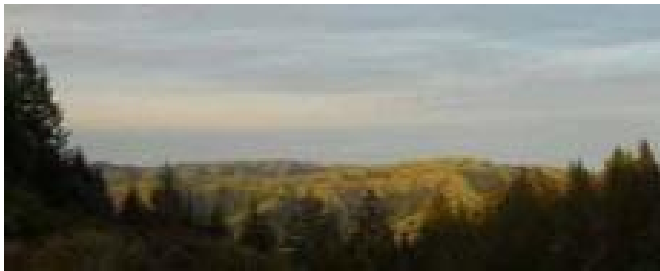




APRIL NEWSLETTER

LAGUNITAS CREEK TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The Planning Group has been a member of TAC since the late 1990's. Recently TAC sent a letter praising Taylor Park staff for their quick work to ensure that a large tree that fell in the Park was left intact so that it can provide salmon habitat. The issue was discussed at the March meeting and the committee was unanimous in its appreciation of their actions. Not too long ago woody debris in the creek was "cleaned out" without realizing that it has essential benefits for salmon. Today, we see woody debris being carefully managed as important habitat while also ensuring safety and park aesthetics for park visitors.



COMMUNITY - SALMON LAND TRUST C-SALT

In March, Doug Karpa of the Turtle Island Restoration Network made a presentation to the Planning Group requesting support for C-SALT, the Community- Salmon Land Trust which is a concept proposed by Turtle Island Restoration Network. The Planning Group Steering Committee reviewed it and unanimously endorsed it.

C-SALT seeks to:

- (1) protect and restore streamside habitat in the San Geronimo Valley (SGV);
- (2) help preserve SGV rural character by maintaining modest home sizes;
- (3) create affordable homes; and
- (4) create additional environmental benefits such as sequestering carbon, reducing stormwater runoff, providing additional habitat for wildlife, and upgrading septic systems.

Here's how it works: When existing homes along San Geronimo Creek are placed up for sale by an owner, C-SALT would compete in the normal housing marketplace with other buyers to purchase the home. If successful in purchasing, C-SALT would make any needed improvements to septic systems, install home energy and water efficiency improvements, re-create a forested

buffer along the creek and put the homes back up for sale. The homes would be sold to families who otherwise cannot afford to purchase Marin-market priced homes (like many of our children) using several innovative mechanisms that would make the houses affordable in perpetuity using existing community land trust "tools". By combining funding from foundations and individuals with diverse interests in either environmental protection or creating affordable housing, C-SALT draws from two separate potential pools of funding to purchase properties and make necessary improvements.

The homes would be put back on the market for sale, but the land would remain the property of the C-SALT. This would significantly reduce the cost of purchasing the home, as the new owner would not be purchasing the land. This legal separation of homes from the land on which they sit is a common strategy used by various community land trusts throughout the US, including in West Marin by CLAM, the Community Land Trust Alliance of West Marin (see <http://clam-ptreyes.org> <<http://clam-ptreyes.org>>). Permanent legal covenants placed on the home would prevent enlarging the existing footprint (maintaining modest rural character of SGV) and protect habitat improvements, but allow the new owner to eventually sell the home at a profit (assuming home prices continue to rise), but capping the amount of profit to ensure the home can be sold to a new family that otherwise could not afford to purchase a home in Marin at normal market rates, thus allowing the home to stay "affordable" in perpetuity.

This project aims to bring together diverse interests and sources of funding from supporters of affordable housing, habitat restoration, endangered species protection, and those working to address climate change. This is a long-term (25-50 year) project that can buy homes as they are voluntarily placed on the market. No "property rights" of current owners would be violated, they would be free to sell their homes to whomever they want. C-SALT would be just like any other individual competing in the marketplace and attempting to purchase homes that are for sale. While this is a long-term plan, it can begin with a relatively modest influx in funds, and grow one house at a time.



SAMUEL P. TAYLOR PARK *HIRING SEASONAL HELP*****

Looking for a short term job? How about spending the summer in the redwoods? Taylor Park is hiring seasonal help for full time work that will most likely last from now into October.

Contact: Ranger Mary Hazel emailmhazel@parks.ca.gov or phone her at the Park: 415 488-9897



LAGUNITAS STATION

Shout out for new businesses.
Those empty spaces are filling up!



ARTI'S RESTAURANT – a favorite among locals is expanding into adjacent space left vacant when Dr. Kong moved his dental practice to San Anselmo.

