

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Grand Jury Report "Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?"

Report Date: September 11, 2020

Response By: Sausalito City Council

Title: Mayor and City Council

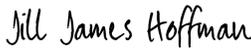
FINDINGS:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Recommendations numbered R4 and R6 have been implemented.
- Recommendations numbered R2 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
- Recommendations numbered N/A requires further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

DATED: 1/13/2021

Signed: DocuSigned by:

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 Jill James Hoffman, Mayor

ATTEST: DocuSigned by:

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 Heidi Scoble, City Clerk

Number of pages attached: 4

ATTACHMENT A: RESPONSE OF THE CITY OF SAUSALITO TO GRAND JURY REPORT "CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW WILL MARIN ADAPT?"

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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

Response: Agree in part. Marin County has one of the highest carbon footprints in the Bay Area.¹ Marin County jurisdictions have met their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions largely due to actions at the State level, and not due to actions on the part of local governments or any County initiatives. Although Sausalito, the County, and other jurisdictions and agencies have set impressive goals for reducing Greenhouse gas emissions, achieving those goals in the timeline necessary is a daunting task that must remain central to climate action countywide. 'Adaptation' efforts must start with strong 'Mitigation' – implementing effective steps to reduce the causes of the impacts of Climate Change that then require the 'adaptive' measures. State vehicle fuel efficiency, renewable portfolio standards, Title 24 energy efficiency standards, and waste reduction standards have led to local GHG reductions. However, the Marin climate action plans do not yet address consumption-based GHG emissions. Marin governments need to step up local efforts to reduce and mitigate the causes of the impacts that trigger "adaptive" measures – and with our Transportation emissions as the highest category and impact by far.

Finding 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 in part. Adaptation planning is essential, but the County should have a comprehensive approach to address climate change that integrates mitigation, adaptation, and resilience planning. An integrated response to climate change will ensure that the plans comprehensively identify issues, opportunities and costs. Planning must ensure that adaptation, as a rule, does not limit the focus and acceleration needed for mitigation and thus end up exacerbating and extending the adaptation problems and costs.

Finding 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 in part. As noted in the report, sea level rise planning should include mitigation, adaptation and also resilience. The County should not over-emphasize sea level rise planning and must also take into consideration droughts, wildfire, air pollution, landslides, and flooding.

¹ Jones, C. M, & Kammen, D. M. (2015). A Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Inventory of San Francisco Bay Area Neighborhoods, Cities and Counties: Prioritizing Climate Action for Different Locations. UC Berkeley. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2sn7m83z>

Finding 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: Agree. As noted above, the efforts should be comprehensive across mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

Finding 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. Adaptation is very expensive and, without largescale state and federal funding to supplement local efforts, smaller jurisdictions may simply not be in a position to design and implement adaptation projects/programs in the timeframe necessary for addressing the imposing climate challenge. Unfortunately, this is also exacerbated by the fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finding 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: Agree. Marin lacks any county-wide organization or governance structure to facilitate adaptation efforts. In addition, Marin needs an overarching organization and governance structure to facilitate, scale, and accelerate mitigation and resilience efforts as well.

Recommendation 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: The City of Sausalito believes we must address adaptation and mitigation together not separately. The Task Force should be charged with more than adaptation planning and mitigation, striving for a comprehensive plan for the county to draw down more carbon than it emits.

The City agrees that a multi-jurisdictional task force should be formed, in collaboration with agencies and regional groups, and charged with developing a single, comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategy for all of Marin County with assistance from an Office of Sustainability and Resilience. The plan should address all climate impacts, including flooding, sea level rise, wildfire, heat, drought, health, air quality, and additional results of warming conditions. The recommendation requires further analysis into the cost and opportunities for near-term funding at the level required to avoid much larger costs in the future. The task force should draw upon the expertise and work of ongoing efforts like BayWAVE, C-SMART, the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. To assure integration of the specific concerns of the Sausalito

community into this countywide process, we urge you to initiate the local adaptation planning actions needed across the county and per the City's Climate Action Plan.

