



MARIN COUNTY
SUPERVISOR
KATE SEARS

Kate's Corner...

A Holiday Message from Supervisor Kate Sears

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

I hope that you, your family, and all those whom you care about are enjoying this holiday season. As 2015 winds down and we look forward to the coming year, I want to take this time to reflect on how much there is to be grateful for – including, at the moment, the rain that our parched county is finally receiving.

I am reminded of how many people there are in Marin county who are committed to improving our quality of life, whether they are working to better our Integrated Pest Management program and raise awareness of the use of pesticides; bringing healthy and affordable food and a grocery store to Marin City; reading to children after school; caring for the elders in their neighborhood; or tackling the issues we are facing from climate disruption. And that's just the short list of the many positive projects that people have committed their time and energy to!

These and so many other issues are a part of my daily life, and are reminders that solving problems in our communities requires a strong sense of commitment to teamwork. Whatever issues we are confronted with, the effort and outcome are enhanced by the resolve that “we are all in this together”- the sense that, together, we can explore differing ideas, build consensus, and create pathways forward that benefit the community now, and in the years to come.

Thank you for subscribing to our electronic communications, and please forward this newsletter to your friends and neighbors. I am grateful to all of you and wish you a very happy holiday and New Year.

Warm regards,

Kate Sears



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- "BayWAVE" 2
- Housing Affordability 2
- "We're All In This Together". 3
- Community Meetings 3
- Emergency Preparedness... 4
- Public Meeting Information 5
- District Three Contacts..... 5





THE NEXT “WAVE” IN PREPARING FOR SEA LEVEL RISE IN MARIN

Did you know that Marin County ranks second of the nine Bay Area Counties for projected risk of impacts from sea level rise?

Potential losses along Marin’s bay shoreline, estimated at \$8.5 billion in infrastructure, buildings and contents, pose considerable financial risk. Already, flooding associated with high tides and storms disrupts people’s lives on a recurring basis, and these impacts are expected to increase in frequency and severity as sea level rise accelerates, threatening Marin’s wetlands, creeks, beaches, and other natural resources.

The County and Marin’s eleven incorporated cities have embarked on **BayWAVE**, a collaborative Vulnerability Assessment project focused on Marin’s bay shoreline, from Sausalito to the northern end of Novato. The fundamental goal of **BayWAVE** is to increase awareness and preparation for future sea level rise impacts by using this coordinated, multi-jurisdictional approach. The **BayWAVE** project will evaluate the extent of rising sea level impacts to assets along the shore, assess the sensitivity and adaptability of selected assets, and work with the local cities and towns to plan how to implement adaptation strategies.

The **BayWAVE** Assessment and Implementation report will be released in about a year.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY: CONVERSATION AND COLLABORATION

There is no disagreement that we have affordability issues in the Bay Area, and for many it has reached a crisis point. As property values and rents continue to increase, many lower and moderate income residents, including seniors, families, and many in Marin’s workforce, are struggling with the high cost of housing. Many people who work in Marin, from teachers and public safety workers to office and retail employees, can no longer afford to live near their place of work, and have moved out of the county. While they face longer commutes, this shift has also had the obvious impact on our traffic congestion.

On December 15, the Marin County Board of Supervisors held the third in a series of informational workshops to consider policy options to preserve housing affordability in Marin County.

Covering a wide range of options, Community Development Agency planners presented the Board and public with various alternatives to address affordability. 55 members of the public, of all ages and from every community, spoke during open time. Setting aside the option of rent stabilization, the Board asked staff to explore a varied toolbox of ideas and strategies to help prevent displacement and preserve housing affordability. These concepts and programs will return for community-wide consideration at a workshop in the spring of 2016.

Stay tuned.

WHAT DOES “WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER” REALLY MEAN?

There are many issues that can only be solved collaboratively. It is only by bringing together divergent viewpoints that we learn from each other, share points of view, and begin to understand problems more fully. This leads to solutions that we can generally agree on, even if no one particular perspective prevails. Our work on sea level rise adaptation is perhaps the best example of the imperative of building trust, collaborative relationships and working together to solve a problem that none can face alone. In the past year, my office has convened or partnered with individuals, organizations, other government departments and agencies to tackle many of the issues our communities have faced.

Here is a small sampling:

The Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA), which oversees much of the anchorage off of Sausalito, has faced an increasing number of boats on the bay and dwindling funding to manage the impacts. During 2015, we convened two community meetings that brought together residents from both land and water, as well as the four cities around Richardson's Bay, to find solutions.

CalTrans, with whom I meet on average every other month, planned to install a light at the intersection of Tiburon Blvd and N. Knoll Road in Strawberry. This caused great concern for everyone on the Tiburon peninsula, and Strawberry and Mill Valley. We worked together with Tiburon, Belvedere and Mill Valley council members and staff, and Caltrans and County staff, for several months and came up with a better (and less expensive) solution: restriping the crosswalk and redirecting the turn lane.