THE WESTERN GATE - Community movie night

(big screen & surround sound); lectures; poetry. Check them out at www.cultureofpermaculture.org for information about upcoming screenings, classes and events or send an email to

westerngate.common@gmail.com

MASSAGE THERAPIST Nicol Moorgan, CMT, NMT, LMT has moved her Southern Marin business to an office above Arti's so she can be nearer home and friends. She can be reached at 415-250-2002.

CHIROPRACTOR Dr. Jasmine Therese Bruce, DC. A new resident Chiropractor will be sharing space with Moorgan.

QIGONG THERAPIST Denise Aubin. Certificated. To learn more about the practice of Qigong, please visit www.danceofqigong.com <<http://www.danceofqigong.com/>> or call 415-389-8707

LANDOWNER'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - ALIVE AND WELL!

On April 6, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved funding for four salmon enhancement projects.

The following letter was in support of the Dept. of Public Works request.

Dear Board of Supervisors
We are writing in support of the following Public Works request that is on your agenda today:

Public Works: Request to (i) authorize President to execute agreement with Stillwater Sciences, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$93,930, to complete design and engineering for four salmon enhancement projects in the San Geronimo Valley; and (ii) approve related budget actions as detailed in staff report dated April 7, 2015.

The Planning Group's 3-way partnership with the Dept. of Public Works and Univ. of CA Extension on the Landowner's Assistance Program was a first for the Planning Group. And it was a success. To see salmon enhancement projects in the works now, ready for final design and engineering, that grew out of that effort is more than gratifying.

We are especially pleased that Stillwater Sciences, Inc has been recommended to complete the design and engineering for these DPW projects. They are the firm that in 2009 submitted their science based final report entitled San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan Existing Conditions. That report has also been used by the Open Space Dist. to plan projects that improve trails in the Giacomini Preserve so that sediment loads that impact San Geronimo Creek are reduced. It is one of the best investments you have made.

Sincerely,
Linda Nave, Chair



6TH ANNUAL LITTER CLEAN UP PRESCRIPTION DRUGS DROP OFF SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015, SGV Community Center

Come to the Community Center to be assigned a section of road and obtain a safety vest, grabbers and plastic bags. Pick up the litter on your section of road, and return the vest, grabber and bagged litter to the Community Center. The litter will be sorted and all recyclables will be disposed of properly.

And since you're coming down bring your unused and unwanted prescription drugs to the SGV Community Center between 9 – 1pm.

SAN GERONIMO VALLEY PLANNING GROUP WOODACRE FLATS SUPPORT LETTER – 2010 HISTORICAL NOTE

In late 2009 Liza Crosse, representing the Woodacre Flats Watershed Group (WFWG), requested a letter of support from the Planning Group for a feasibility study that would help these homeowners with septic problems due to the high water table. We are the only Valley group that sent a letter in January 2010 supporting this study. Here is the letter:

January 30, 2010
Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Steve Kinsey

Dear Supervisor Kinsey,
The San Geronimo Valley Planning Group strongly supports the grassroots effort in Woodacre to investigate solutions to the problem of failing septic systems on the "flats" of Woodacre.

We endorse the proposed feasibility study, and commend the County Environmental Health Division for its assistance. We also thank you for providing matching funds to support this study, and urge you to continue your efforts to help raise the additional \$13,000 needed to complete the funding for this project.

The Planning Group looks forward to reviewing the results of this feasibility study. We will monitor this effort to be sure that recommendations conform to the goals and objectives of the Community Plan, resolve safety and health issues and will not impact Valley streams or increase the residential footprint.

Sincerely,
Jean Berensmeier, Chairperson

Over the last five years this project has morphed into something entirely different than what the Planning Group supported when asked for a letter. Regretfully, the Valley wide community has been unaware of the direction the project was taking. The March 30 Planning Group Presentation brought out over 160 Valley residents – 70% (raised hand count) of those present knew nothing about the EIR and sewer proposal. The purpose of the PG presentation was to educate and inform and we will continue to do that.

THE DROUGHT AND NEW WATER RESTRICTIONS

Under the leadership of Governor Brown the State Water Resources Control Board set new rules in March that local water districts are preparing to take action on. Here's the situation in Marin

- Marin depends on rain not snowmelt. Right now the MMWD reservoirs are 94% full – 2% more than average. But Dan Carney, water conservation manager for MMWD warns that those figures present a false sense of security. He warned that Marin's reservoirs are not large. They fill fast and empty fast. There is never more than a 2 year supply. Consequently, we need to continue to

conserve as much as possible. The water board just approved the following two new regulations:

- Limited the use of irrigation systems to 3 days a week at home and at businesses.
 - Banned using irrigation systems 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- The two new regulations above join the following water waste prohibitions already existing:
- Irrigating between 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., except for system testing and repair
 - Using a hose without a shutoff nozzle
 - * Allowing irrigation water to runoff or overspray the irrigated area
 - Hosing down sidewalks, driveways, and other hard-surfaced areas
 - Using non-recirculating decorative fountains

Governor Brown announced last week that all water agencies must cut water use by 25%.

