iFly indoor skydiving flight pass). Many items, such as gift cards, come from local stores and restaurants that you already frequent. So why not get it at a discount using the auction site?

Community participation is especially critical as the San Rafael City Schools District has suffered cuts of more than \$4 million in the past two years, and is currently addressing a \$1 million shortfall.

Please browse and bid at <http://sunvalley.cmarket.com>. You can bid from April 9-25.

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## *Good news!* Ready to install Gallinas Creek debris catchment racks

Funds have been allocated from CSA 13 to install debris catchment racks at the end of Rubicon Court, Mt. Tioga Court, Mt. Foraker Court, Mt. Dana Court and Mt. Whitney Court. Permits and plans are complete for locations identified by consultants. Permits stipulate that the racks be installed between April 15 and October 15.

To check in with what the Gallinas Watershed Council is working on, go to:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/gallinacreekwatershed/>



## Project Homeless Connect 8

**Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00-2:00 PM**

Novato Human Needs Center, 1907 Novato Boulevard, Novato

### Services that will be available:

**Salvation Army : Breakfast/lunch**

**California ID's and Driver's Licenses**

**Homeward Bound: Shelter beds**

**Legal Aid**

**St. Vinnies: HelpDesk**

**Medical Screenings**

**Dental Services**

**Warm Wishes: warm items, caps, gloves, scarves**

**Image for Success: Coats/clothing items**

**Veterans Services**

**County of Marin: Mental Health Services**

**If you are homeless or know someone who is-please let them know about this event**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER/DONATE OR WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE , PLEASE**

**CONTACT: [nancy@marinlink.org](mailto:nancy@marinlink.org) 415-472-0211**

**WWW. MARINLINK.ORG**





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

*Supervisor, Board of Supervisors,  
District 1*

Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Direct Line: (415) 499-7331  
sadams@co.marin.ca.us

[www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr1/index.cfm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/BS/main/sups/sdistr1/index.cfm)

## Calendar — April

**Board of Supervisors Meetings, April 6, 13 and 20**, Board of Supervisors Chambers, go to website for starting time and agendas, [www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/efiles/BS/AgMn/cybagnda.htm)

**Marin Transit District, April 19**, 10:00 a.m., BOS Chambers, [www.marintransit.org](http://www.marintransit.org)

**LAFCO, April 8**, 7:30 p.m. San Rafael City Chambers, [lafco.marin.org](http://lafco.marin.org)

**Transit Authority of Marin, April 22**, 7:00 p.m., BOS Chambers, [tam.marin.org/](http://tam.marin.org/)

**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.



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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 415-499-7342, TTY number 473-4381) or by e-mail at [sclark@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:sclark@co.marin.ca.us) not less than four days prior to event.

Administrative Aides:

**Rick Fraites**

Direct Line: (415) 499-7354  
[rfraites@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:rfraites@co.marin.ca.us)

**Susannah Clark**

Direct Line: (415) 499-7342  
[sclark@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:sclark@co.marin.ca.us)

## Stay Tuned:

### Monument Honoring Marin Veterans

Led by Joe Garbarino Jr. and Mario Ghilotti, both of San Rafael, and Marin County United Veterans' Council, plans are underway for a new monument to honor Marin's fallen soldiers in the post Vietnam era. This new monument will be unveiled as part of the 2010 Memorial Day ceremony at the Avenue of the Flags, May 31st. If you would like to contribute to the fund-raising effort, contact: Bank of Marin, 999 Andersen Drive, "Marin Veterans' Monument". .