Earlier this year, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated glyphosate, the active ingredient in RoundUp, as a “probable carcinogen”. While the County adheres to very strict Integrated Pest Management (IPM) protocols and uses NO glyphosate in any of our parks or building landscapes (and only as a “tool of last resort” in specific open space terrain), the WHO designation caused deep concern in the community, with some calling for a complete ban. We decided to pause, step back, listen to the community, our staff, assess the science, and review our IPM program in its entirety. We realized that the use of this product, while very limited in our programs, is widespread in private use and application. The IPM Commission will take this up as a community education priority in 2016.

These are just three examples of how working together across disciplines, across barriers—both real and perceived, can yield better outcomes. Other collaborative solutions this year have included the Sausalito-Marín City School District and Marin Transit; the Golden Gate Bridge District and the City of Sausalito on the redesign of the ferry landing; and the National Park Service and the community to lessen the traffic, environmental impacts and parking problems at Muir Woods.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Wednesday, JAN 6, 6:30–9:00 PM

NPS Muir Woods Community Meeting
Tam Valley Community Center

Tuesday, JAN 12, 6:30–8:30 PM

Flood Control Zone 3 Advisory Board
Mill Valley Community Center

WEDNESDAY JAN 13, 8:00 AM

“Be the Dream” Breakfast and Awards
Marin Human Rights Commission
Osher Jewish Community Center
San Rafael

MONDAY, JAN 18, 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration
Marin City Manzanita Recreation Center
Marin City

THURSDAY, JAN 21, 6:00–8:00 PM

Golden Gate Bridge District community meeting re: bus commute route 8 and the Tiburon commute ferry service,
Tiburon Library

SATURDAY, JAN 23, 6:30–9:00 PM

Tam Valley Community “Crab Feed”
Tam Valley Community Center



QUICK LINKS

Traffic Conditions

To check Bay Area traffic, [click here](#)

Check the Tides

[Click here](#) for a local tide table from NOAA

Power Outages

[Click here](#) to report or check on a power outage.

Downed Power Lines

If you see a downed power line call 911 immediately. For more safety information about downed power lines [click here](#).

Do you live in a FEMA designated flood zone?

[Check out](#) the FEMA Flood Map to find out more information

DISASTER & EMERGENCY PREPARATION

With [El Nino](#) storms predicted to be at record strength this winter, there is increased risk to our communities. In southern Marin, we are very familiar with the challenges created by [King Tides](#), including flooding on our streets and in low lying areas. The power outages some of us have already experienced this December are a reminder to also be sure you have enough food, water, and batteries on hand. Be prepared to help neighbors in need, especially seniors, youngsters and those with special needs. Stay away from downed power lines, put off travel as much as possible, especially driving through flooded areas, and refrain from standing close to swollen creeks.

Please make sure you are prepared: Clean gutters and storm drains of leaves and debris, obtain sand bags from a hardware store or municipal corporation yard, fix cracked windows or doorways, gather extra towels, secure outdoor furniture, move cars to higher ground, obtain portable light sources and batteries, keep a radio close by, gather warm and rain-resistant clothing, and store foods that do not require refrigeration or heating.

The County's [Winter is Coming brochure](#) includes tips and a checklist for preparing your home for winter, and information about County services. The County of Marin Office of Emergency Services keeps an [updated webpage](#) on current conditions, coordinates the countywide storm response, and will activate the County's Emergency Operations Facility in San Rafael, if needed. Staff from the Department of Public Works, the [Marin County Fire Department](#) and the Sheriff's Office, along with trained employees from various County departments, are on call to staff the emergency operations center when needed. You can receive text or email emergency notifications by signing up for Alert Marin today: www.alertmarin.org. There are more tips at www.readymarin.org. Learn more through these resources:

Marin County Watershed Program Flood Preparedness:

http://www.marinwatersheds.org/flood_preparedness.html

Marin County Public Works Flood Control: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/flood-control>

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program:

<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/mcstoppp>

To help residents with flooding issues, "fill-your-own" sandbags [may](#) be available for emergency use - **you must supply your own labor, shovels and support**. Residents who live in towns and cities can check with their local town offices to see if sandbags are available at corporation yards or fire stations. In southern Marin, sandbags [may](#) be available at these locations*:

Belvedere: Maybridge Road; West Shore Road; Community Road

Marin City: Public Safety Building on Drake

Mill Valley: Hauke Park; Alto Richardson Fire Station; parking area behind Old Mill Park on Molino

Sausalito: DPW yard on Nevada Street

Strawberry: Southern Marin Fire Station on Reed

Tam Valley: Southern Marin Fire Station on Poplar; TCSD Community Center

Tiburon: Tether Park

*These locations have limited stockpiles of sand for emergency use only during the rainy season. Some hardware stores sell sandbags: Martin Bros., 232 Shoreline Hwy and Goodman's Hardware, 775 Redwood Hwy., both in Mill Valley

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES:

Have battery-operated radios with fresh batteries ready so you can get updates on storm conditions and power outages. Have battery-operated flashlights with extra batteries on hand.