Statewide rules already in place include:

- Places where food and drink are served are banned from serving water unless the customer requests it.
- Hotels/motels are required to have signs in rooms telling guests they have the option of choosing not to have towels and linens washed daily.



MARINE SANCTUARIES EXPANDED

A new federal law which was made final in the Federal Register expands Gulf of the Farallones from 1,279 square miles to 3,293 square miles. The Cordell Bank increases from 529 square miles to 1,286 square miles. This law will extend the boundaries of these sanctuaries north to Sonoma and Mendocino counties and westward off Marin's coast. Congressman Jared Huffman stated that, "Expanding these two sanctuaries to more than double in size, will protect a 350 mile band of ocean from drilling and other risky activities." The IJ noted that this will protect a rich feeding area for 25 threatened and endangered species including blue whales and humpback whales, northern fur seals and leatherback turtles. The area is home to a third of the world's whales and dolphins, more than 163 species of birds and more than 300 species of fish. Food in the area supports the largest assemblage of breeding seabirds in the US on the Farallon Islands. Thanks go to retired former Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey who pushed for this back in the late 1990's. The effort was kept alive by Barbara Boxer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

TICK SEASON

Tick season has started- What is the status of Lyme disease in the San Geronimo Valley? Are there areas in SGV or anywhere in Marin that are considered hot spots where residents and/or hikers should be aware that extra protection should be worn?

Tick season is actually year-round in both Marin and Sonoma counties. The minimum infection rate in adult ticks for Marin and Sonoma counties is 2.3%-3.0% respectively with the minimum infection rate in nymphs is 3.9% and 4.7% respectively. With that being said, residents should take preventative measure against ticks each and every time they enter tick habit.

Here are best preventative measure to take:

Before entering tick habitat, take the following precautions:

- § Consider applying an effective tick repellent to exposed skin.
- § Consider treating clothes/personal outdoor equipment with an acaricide containing permethrin.
- § Wear light-colored clothing (this makes it easier to spot ticks).
- § Wear long pants, long sleeves, and long socks whenever possible (this makes it more difficult for the tick to get to your skin).

While in tick habitat:

- § Stay on trails (adult ticks are typically more abundant on the uphill sides of trails).
- § Avoid contact with nymph habitat (leaf litter, logs, tree trunks, etc.).
- § Periodically check for ticks on people and animals.

After exiting tick habitat:

- § Wash all clothes in hot water and dry on high heat.
- § Shower after coming indoors and carefully check for ticks.
- § Properly remove any attached ticks immediately (please see our tick brochure for proper removal technique).

Tick Testing

If you, or a loved one, is bitten by a tick and wish to have it identified (*Ixodes pacificus* seems to be the tick of most concern) and tested for *Borrelia burgdorferi* Lyme disease spirochete, you can take it to The Marin County Public Health Lab.

3260 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael, CA.

The fee for tick testing is \$20. Phone: (415) 473-4400
Ticks should be kept intact and moist. Wrap in a slightly damp paper towel and enclose in a plastic bag. A tick cannot be tested that is dried out or missing critical body parts. You should receive a lab report with a week.

LOCAL OTTERS MAKE GOOD!

PG member Megan Isadore, Executive Director of the River Otter Ecology Project, is celebrating the publication of their first paper that includes a census of Marin river otters. Check their website and Facebook page for more information: www.riverotterecology.org
www.facebook.com/BayAreaOtters

CERT TRAINING

Nicasio May 16

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The cost is \$45 and includes a backpack, goggles, helmet and an identification card upon completion. There are scholarships available to cover the course fee. Check www.marincountycert.org for registration, meeting times, additional classes and other information.

\$1 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS BENEFITS COHO SALMON

Hearty congratulations to SPAWN, MMWD and the Marin Resource Conservation District for the four grants awarded in March by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program to benefit our fish in the Lagunitas watershed. These grants are especially good news given that coho salmon in the Lagunitas watershed have been said to be on the "verge of extinction." Federal officials have a recovery target of 2,600 fish in Marin's system. The most fish seen since 2000 was 625 in the winter of 2004-05. The 2014/15 season saw roughly 300 in county creeks and streams and very few in the San Geronimo Valley.

