



January 2015

2014 was a very busy year in Marin County's District 2. From attacking local traffic congestion and implementing traffic calming efforts, to creek restoration and flood protection, fire prevention and fire-fuel reduction, to the 60,000ft. policy discussions about traffic, transportation, land-use planning and climate change - there's a lot going on, both towards seeking to address current issues and towards ensuring strong, vibrant, resilient communities going forward.

Looking back over the past year, I am ever more appreciative of Marin's culture of participation, ever admiring of all those who step up to help or contribute in some way, and to those who care enough to voice their views. The heart, passion, and commitment to community that moves folks to act and to speak comes through loud and clear and every voice, every viewpoint, gives me something to think about.

Indeed, residents from throughout District 2 are engaged, active, and participating in multitude of activities, on multiple issues, and at all levels. Marinites may not agree on all issues, but we are engaged. And broad engagement is a very good thing.

In the coming year I hope to hear from, listen to, and learn from more of you. I encourage those who don't usually chime in, to CHIME in. To that end, I will be reaching out to you with questions, queries - of general and/or specific nature via this e-news and invite your opinions, comments, critiques. I need to know what matters most to you and what you're most concerned about – you can contact me at krice@marincounty.org or 415-473-7825. Many thanks, in advance, for your participation. Please read on for a summary of my priorities and initiatives for 2015.

The Year Ahead

As county supervisor, I wear many hats. In addition to representing you, the residents of Marin County's District 2 (the Ross Valley from Fairfax through to Larkspur, and south-western San Rafael) on the Board of Supervisors on issues specific to the district, I also serve on many local and regional boards, commissions and committees, spanning issues from transit and transportation, to air quality and greenhouse gas regulation, children's health and early childhood education, open space protection and fire prevention ([click here](#) for current list of appointments).

This year, I also serve as President of the Board of Supervisors, which adds a new layer of responsibilities (and opportunities), and another “hat,” which I look forward to wearing. But my primary focus and responsibility is that of District 2 Supervisor. As such, constituent needs and supporting community efforts are my priority and are the core day-to-day work in the District 2 office. In addition, I will continue to focus my attention and energies on the following issues that have challenged our region for years: flood prevention, risk of fire, and the ongoing challenge of traffic, traffic, traffic.

Flooding Prevention

My work is and has been the task of keeping the [Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program](#) on track, the community focused on the issue and its urgency, and keeping leadership from throughout the Ross Valley engaged and committed to working together as a region, as one community, forever linked by a watershed and a floodplain.

We can only address our shared and chronic flooding threat if we work together for the good of the entire community. Significant projects that will reduce flood risk in the Ross Valley are fully funded and now entering the legally required environmental review and public process. Others are not far behind. Please join me in keeping this important work moving forward – send me an [email](#) if you are interested in helping.

Fire Prevention

Fire agencies from throughout District 2 and the county, working with the communities they serve, have made huge strides in fire risk reduction at the neighborhood and community level and in our wildland fire interface zones. Neighborhoods and communities have stepped up their efforts to better protect themselves, through defensible space programs, emergency evacuation planning and practice drills. But there is more work to do, and I will be working to support those efforts - directly, by participating in and supporting local efforts, and through the auspices of FIRESafe MARIN, our county’s Fire Safe council. To learn more, visit the [FIRESafe MARIN website](#).

Traffic Congestion

Traffic, our very own man-made disaster, continues to burgeon, impact our lives directly and indirectly, and erode the quality of life for those living here, those working in, or passing through Marin.

We do not have the real-estate or necessarily the desire to “build” our way out of traffic gridlock, but there are projects in place and actions we can take that can make a difference.

The Richmond-San Rafael Third Lane Project is one of them. A critically important piece to unlocking the p.m. log-jam in central Marin impacts not only Ross Valley residents, but folks from throughout county and beyond. This project is funded and progressing, but not fast enough. I will be working to accelerate this much needed work. Meanwhile, we must lay the groundwork for other key 101 corridor improvements, most notably, a

direct 101-580 connection in San Rafael. I will be participating in a [community meeting](#) sponsored by the North Bay Leadership Council and Bay Area Council on February 9 to discuss the third lane project and invite you to attend. [Click here](#) for more information about this project and other congestion relief/traffic projects.

The [Fairfax-San Rafael Corridor Study](#) will identify how to increase efficiency, maximize capacity, and improve safety for all modes of transit (bike, ped, auto, transit) traveling the critical east-west corridor from downtown San Rafael east to the canal and west all the way to Fairfax. This study has broad application and includes anticipating the arrival of SMART, supporting linkage to and from the train.

The county's [Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Rehabilitation Project](#), runs from 101 in Greenbrae to the Ross town border. Its goal is to identify and implement improvements that will maximize efficiency, safety, and travel flow for all modes of travel. Though not currently included, the Towns of Ross and San Anselmo, on one end, and city of Larkspur should all be part of this study and vision for a complete corridor improvement project. Sir Francis Drake is a critical east-west artery, crossing multiple jurisdictions and as such, we must approach it holistically, as a corridor, like the Fairfax-San Rafael Corridor Study. To that end, I have asked our public works director to pursue the same strategy and direction for the Sir Francis Drake project.

Countywide Issues

Other countywide issues I am working on, less visible to many, but pressing issues and ones with real human toll:

The challenges facing our [seniors](#) - their critical needs around housing, transportation, health and social well-being.

Homelessness - working to implement the county's [10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness \(2013-2023\)](#), with a focus on the upstream - preventing the precariously housed from falling into homelessness, and feeding the cycle anew; and by more quickly linking those currently homeless with appropriate care, stable housing, and the resources necessary to support themselves.

Attacking the [prescription drug crisis](#) is also high on my agenda - a public health and environmental issue that the Board of Supervisors took up last year at the call of community members and our public health officer, Dr. Matt Willis. The significance of the crisis was punctuated with the sobering statistic that over the course of the prior two years, we lost 54 community members, mostly young adults, to unintentional prescription drug overdose.

Finally, I will be and hope the broader community will be as well, intensifying my focus on [climate change](#) - on preparing for and mitigating its impacts, and on further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I look forward to working with you, neighbors, community and elected leaders throughout District 2, on these issues and more, in the year ahead.

You can find more information on these topics by going to my [website](#) and clicking on [Current Issues](#). As always, please never hesitate to contact me with your comments, questions, concerns on these or any other issues. Email: krice@marincounty.org; ph. 415-473-7825.

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