



M A R I N C O U N T Y
SUPERVISOR
KATE SEARS

**Marin County District 3
 Newsletter**

Spring 2019



REMEMBERING THE SHOOTING VICTIMS IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

We were shocked and saddened by news of the mass shooting that took the lives of 50 Muslim worshippers in Christchurch, New Zealand. Repeated mass shootings in the United States have stimulated conversation about the need for enhanced gun control measures and mental health services, and about the culture of violence reflected in movies and video games. The New Zealand incident focuses new attention on the role of tech platforms and a growing body of research showing that the algorithms of YouTube, Facebook and other social media platforms push people further into violent extremism.

I was particularly struck by this statement in a recent New York Times article: "There is no offline equivalent of the experience of being algorithmically nudged toward a more strident version of your existing beliefs, or having an invisible hand steer you from gaming videos to neo-Nazism. The internet is now the place where the seeds of extremism are planted and watered, where platform incentives guide creators toward the ideological poles, and where people with hatred and violent beliefs can find and feed off one another." (Kevin Roose, "A Mass Murder of, and for, the Internet," NYT, 3/16/2019)

Guns, alienation, social media, racism, white supremacy – it’s a toxic brew of issues without simple solutions. But we have to try, and we have to try much harder. New Zealand’s prime minister responded quickly, announcing on March 21 a ban on all military-style semiautomatic and automatic weapons, parts that can be used to turn other rifles into such weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

It took one mass shooting for the government of New Zealand to act. In the United States, repeated mass killings -- 26 dead in a school in Newtown, Conn., 49 in a nightclub in Orlando, 58 at a concert in Las Vegas, 17 in a school in Parkland, Fla. -- have not been enough. Nor has the fact that 73 percent of Americans say that more needs to be done to curb gun violence, according to recent polling.

As the funerals for victims began in Christchurch, neighbors came to pay their respects. That is the right thing to do. But let’s not wait for tragedy to stimulate our better instincts. Instead, let’s act against hatred, violence, racism and bias by showing respect, in life, to everyone. And let’s examine more deeply, and more critically, the ingrained cultural habits and assumptions that make it so hard to restrain gun violence in the United States.

Kate Sears

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WORLD WATER DAY AND TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT THE CLEAN WATER ACT

WILDFIRE
COMMUNITY PRE-
PAREDNESS FORUM
Saturday, May 4th
10 AM—Noon
Embassy Suites

Join us for a FREE public workshop. Wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness are county-wide priorities. Great work is being done in communities across Marin, but there is much more to do. Fire knows no boundaries. We must work together as one community to make all of Marin as wildfire safe and emergency ready as possible.



Sponsored by FIREsafe MARIN, County of Marin, Marin County Fire Chiefs Association, and Firewise USA.

For more information:
<https://bit.ly/2usj1ki>

On March 19th, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution proclaiming International World Water Day on March 22, 2019. This resolution not only highlights the critical importance of freshwater resources but also urges decisive action to safeguard the protections of the Clean Water Act, now under assault by regulators at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and throughout the Trump Administration.

On February 14, 2019, the EPA officially published its so-called “Clean Water Rule” in the Federal Register. The Administration proposes to redefine “waters of the United States” for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, undermining protections that have been in place for nearly half a century and threatening the quality of drinking water and aquatic habitats across the U.S. This proposal eliminates protections from nearly 20% of the nation’s stream miles and more than 50% of all wetlands, including drinking water sources for millions of Americans.

Each year, more than 1 million Californians are served water that does not meet safe drinking water standards and more than 300 small public water systems and schools have been unable to supply safe drinking water to their communities, some for more than a decade. Low-income communities and communities of color often must pay up to 10% of their hard-earned income to ensure their families have safe drinking water.

It is time to take decisive action and demand that the EPA protect our water resources, remove toxins increasingly found in drinking water across the county, and require water providers to test for and remove toxic chemicals.

On March 20, I sent a letter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris and Congressman Jared Huffman urging them to take swift action to stop the EPA’s dismantling of the Clean Water Act’s legacy of protection of the waters of the United States, and to ensure that our sources of drinking water, our aquatic habitats, and our communities are fully protected.

I hope you too will take action by writing the EPA about the “Clean Water Rule”; posting a comment supporting #ProtectCleanWater; urging local, state and federal elected officials to support clean, safe water for all; or joining national and local groups safeguarding our precious, life-sustaining freshwater.

AND SPEAKING OF WATER....

...Exactly How Much Has It Rained So Far This Year?

Marin County Flood Control maintains rain gauges at various locations around the county. A couple of the rain gauges are new, so data is not available for last year. But the data confirms what we suspected: this year it's been raining a lot.

