



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

**Marin County District 3
 Newsletter**

RINGING IN A NEW YEAR

2018 seemed to go by in a whirl of activity!

The Board of Supervisors and County staff devoted energy and attention to important issues, including affordable housing, federal immigration policies, the opioid crisis, and how to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change, in all of its aspects – including increased fire danger, more frequent flooding, and the wide-ranging impacts on ecology and the health and wellness of all species – continues to be a critical focus of our attention.

What we do here in Marin matters. I am endlessly inspired by the many talented and committed people in our communities, and by our County employees’ dedication to public service. We’ve made great strides in working together more effectively, both at the County and in the broader community.

While we continue to address critical ongoing challenges – social and racial inequity, housing, traffic congestion, homelessness, mental health, climate change, and more – let’s do it with a sense of renewal. Renewal of our enthusiasm, our energy, and our commitment to collaboration, to communication, to shared values, to tackling what challenges us most, and to doing the best we can for our county, our community, and for ourselves. We move forward with a sense of renewal, I believe, by:

Being Appreciative— of the skills and experience that others have to offer, and of the beauty that surrounds us,

Being Creative— embracing innovation, being flexible and accepting uncertainty,

Being Attentive — convening and listening to each other, and understanding the context and stories that affect how each of us operates in the world, and

Being Rooted in Reality, in Community and Within Ourselves— this is the honesty, integrity, and relatedness piece that perhaps matters most.

As President of the Board of Supervisors in 2019, I look forward to working with you! Please be in touch and share your ideas with me at ksears@marincounty.org. On behalf of everyone here at the County, I send my warmest wishes to you and yours for a productive New Year.

Kate Sears



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TOP PRIORITY?

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS...

QUICK LINKS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

[Marin County Fire Website Emergency Preparedness](#)

[Sign Up for Emergency Alerts Alert Marin](#)

[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

2018 was another catastrophic year for wildfires in California, focusing our attention on emergency preparedness, improving vegetation management at home and across our communities, addressing the health impacts of smoke-laden air, convening neighborhood education events, sharing information and studying lessons learned so we can ensure the safety of residents of all ages.

The Board of Supervisors added Emergency Preparedness to our top priorities and received reports throughout the year on initiatives focused on disaster preparedness led by various County departments, including Marin County Fire's "defensible space blitz" and enhanced coordination with County Parks and Open Space on vegetation management; Marin County Sheriff's Office/ Office of Emergency Services revised sheltering plan with cities and towns; and Human Resources creation of a Disaster Services Worker training video.

The Board of Supervisors approved a FY 2018-19 budget set aside of \$500,000 for Emergency Preparedness Initiatives to be used for high priority projects or programs to build safer communities; and allocated an additional \$142,500 for senior and disabled residents to accomplish defensible space improvements, for mapping of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan by fire agency, to contribute toward a multi-jurisdictional Disaster Coordinator position, and to support the work of [FireSafe Marin](#).

All of these efforts are important but they only will succeed if each of us takes action to (1) harden our homes to decrease structure ignitability, such as installing fire-resistant roofing, siding, vents, and dual-pane windows; (2) maintain defensible space around our homes through responsible vegetation management practices; and (3) keep our driveways and roads clear to ensure emergency vehicle access.

We truly are all in this together!



Fire Fuel Reduction And Art Merge At the “Spirit Nest”

As a long-time resident of Southern Marin, I often forget to visit the County of Marin park at Stafford Lake near Novato. Here’s a good reason to go: the “Spirit Nest,” a County-sponsored art installation near the park entrance that is an unexpected and inspiring way to think about wildland fire risk.

The Spirit Nest is a human-scaled sculpture with the feel of a bird nest. Last summer, volunteers led by nationally acclaimed artist and educator Jayson Fann wove hundreds of eucalyptus branches and spiraling tree sprouts to create the approximately 25-foot-tall sculpture.

The artist and a Marin County Parks team started by harvesting branches as part of ongoing fire fuel management in Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Preserve. Eucalyptus, the main nest-building material used in Fann’s projects, is an invasive species and highly flammable. The nest brings awareness to environmental stewardship and creates a special space to explore.

Fann’s creative work has taken him to more than 30 countries. His Spirit Nests have received attention from major media outlets, including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, NBC’s “Today” show. More information about Fann’s work is available at www.spiritnestcreations.com .

The Spirit Nest will be at Stafford Lake Park through April 2019. The 139-acre park is just off Novato Boulevard, 2.5 miles west of San Marin High School and 5 miles west of downtown Novato. The park is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and entrance is free the first Saturday of each month.



County’s 2019 State Legislative Plan Highlights

With Governor Newsom taking office in January, healthy state financial reserves, and a growing economy, we’ll be watching closely to see if 2019 brings an increase in state spending, The County’s legislative plan for the year reflects the following priorities:

- **Emergency preparedness, disaster prevention and response**, including enhanced funding for fire prevention, vegetation management, and disaster planning/notification.
- Addressing issues of **equity and income inequality** by supporting quality and more universal pre-school and expansion of California’s transitional kindergarten program, increased day care slots and child care reimbursement rates.
- Enhancing efforts to **mitigate climate change and adapt to sea level rise**, including support for clean/renewable energy and funding for planning and infrastructure for sea level rise adaptation.
- **Preserving and expanding affordable housing**, including work with regional stakeholders to help find solutions to homelessness in Marin and the Bay Area, and opposing any regional or state efforts to tie transportation funding allocations to affordable housing production.

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM UPDATE

The total project cost is \$211 million, which includes construction (\$204 million), design and environmental expenses.

I have served on the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors since 2011. One of the most challenging parts of the job is hearing from the many, many people who have lost family members or friends to suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. We are building a Safety Net to end that tragedy.

