



Looking Ahead in 2010

On January 4th, I was elected President of the Board of Supervisors for this year. I'm sure it comes as no surprise that 2010 will be a challenging year, due to the budget shortfall counties and cities in California are experiencing. Marin is fortunate that we have acted prudently these past years, and are not in the dire circumstances some counties find themselves in. We have the highest bond rating of any county in California.

We have taken many actions in recent years to address the budget challenges including:

- Adopting a lower-cost retiree health plan in 2007 for new employees, and beginning to set aside funds for the unfunded liability of retiree healthcare
- Enacting pension reforms such as basing pension benefits on a three year average rather than the highest single year and capping annual cost of living adjustments at two percent
- Developing and implementing a five-year \$20 million road maintenance project
- Reducing spending by \$27 million over the past two years and eliminating over 100 vacant positions

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District 5 Update on Marin Clean Energy

If you live in unincorporated Novato (Black Point, Green Point, Indian Valley, Loma Verde and Bel Marin Keys) you are in the service territory of the newly launched Marin Clean Energy.

MCE is a "Community Choice Aggregation" (CCA) program under the Marin Energy Authority (MEA): a joint powers authority (JPA) made up of the County and several Marin cities and towns.

MCE is now launching Phase 1 of its service. **Most residential customers in unincorporated Novato are not participants in Phase 1**, which represents about 20% of the MEA energy load and is made up mainly of municipal and business ratepayers. 491 residences in unincorporated Novato, a relatively small number of residential ratepayers in this area, have been enrolled in Phase 1 and should have received a first notice by this time.

The state legislation which created the CCA structure (AB117) requires ratepayers within the service territory to opt out if they do not wish to participate in the CCA, and requires the CCA to send four opt out notices over a 120-day opt out period. **The current opt out period applies to Phase 1 only.**

If you are in Phase 1, you should have already received one or more opt-out notices that will be mailed to you approximately every 30 days during the opt out period (the first of these was mailed in early February). To receive confirmation as to whether or not you are in Phase 1, please call: (888) 632-3674.

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Looking Ahead in 2010 (continued from page 1)

In addition to the progress made due to these efforts, the County is taking action to address a \$15 million shortfall for 2010-11, which is a structural budget deficit that would go to \$50 million by 2014-15 if not addressed.

I am on the Board's Long Term Budget Restructuring Committee which involves employee and community outreach, such as the first community meeting held in Novato which provided valuable input.

I also know that it is imperative that we come up with new ways of doing business as a County that will reduce services while continuing to strive toward providing excellent services where possible. My goal is to ensure that we do the most important things well.

I am confident that we will get through this difficult time together, and I ask you to please keep in touch with me with any suggestions or concerns you have. I always remind myself of Mother Teresa's admonition: "Life is a challenge. Meet it!"

Thank you for your support and hard work as we go forward together.

UPCOMING BUDGET WORKSHOPS

The Board of Supervisors will hold two public Budget Workshops at the end of March:

Monday, March 29, 9:00 am
Wednesday, March 31, 9:00am

These workshops will present information and take comment regarding the proposed FY 2010-11 County department budget reductions, along with department performance plans for the coming fiscal year

Both workshops will be held in the BOS chambers at the Marin Civic Center, at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329

For the latest information on the County budget process, please visit www.co.marin.ca.us/budgetinfo

2009 in Review

Together, we accomplished a lot in 2009. Here are some of the highlights:

- Launched the Marin Economic Forum (MEF) a public-private partnership to focus on the link between a sustainable local economy as the key to achieving our environmental and social equity goals
The MEF will work to strengthen Marin's target industries, will collect, analyze and disseminate data and reports on various aspects of our local economy, will work to illustrate the benefits of local economic health as an integrated element of overall civic goals, and will seek out opportunities to aggregate resources for local businesses
- After a very successful launch in 2008, we are launching the second round of distribution for the Vial of L.I.F.E. Program to help our emergency responders save lives (see the Marin County Fire Department website at www.xmrfire.org/mrn/community/vial_of_life.aspx)
- Adopted a revised Integrated Pest Management (IPM) ordinance that establishes improved and greater accountability, infrastructure, and public transparency
- Formed a partnership with the County of Marin, City of Novato, North Marin Water District, and Novato Sanitary District to develop a Novato Watershed Program to address flooding, water quality, water conservation and habitat restoration throughout the 44-square-mile Novato watershed
- Implemented a new service called Novato Dial-A-Ride, a bus service that provides passengers curb-to-curb pick-up and drop-off service and is available to all residents in the Novato service area. For hours of operation and more information visit the Marin Transit website at www.marintransit.org
- Initiated a long-term budget restructuring process and brought the public input process to you by hosting the first County budget community forum in Novato
- Certified nine Green Businesses in Novato
- Added more transparency for the public by implementing online audio Podcasts of all SMART Board of Directors and Committee meetings (visit www.sonomamarintrain.org and click on "Documents", then "Board Archive")



Marin Clean Energy Update (continued from page 1)

The City of Novato is not a member of the MEA. If you live within Novato city limits, you are not in the Marin Clean Energy Service Territory, and will continue to receive your electricity from PG&E.

