



City of Larkspur

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December 2, 2020

Lucy Dilworth, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

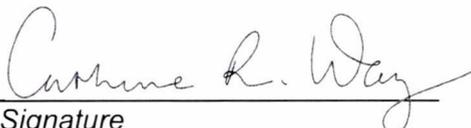
Foreperson Dilworth:

At its regular meeting on December 2, 2020, the City Council reviewed the report "*Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?*", dated September 11, 2020. The report calls for a response from the City of Larkspur to Findings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 (F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F7) and Recommendations 1, 4, 6 (R1, R4, R6).

Please see the attached for the response from the City of Larkspur.

Should the members of the Grand Jury require any additional information, please contact City Manager Dan Schwarz at 415-927-5110 or dschwarz@cityoflarkspur.org.

Catherine Way
Mayor, Larkspur



Signature

12/2/2020

Date

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?

Report Date: September 11, 2020

Response By: Larkspur City Council

Response Date: December 2, 2020

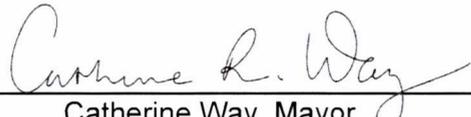
FINDINGS:

- We agree with the findings numbered F1. F2. F3. F5
- We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered F4. F7

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Recommendations numbered R1. R4. R6 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

DATED: 12/2/2020

Signed: 
Catherine Way, Mayor

Number of pages attached: 3

**Response to the
Marin County Civil Grand Jury's Report
"Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?"**

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury has requested the City of Larkspur to respond to Findings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, (F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F7) and Recommendations 1, 4, 6 (R1, R4, R6) of the Grand Jury's report "*Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?*" dated September 11, 2020. Responses below.

FINDINGS

F1. Climate change mitigation efforts by Marin governments have been notably effective in meeting their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Response: Agree. The City agrees that Marin governments have largely met greenhouse gas reduction goals set in the *Marin County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan*, the *Marin County Climate Action Plan (2015 Update)* and other local benchmarks. The City notes that significant further reductions are necessary to meet recent goals set by State of California as well as reductions necessary to meet scientific consensus that greenhouse gas emissions must be cut as quickly as possible in order to limit the most severe impacts of climate change.

F2. Adaptation planning is essential to protect local public utility and transportation infrastructure as well as private property interests, and to enable Marin's citizens to maintain their current standards of living.

Response: Agree.

F3. With the BayWAVE and C-SMART initial vulnerability assessments completed, the county is now well-positioned to focus on adaptation planning and policies related to sea level rise.

Response: Agree.

F4. The existing adaptation efforts across the county pay insufficient attention to the other potential effects of climate change, including impacts on public health, ecosystems, and social equity.

Response: Partially disagree. The City agrees that the projected effects of climate change include significant impacts on public health, ecosystems, and social equity, and that all the aforementioned must be an integral part of adaptation strategies. Additionally, the City believes it's efforts in this regard can always improve.

That said, the City routinely draws upon the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) effort, which has worked to develop effective and equitable adaptation solutions that integrate adaptation planning into local and regional planning efforts. With adaptation planning efforts underway on community or project specific levels throughout the county, significant work will need to continue as these efforts progress.

Additionally, California Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), requires that cities and counties update their General Plan Safety Elements to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies across the full breadth of hazard and safety issues associated with climate change, not just sea level rise. The City of Larkspur is in the process of completing its updated General Plan, which will include these considerations.

The City's comments reflect only its assessment of its efforts and declines to comment on the sufficiency of the efforts of other Marin agencies.

F5. There are insufficient staff and financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation efforts across county government as well as in the cities, towns, and other agencies, and many of the existing efforts are highly dependent on grant funding.

Response: Agree. The City agrees to the extent that its own ability to direct staff and financial resources to climate change adaptation efforts are constrained and highly dependent on grant funding. The City will not comment on the specific staffing, financial resources, or grant funding at other agencies.

F7. Cross-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination will be required for successful adaptation efforts, but Marin lacks any overarching organizational or governance structure to facilitate this.

Response: Partially disagree. The City agrees that cross-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination is required for successful adaptation — and collaboration is already part of current adaptation efforts. Whether successful adaptation can only be facilitated (or even best facilitated) by an overarching organizational or governance structure assumes that a new structure would necessarily yield better outcomes than investing additional resources into existing cross-jurisdictional collaborative efforts. This includes BayWAVE, C-SMART, the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. This assertion is highly dependent on the level of participation of each jurisdiction, the mission and structure of the organization.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The board of supervisors, in collaboration with the municipalities and other agencies affected by climate change, should convene a multi-jurisdictional task force (referred to in this report as the Marin Climate Adaptation Task Force) charged with developing a single, comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional adaptation strategy for all of Marin.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable. The City of Larkspur does not have the ability to compel action by the Board of Supervisors and other municipalities. Larkspur is an active and supportive participant in regional initiatives that benefit communities in Marin. If the Board of Supervisors convenes a new multi-jurisdictional effort concerning climate change, the City will collaborate to the extent that resources allow.

R4. Each member of the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership should declare its support for broadening the partnership's mission and increasing its funding as necessary to enable it to support overall climate change planning efforts, including both

mitigation and adaptation in cities, towns, and other member agencies throughout the county.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable. The City of Larkspur cannot implement a recommendation that requires the declaration of each member of the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership (MCEP). MCEP is an example of a successful regional collaboration to which the City remains committed. The City will determine its support of an expanded mission and increased funding for MCEP based on the specifics of any proposals brought to its members for consideration. In particular, the City would want to evaluate the impact of an expanded mission on MCEP's current goals and objectives and how expanding the mission of MCEP compares to alternatives.

R6. Each city and town, if it does not have a full-time sustainability coordinator (or similar position), should appoint a committee or commission charged with monitoring and reporting on its climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or not reasonable. This general statement asks that the City of Larkspur make determinations about the optimal organizational structure of other Marin cities and towns. The City of Larkspur will not comment on recommendations asserting what is the best use of resources at other agencies. Therefore, the City of Larkspur cannot agree with the portions of the finding concerning other municipalities.

Larkspur's committees and commissions have an important and distinctly different purpose than full-time dedicated staff; work done by a committee or commission would not serve as a substitute for the duties that would be assumed by a sustainability coordinator. The recommendation suggests that a commission or committee would achieve similar or equivalent outcomes to hiring a dedicated staff member. The City of Larkspur does not form committees or commissions as a substitute for staff. The City will continue to bring appropriate city business to its committees, commissions, and elected body (the City Council), including city business that concerns climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, notably the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and General Plan.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts at the City of Larkspur are integrated across multiple departments and staff duties. The City will continue to allocate a significant portion of its limited resources to projects throughout the organization where climate change adaptation and mitigation are large components of the project. This includes large projects, such as infrastructure improvements and vegetation management, as well as smaller investments, such as the City's purchase of electric vehicles for its fleet and the purchase of air scrubbers to provide clean air spaces for the public in anticipation of increased wildfire activity partly resulting from climate change. Funding a full-time sustainability coordinator would necessitate cuts in other areas. Through the City of Larkspur's membership and staff participation in MCEP, the City tracks and shares its efforts without redirecting significant resources away from other city services, including services that involve climate change mitigation and adaptation.