Make "ice" for emergency refrigeration using empty, clean plastic milk jugs or 2-liter soda bottles, fill with water and freeze, and use if the power goes out to keep food cold longer. With minimal opening and closing of refrigerator doors, food should remain usable for up to two days.

Unplug or turn off all appliances, computers and printers. Otherwise, when power is restored, several appliances may come back on at once and overload your circuits, or hot appliances may come on while you're away or asleep and pose a fire hazard. Leave one lamp on to alert you when power returns.

Avoid using candles due to risk of fire, but if you do, exercise caution: do not use candles near drapes or under lampshades, keep away from small children, and do not leave them unattended.

If you come across a downed power line, stay away and call 911 and PG&E at 1-800-743-5002. Always assume downed electric lines are energized and extremely dangerous. Stay away, and keep others away, from trees, pools of water, and other objects that may be in contact with power lines.

If you have a stand-by generator, inform PG&E and make sure that it's installed safely. If it's not, you risk damaging your property and endangering PG&E line workers who may be working on power lines some distance from your home. Information on the safe installation of generators can be found on the PG&E website at www.pge.com/generator.



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEETING INFORMATION

The **Marin County Board of Supervisors** meets on Tuesdays, generally starting at 9:30 AM Marin Civic Center in the Supervisors Chambers, Room 330 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

For start times, agenda packets, as well as minutes of prior meetings, or to view webcasts of meetings, visit: www.marincounty.org, and click on the "Board of Supervisors" section, and then click "Minutes/Agendas/Webcasts"

Marin Transit District Board and the **Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board** Meetings are also held at the Marin Civic Center in the Supervisors Chambers, Room 330 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903

SMART Board meetings are held at:
5401 Old Redwood Highway, 1st Floor
Petaluma, CA 94954

Marin Clean Energy (MCE) Board Meetings and sub-committee meetings are held at:
1125 Tamalpais, San Rafael, CA 94901

Bay Conservation and Development Commission meetings are held at:
SF Ferry Building or Oakland Metro Center
Seal Level Rise (SLR) sub-working group meetings are generally held at the SF Ferry Building

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District meeting are held at:
Golden Gate Bridge District offices (at the toll plaza)

Marin Telecommunications Agency (MTA) meetings are held at:
Corte Madera Town Council Chambers

Richardson's Bay Regional Agency meetings are held at:
Sausalito City Council Chambers

Please visit the website of any agency you are interested in for more information on meeting dates, times, agendas, and staff reports

OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR KATE SEARS CONTACT INFORMATION

Kathrin "Kate" Sears
Supervisor, District 3
KSears@marincounty.org

Phone: (415) 473-7331

Leslie Alden
District 3 Aide
LAlden@marincounty.org

MAILING ADDRESS:
3501 Civic Center Drive,
Room 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

Fax: (415) 473-3645

Maureen Parton
District 3 Aide
MParton@marincounty.org

Online Addresses:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SupervisorKateSears>

Newsletter: <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/bs/district-3/newsletters>

JANUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- JAN 1—County Holiday**
Happy New Year!
- JAN 5**
9:30 AM—2:00 PM
Board of Supervisors
Meeting—Civic Center
- JAN 6**
1:30 PM—5:00 PM
SMART Board
SMART offices
6:30 PM—9:00 PM
Muir Woods Community Meeting
Tam Valley Community Center
- JAN 7**
11:00 AM—12:30 PM
BCDC Sea Level Rise Working Group
1:00 PM—4:40 PM
BCDC Commission
SF Ferry Building
- JAN 11**
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
TAM Executive Sub-Committee on
Programming and Projects
TAM offices
5:00 PM—7:00 PM
Marin Clean Energy
Technical Committee
MCE Offices
- JAN 12**
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Board of Supervisors Meeting
- JAN 13**
10:00 AM to Noon
Marin Clean Energy
Executive Committee
MCE offices
7:00 PM—9:00 PM
Marin Telecommunications Agency
Corte Madera Town Council Chambers
- JAN 18—County Holiday**
9:30—2:30
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Marin City Manzanita Center
- JAN 19—No Board of Supervisors' meeting**
- JAN 20**
1:30 PM—5:00 PM
SMART Board meeting
SMART offices
- JAN 21**
10:00 AM—11:30
Golden Gate Bridge District Board
Transportation/Building & Operating/
Rules Committee
1:00 PM—4:30 PM
BCDC Commission
7:00 PM—10:00 PM
Marin Clean Energy Board
- JAN 22**
9:30 AM—10:00 AM
Golden Gate Bridge District Finance,
Gov't Affairs and Public Information
Committee
10:00 AM—12:30 PM
Golden Gate Bridge District Board
- JAN 25**
10:00 AM—Noon
Marin Transit Board
Civic Center
- JAN 26**
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Board of Supervisors Meeting
- JAN 27**
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center Con-
servancy
- JAN 28**
7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Transportation Authority of Marin
(TAM) Board Meeting

For more information
on these and other meetings, and to
review agendas and staff reports,
please visit the website for the partic-
ular agency that you are interested in