Being in the MCE program means that you have three choices:

- **You may “opt out”**, and continue to receive electricity from PG&E’s portfolio. To opt out, call (866) 743-0335, or visit www.pge.com/cca.

You may opt out at any time, but if you do so after the 120-day opt out period, additional fees, terms and conditions may apply.

- **You may remain in MCE.** To remain in MCE at the default “light green” portfolio option, which will include 25% certified renewable energy, you do not need to take any action.

If you decide to remain in MCE Phase 1, your MCE service is expected to commence in early May, 2010. Rates have been set to be the same as PG&E current rates. You will have an additional 60 days beyond commencement of service to opt out without a fee or penalty should you choose to do so.

- **If you are in the MCE service territory, whether or not you are in Phase 1 you may “opt up”**, by making a request to enroll in MCE’s “deep green” portfolio option, which offers a voluntary 100% renewable energy service option. Again, this option is available to all ratepayers within the MCE service territory, even if they have not been identified for Phase 1 participation.

For more information, for “deep green” rates, or to sign up for the “deep green” option, call (415) 473-6624, or visit www.marincleanenergy.info/deepgreen.cfm

In any of these cases, only the electricity generation portion of your bill will be affected. Your electric utility bills will continue to be sent by PG&E, which will continue to collect its standard fees for distribution and transmission of power through its electricity infrastructure. MCE and PG&E have signed an agreement to this effect as required by AB117.

MEA has indicated that the timing of its Phase 2 (and opt-out notices to ratepayers eligible for the MCE program during Phase 2) is approximately 18 months after Phase 1 commences.

If you have any additional questions or would like more information, please call Marin Clean Energy at (888) 632-3674 or PG&E at (866) 743-0335.



Parks & Open Space Spring News and Events

The current newsletter from County Parks & Open Space is now available — and is chock full of FREE activities to take full advantage of Marin’s natural wonders during the Spring season. Visit:

www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PK/Main/MCOSD/pdf/POS_Newsletter_Spring_2010.pdf

- **News**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
- **Naturalist-led Walks**
- **Naturalist-led Family Walks**
- **Ranger Events**
- **Dog-friendly Hikes**



Saturday, April 10. 9am to 1pm

Community Volunteer Days:

Indian Tree Preserve

Calling all trail users: Celebrate this statewide event right here in Marin. Our neighbors at Willow Tree Stables will help us restore a trail on this beautiful oak woodland preserve in Novato. Lunch served at noon. *Trail work requires heavy use of hand tools and there is a strenuous hike to the work site.*

Getting there From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Atherton Ave/San Marin Dr exit, head west on San Marin Dr (San Marin Dr becomes Sutro Ave after Novato Blvd junction), and turn right at Vineyard Rd. Trailhead is at the end of Vineyard Rd. Park at [Willow Tree Stables](#).



Marin Economic Forum Announces Board, Officers

On January 22, 2010, the Marin Economic Forum (MEF) launched with its first Board meeting. Over 35 people attended, including interested observers from the public. The executive committee selected at that meeting has met several times, elected officers, and much is already happening. We will have our second meeting of the full Board in early March.

I truly believe that local economic sustainability is the key to achieving our local civic, environmental, and social equity goals. This exciting effort is long overdue, and I am pleased to be starting this public-private partnership with such strong interest and willingness to devote personal time and effort from so many of our county’s outstanding business and community leaders. I am pleased to announce the officers and board of the Marin Economic Forum.