The Board of Supervisors can complement the countywide task force by completing formation of DRAWDOWN Marin to provide countywide leadership to achieve the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions and a thriving community, and to assure that government and community initiatives throughout the county take place within a comprehensive framework for addressing climate change. DRAWDOWN Marin is designed to be broad-based and inclusive. It is comprised of community, agency and elected leaders, including members from climate-vulnerable and other underrepresented communities, businesses, Marin Climate & Energy Partnership, the Board of Supervisors, Council of Mayors & Councilmembers, key agency directors, and others. It is ideally suited to foster the countywide collaboration needed to address both climate mitigation and climate impacts.

Further, we ask that you urge the Board to staff and support the Resilience Task Force within a consolidated multi-departmental and multi-disciplinary Climate and Resilience Team in the County Administrator's Office (R-2), bringing together staff expertise to implement climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, including these additional key tasks:

- Initiation of a Flood District Feasibility Study to assess broadening the district's governance to include all jurisdictions and broadening its scope to include sea level rise.
- Ongoing improvement and implementation of the County's Climate Action Plan.
- Coordination and implementation of climate-related programs throughout County government, including Public Works, Open Space, Community Development, Health & Human Services, and others.
- Continued support for core DRAWDOWN Marin capacities, including start-up fundraising, outreach, and administrative support.

The City of Sausalito supports a multi-jurisdictional collaboration to update local hazard plans in response to Senate Bill 379 similar to the effort to update local hazard mitigation plans in 2019 and in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Recommendation 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: The City of Sausalito is committed to working to strengthen funding and organizational support for the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership (MCEP), including its proposed role on the Board of DRAWDOWN Marin, to increase assistance to cities and towns in implementing coordinated Climate Action Plans and programs throughout the county, addressing both climate protection ('mitigation') and climate resilience ('adaptation'). We urge you to express the priority the City places on coordinated climate solutions by scheduling regular staff updates on its participation in MCEP.

To help support the broadened MCEP scope and capacity, the City endorses a centralized grant-seeking function for climate protection and resilience within the Office of Climate and Resilience (R3), as well as consideration of pro-rata distribution to all jurisdictions of a portion of funds derived from any future measures enacted to support climate protection and resilience.

Recommendation 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 is being implemented. The City of Sausalito has a very small staff team, and therefore does not have a part or full time sustainability coordinator. However, the City has a Sustainability Commission that is very actively involved in development of the plans to deliver climate solutions, based on the City's Climate Action Plan and Low Emissions Action Plan which are now integrated into the City's draft General Plan. The City has not funded a full-time sustainability coordinator due to budget constraints but will rely on the City's Sustainability Commission working closely with the County as outlined in this response, leveraging County programs and initiatives for Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience. The City will benefit from County support of a staff sustainability coordinator to allow us to leverage other public as well as private funding sources to implement recommendations in our climate and emissions reductions plans.

The City's Sustainability Commission can be tasked to monitor and report on the City's mitigation and adaptation efforts. However, the Sustainability Commission is comprised of all volunteers and the City currently has very limited staff availability to seek funding sources and implement the wide range of mitigation and adaptation programs urgently needed. The City supports a centralized grant-seeking function for climate protection and resilience within the County government. Any future measures enacted to support climate protection and resilience should consider funding local jurisdiction efforts to carry out local actions.

In closing, the City of Sausalito asks the Grand Jury and to other jurisdictions the importance of engaging the skills and resources of the business community by requesting the ongoing involvement of Marin Recovers, Marin Economic Forum, and other business interests in addressing climate solutions, in addition to the proposed role of business on the Board of DRAWDOWN Marin. The rapid development of a local clean energy economy, green building rehabilitation, regenerative agriculture and land management, and workforce development for adaptation strategies could be crucial to the current economic recovery.

Likewise, the efficiencies gained from the recommended consolidation and coordination of climate actions throughout Marin could be especially important during these challenging times of health, economic, budgetary, equity, and climate crises.