The net, crafted from 4.5 million pounds of steel, will be placed 20 feet below the sidewalk, extending 20 feet out from the Bridge. The design was chosen through a public process which solicited input from the community, and allows open, scenic vistas to remain intact, while preventing anyone from easily jumping to the water below. You can learn more about the Safety Net at www.goldengatebridgenet.org.



Funding came from multiple sources: \$74 million was provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, \$70 million by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), \$60 million through Golden Gate Bridge District revenue, \$7 million by State of California Mental Health Funds via State Budget (Prop 63), and \$400 thousand from individual and foundation donations.

Net construction began in 2018 and is expected to be completed in 2021. The Golden Gate Bridge will have overnight lane closures on weeknights through 2021. The closures will provide safe space for workers to lower construction materials under the roadway to build the Suicide Deterrent System.

Lanes are scheduled to close from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10:00 p.m. Friday to 7:00 a.m. Saturday for the next three years, excluding holidays. Electronic traffic signs will be posted nightly to alert drivers of the lane closures and regular traffic alerts will be posted to www.goldengate.org. At least one lane will remain open in both directions during overnight closures.

PROFILE: MARIN CITY SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP ATTENDS CLIMATE REALITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

In August 2018, 13 young people from Marin City, ranging in age from 15 to 31, joined former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and a team of scientists, policy-makers, communicators, and other experts for a three-day Climate Reality Leadership Corps activist training in Los Angeles.

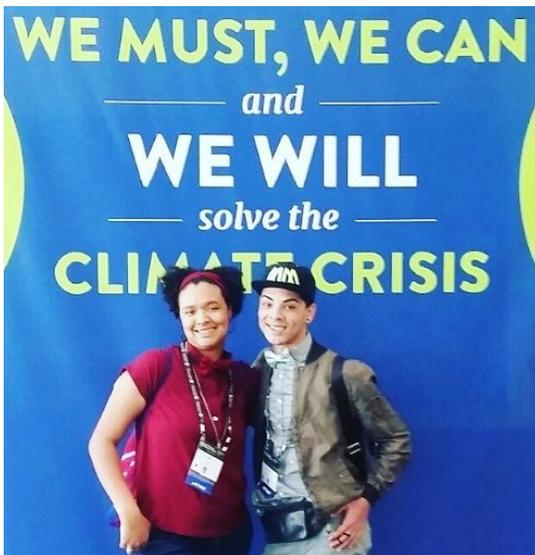
Here is one comment that sums up the impact of the experience:

“I was super excited to hear Al Gore’s presentation about climate change, especially about how almost everything that is changing about the world: disease, wildfires in California, food shortages, natural disasters, etc., are all caused by the changing climate. A lot of the information that I was seeing was absolutely horrifying and heart-breaking. However, I’m hopeful that through seminars like this, people will come with an open mind, learn what they can do in the time they have, and go out and make a difference.”

Well said! Thanks to Felecia Gaston, Noah Griffin, the Marin Community Foundation, and Kat Taylor of the TomKat Foundation for supporting this extraordinary opportunity for learning and leadership.



WE WILL
— solve the —
CLIMATE CRISIS



AND OTHER UPDATES OF NOTE:

Marin Civic Center

Administration Building's New Roof is Nearly Done – Oh What A Beautiful Blue!

County contractors have been working hard to complete the roofing replacement work on the Administration Wing and dome of the Civic Center. The wet weather in December and early January slowed things down but we're hopeful the work soon will be done.

The Civic Center, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is the largest completed public project of his career and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The building is famous for its distinctive blue roof and stylized ornamentation. Originally constructed in the early 1960's, and despite several roof repair projects over the years which created layers of recoating and patchwork, the roof membrane was fracturing and peeling, resulting in leaks and substantial fading of the iconic color. Architectural specialists assessed the roof and determined that repairs were no longer a solution and the 220,000 square foot roof needed to be replaced to preserve the historic building.

I toured the roof of the Administration Wing with County staff in November and was impressed by the complexity of the task – much of the work had to be done by hand due to the intricacy of the ornamentation and fragility of the concrete. And I was dazzled by the beautiful blue color of the new polyurethane membrane.

Soon the scaffolding will come down on the Administration Wing and the new roof will be visible. Be sure to look for it. Work will shift to the Hall of Justice in the first quarter of 2019. And then, finally, the Civic Center's hallway skylights will be refurbished as a separate project, ending forever, we hope, those pesky leaks.



County Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Proliferate

The County is reducing its carbon footprint by adding 41 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to the Civic Center campus in 2018, and aiming to bring another 24 charging stations to its 1600 Los Gamos facility in 2019.

The project is a collaborative effort with PG&E through its EV Charge Network Program. PG&E provides funding for all the electrical infrastructure upgrades required to support EV charging units, including trenching and running of electrical wiring. The County provides the actual EV charging equipment.

The County completed the Civic Center project in early October 2018, installing 31 publicly available stations at the Marin Civic Center Hall of Justice parking lot and 10 stations at the Civic Center's garage for the County vehicle fleet, and upgrading 6 existing fleet charging stations. With rebates from PG&E, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), MCE, and the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), the net cost to the County was only \$32,373. The fee for using the public EV charging stations at the Civic Center is \$1 per hour with a 4-hour maximum.

The County and PG&E are designing a follow-up project to install 24 EV charging stations at 1600 Los Gamos, and seeking grant funding from TAM and MCE to complete the project.

Expanding the number of EV charging stations is intended to encourage the use of EV's by both the public and County employees, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and furthering the goals of the Drawdown: Marin initiative. With 62% of Marin's greenhouse gas emissions coming from the cars, trucks and buses on our roads and freeways, significantly expanding the use of EV's is an immediate priority.



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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