President—Harry Thomas, Hennessy Advisors
Vice President— Judy Arnold, County of Marin

Treasurer— John Maher, Maher Accountancy
Secretary— Nanda Schorske, College of Marin

Other Board Members include (* indicates Executive Committee member):

Mark Abrahams, Autodesk*	Michael Kadel, Bank of Marin	Craig Nelson, Workforce Investment Board
Frank Borodic, West Marin Chamber	Oonagh Kavanagh, Sausalito Chamber	Connie Rodgers, San Anselmo Chamber
Linda Davis, CVNL	Garry Lion, Lion Associates	Colin Russell, Russell and Davis Architects
Mark Essman, Marin Visitors Bureau	Charles McGlashan, County of Marin	Jeff Scharosch, Spinnaker Restaurant
Rob Hart, Hart Marin	Greg Moss, NAIBT Commercial	Coy Smith, Novato Chamber*
Gregory Holmes, Consultant	Cynthia Murray, N. Bay Leadership Council*	Gary Williams, Dominican University

A number of additional applications are being considered for full and associate board member positions, to fill out our representation from the Targeted Industries identified by the Marin Economic Commission in its Economic Sustainability Report and Targeted Industries Study, which were part of the preparation activities that launched the MEF.

I will continue to update you over the coming months as this critical effort to enhance our local economic vitality, in ways that are in keeping with our Marin values, moves forward.

MEF Targeted Industries:

Agro-Tourism	Core Technology	Built Environment	Health	Financial Services
Food Product Mfg.	Multimedia/Digital Arts	Green Building	Healthcare	Banking
Organic, Value-Added, Niche Products	Engineering Design/ Business Software	Commercial Real Estate	Residential Care	Integrated Wealth Management
Outdoor Recreation/ Equipment	Environmental Technology		Alternative Medicines & Healing	Personal Financial Advising
Tourism/Hospitality	Telecommunications			Online Financial Services
	Biotechnology/Biomedical			Boutique Consulting
				Insurance

Vegetation Management Plan Update

In January and February, Marin County Open Space Department (MCOSD) hosted a series of public workshops in Novato, Woodacre, and Mill Valley about the development of the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP).

Staff described the scope of our vegetation management problem and solicited feedback on the VMP’s draft goals and objectives. The workshops were the public’s second opportunity to engage with MCOSD on this important stewardship effort.

For more information, including meeting materials and outcomes, visit www.marinparks.org and look for the “Vegetation Management Plan Project” link.

And the 2009 Look Who's Getting It Done Award Goes to...Patty Bennett!



I am delighted to announce that the 2009 **Look Who's Getting It Done Award** goes to Patty Bennett.

Patty is an extremely active community member and spends tireless hours giving back to the community. As a local community activist committed to the growth and care of the Novato community, Patty has been serving on various committees around town for many years.

Since 2004, Patty Bennett has served on the board of the Novato Youth Center (NYC). In addition to her duties as Vice-President of the NYC Board and chairperson of the Development Committee, she founded and co-chairs their bi-annual fundraising event Cruisin' the Classics.

When asked why she's devoting time and energy to the NYC, Patty responded, "I returned to work when my daughter Cathryn was two years old and had comfort daily knowing that she was receiving quality child care from my sister-in-law. I have strong compassion for working parents who don't have worry-free childcare arrangements and joined NYC to help make accessible quality childcare for these parents. NYC's Board is one of the hardest working volunteer groups I have been involved with over the years. We work hard and share many laughs, while accomplishing great milestones for NYC, Novato and its community - it's very rewarding and an honor to serve on NYC's Board of Directors."

Patty was on the Executive Director Transition team for the Novato Youth Center and played a critical role

in transitioning the leadership of the NYC after the retirement of an Executive Director who served 23 years.

Patty is dedicated to Novato and currently serves as Treasurer for "Novato 2010 - Celebrating 50 years" Birthday Celebration Steering Committee and has served for many years on the Coordinating Committee for the Paint the Town Red event. She is also an Elder at the Presbyterian Church of Novato and has served as PTA President for Pleasant Valley Elementary School and on Leadership Councils for NUSD schools Pleasant Valley Elementary, Sinaloa Middle and San Marin High School.

Since 1974, Patty and her husband Chuck have lived in Novato. Community involvement runs in the family as Chuck, former Novato Citizen of the Year, currently serves on boards for Northbay Family Homes and the IJ Editorial. Prior to their retirement years, Chuck served as CEO and Patty as Vice-President/Branch Manager, Novato for California Land Title of Marin. Now retired, they enjoy spending time in Clear Lake with family and friends and their 21 year old daughter Cathryn.

Patty has been described as a "quiet presence" and an "unsung hero". I think it is time to sing the praises of this hero and make a loud noise to celebrate her commitment to the Novato community. Thank you Patty Bennett for "Getting It Done" in so many ways!