Location	Inches of Rainfall October 2017 – March 2018	Inches of Rainfall October 2018 – March 2019
Mill Valley	15	31
Kentfield	23.45	48.38
Novato	12.84	36.28
Mt. Tam	---	59
Marin Civic Center Administration Bldg	---	49

And the ***GAME OF FLOODS*** has arrived!

Proving that climate change education can be fun, the County of Marin now has a boxed version of its award-winning Game of Floods, which teaches players about adaptation choices to plan for inevitable sea level rise.

Created by staff in the Community Development Agency (CDA), and their water resources cohorts from the Department of Public Works, the game is designed to engage and educate everyone about sea level rise vulnerability . The game challenges players to collaboratively design adaptation solutions and make decisions that could protect entire communities from the impacts of permanent flooding due to sea level rise.

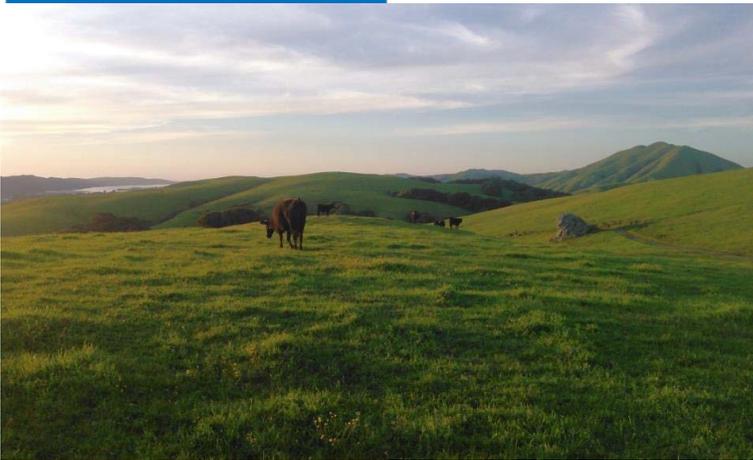
Pre-orders of the board game are being taken now.



AND OTHER UPDATES OF NOTE:

Profile: Update from the Marin Resource Conservation District

The Marin Resource Conservation District does remarkable work in our community to conserve and enhance Marin's natural resources, including its soil, water, vegetation and wildlife. The Board of Supervisors received an **update** on Marin RCD's current work in Marin at its March 19 meeting. You can view the **presentation** to the Board of Supervisors.



Since 1983, Marin RCD has administered over \$20 million in government and private foundation grants for watershed-wide erosion control, creek restoration, and road repair projects. **Marin RCD** currently runs three main programs: Conserving Our Watersheds, Carbon Farming, and Urban Streams. The District also engages in other projects, including the West Marin Compost, No-till Drill, Oral History Program and the Pine Gulch Creek Project. You can learn more at www.marinrkd.org.

And finally . . .

On March 26, the Board of Supervisors **celebrated employees** who have served the County of Marin for a very long time: 41 employees were recognized for 20 years of service, 17 for 25 years of service, 19 for 30 years of service, and 3 employees for 35 years of service. All together, that's 1,920 years of service, in 18 different County departments. Whew!

The strength of county government, like any organization, is nurtured by the quality of its employees, their commitment to public service, and the skills and relationships they develop over the years. This is a remarkable group of employees and we were delighted to celebrate them.

Among the employees we celebrated was my Aide, Maureen Parton, who has served District 3 residents for 25 years. Thank you, Maureen, for your great work!



MEETING INFORMATION:

Marin County Board of Supervisors meets on Tuesdays, generally starting at 9:00 AM and often going into the mid-to late-afternoon, at the Marin Civic Center in the Supervisors' Chambers, Room 330, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael.

For start times, agenda packets, as well as minutes of prior meetings, or to view webcasts of meetings, visit the [Meeting Agenda](#) page.

Marin County Planning Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 1 PM at the Marin Civic Center in the Planning Commission Chambers, Room 328.

Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1 PM, at 375 Beale Street, San Francisco.

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District meetings are held on the 4th Friday of each month at Golden Gate Bridge District offices (at the toll plaza).

Marin Transit District Board and **Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board** meetings are also held at the Marin Civic Center in the Supervisors' Chambers, Room 330. Regular meetings of the Marin Transit Board are generally held at 10 AM on the 3rd Monday of each month, and regular meetings of the TAM Board are held on the 4th Thursday at 6 PM. Please check those agencies' websites for current information.

MCE Clean Energy (MCE) Board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Board & sub-committee meetings are held at 1125 Tamalpais, San Rafael.

Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) meetings are held at different locations on a rotating basis. Check the website for updates and current information.

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Board meets the 1st Friday of every other month and meeting locations rotate. Visit www.sfbayrestore.org for current information.

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

A complete list of 2019 Board and Commission assignments is available on the [Board of Supervisors website](#)

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