LOOK WHO'S GETTING IT DONE AWARD

In 2007 I started the annual LOOK WHO'S GETTING IT DONE AWARD. I make this award every year in January.

The award recognizes someone in the 5th District who "got something done" for our community. The winner is featured in my "County Connection" article in the Novato Advance, in my newsletter, and on my County webpage.

If you would like to nominate someone for the 2010 Look Who's Getting it Done award, please contact my aide Tanya Albert at

talbert@co.marin.ca.us.



Marin Transit Service Changes Take Effect Sunday, March 14

Marin Transit service reductions and schedule changes will be going into effect on Sunday, March 14, 2010. Many riders may be impacted by the service reductions included in these schedule changes; therefore Marin Transit recommends you look at the final schedules to plan your trip in advance. The final schedules can be found at:

<http://www.marintransit.org/servicereductions2009.html>

Staff will be available to answer questions and provide trip planning assistance at the San Rafael Transit Center on March 11, 12 and 15. Visit www.marintransit.org for more information.

If you have additional questions and/or comments, please contact Marin Transit by email at: info@marintransit.org, by phone at (415) 226-0855, or by mail at 750 Lindero Street, Suite 200, San Rafael, CA 94901.



The Marin Transit service changes do not affect Novato Dial-A-Ride

2010 Census Information

What is the Census? The U.S. Census counts every resident, citizens and noncitizens alike, in the United States and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States.

The Census is a short 10-question form to account for everyone living at your residence as of April 1, 2010. These 10 questions ask: name, sex, age, date of birth, Hispanic origin, race, household relationship, and if you own or rent. The Census DOES NOT ask about the legal status of respondents or for their Social Security numbers. You should be counted where you live and sleep most of the time. For people who may not have a permanent address or a home, service based organizations, such as homeless shelters and soup kitchens, will have census forms where you can be counted.

While most residents in Marin will receive English-only materials, households in areas with high concentration of Spanish-speaking residents may receive bilingual forms. Forms are

available in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Korean, Russian and Vietnamese. You will be able to request a form in one of the five non-English languages via toll-free numbers that will be available closer to Census Day.

If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions on the form. If you did not receive a form, call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance center at 1-866-872-6868. (If you prefer a Spanish-speaking operator, dial 1-866-928-2010.) The lines will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week from February 25, 2010 through July 30, 2010. For the hearing-impaired, TDD 1-866-783-2010. As always, any and all personal data you provide is confidential and protected by federal law.

For more information on the Census, please visit: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

2010 Census Key Dates

February - March 2010—Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households

March - April 2010—Census questionnaires available at select public sites for individuals who did not receive one by mail

April 1, 2010—Census Day

May - July 2010—Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail

Dec. 31, 2010—By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President

March 2011—By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

- Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.
- Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.



Judy Arnold, Marin County Supervisor

DISTRICT 5 COUNTY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 499-7331
www.co.marin.ca.us

District 5 Supervisor Aides:

Tanya Albert
talbert@co.marin.ca.us
415.499.7371

Carolyn Glendening
cglendening@co.marin.ca.us
415.499.7395

March 2010

Calendar grid for March 2010 with days of the week and dates 1-31.

April 2010

Calendar grid for April 2010 with days of the week and dates 1-30.

Schedule of Events

- March 2—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• March 15—10am, Transit District Meeting
• March 16— Board of Supervisors Meeting
• March 17—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
• March 23—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• March 25—7pm, Transportation Authority of Marin Meeting
• March 29—County Budget Workshop
• March 30—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• March 31—County Budget Workshop
• April 6—Board of Supervisors Meeting
• April 13— Board of Supervisors Meeting
• April 19—10am, Transit District Meeting
• April 20—Board of Supervisor Meeting
• April 21—1:30pm, SMART Board Meeting
• April 22—7pm, Transportation Authority of Marin Meeting

All Board of Supervisors, Transit District, and TAM Meetings are open to the public and are held in the BOS Chambers in the Marin Civic Center at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329.

Meeting locations for SMART Board meetings vary; visit www.sonomamarintrain.org, then click on "Documents", then "Board Archive" for details.

Start times for BOS meetings can vary. For start times and agenda packet materials for upcoming as well as minutes of prior meetings:

Go to the County of Marin website at www.co.marin.ca.us
Click on "Board of Supervisors"
Click on "Meeting Archive" near the top of the page

BOS meetings are also webcast live. To watch:

Go to the County of Marin website at www.co.marin.ca.us
Click on "Board of Supervisors"
Click on "Live Video Broadcast" near the top of the page

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