Here's the scoop on the grants:

SPAWN – This grant will improve the flood plain and stream habitat in San Geronimo Creek, which runs through the golf course. They will design a plan to restore historical flood plains along the creek and create side channels and backwaters that provide juvenile endangered coho salmon with a place to rest before they go out to sea. Wood structures to create deep pools will be placed in the creek. They have received complete cooperation from the Golf Course owners on previous projects and continue a cooperative and friendly relationship.

SPAWN - Their second grant will enhance riparian habitat at the former Redi-mix concrete plant along Lagunitas Creek, near the confluence with Nicasio Creek. They will remove an unused parking lot and create 12,000 square feet of riparian habitat. 1,000 trees will be planted and invasive plants will be removed throughout a one-mile stretch downstream of the plant to help restore a forested area.

MMWD – A grant for placing several wood structures in lower Lagunitas Creek to improve flood plain habitat for young and adult salmon.

Note: The three grants above total \$665,000.

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DIST. – Will receive a \$344,000 grant to implement sediment control plans at 31 sites and along 3.25 miles of road to prevent sediment from entering Lagunitas Creek, which can smother fish nests and degrade water quality.

Interview with MSMVCD

Marin Sonoma Mosquito Vector Control District

Why were ballots sent to all property owners? and why is it important to vote?

Ballots were sent to all property owners because the proposed measure is being conducted under Proposition 218 law which requires the local government to have a vote of the affected property owners regarding a proposed assessment. Voting is at the property owner's discretion.

If someone wanted to vote but has either lost or recycled their Ballot, what should they do?

Residents may contact our office for a replacement ballot. Thursday, April 9th is that last day replacement ballots will be mailed out to property owners. This is to ensure property owners receive the ballots prior to the Public Hearing on April 15, 2015. However, residents can receive replacement ballots at the Public Hearing on April 15th.

My life has been greatly improved due to the good work of Jeff and Chris treating the septic tanks in my neighborhood. How many septic tanks (approx.) are treated per year in the Valley?

In the San Geronimo Valley there are currently 182 known sources of mosquito production of which 28 are septic tanks.

What chemical is used to treat mosquito infestations in septic tanks in the San Geronimo Valley?

The materials that can be used in septic tanks include methoprene, a larvicide oil (e.g. BVA or CocoBear) or a bacterial larvicide (e.g. Bacillus sphaericus) depending on which stage the mosquito is within its life cycle. Only larvicide oils can be used with mosquitoes are in the pupal stage. There may be times when an adulticide must be used to control adult mosquito populations that have already hatched

Recently it came to our attention that Stinson Beach, Bolinas, Olema and Pt. Reyes may have formed a District, so to speak, within the MSMVCD designating that only 'green' sources may be used in treating for mosquitoes. Is this true and, as a part of West Marin, is the San Geronimo Valley included? If not, what should we do to request inclusion? What are the pros and cons of converting to the 'green' source?

It is true that we do have a separate agreement with West Marin. The San Geronimo Valley is a part of our original District and is not included within the West Marin boundaries as per the 2004 District annexation. We do, however employ the same Integrated Vector Management Plan and principles throughout both counties.

MSMVCD will do on site treatments for mosquitos. Are there other on site services you provide for rat control, yellow jackets, ticks?

Free delivery of mosquitofish for permanent ponds or water features.

Treatment of in-ground yellowjacket nests only. Residents must first locate the nest.

Residents may call for rodent advice or to schedule an inspection. We provide information regarding trapping and exclusion methods. We do not advocate the use of rodenticides.

School presentations are available for grades K-8 throughout the school year.

Tell us about the Bug Blog.

The Bug Blog is on the homepage of our website (see the right hand column). Yes, we still offer insect identification services to the public. You can find the link to our Insect Identification Request Form by clicking on the Programs & Services tab on our home page. The Insect Identification link will take you to a downloadable form that gives details on how to submit a specimen.

VALLEY OBSERVATIONS



Linda, Lagunitas.

A few weeks ago I arrived home after a particularly hard day at work to an amazing wild critter treat. Four steelhead were swimming back and forth under my foot bridge which crosses the San Geronimo Creek. I wish my photos were better. I was able to take a great video! I sat down and watched them for over an hour. A pair of Merganser's were also present. They like to work their way up stream in the afternoon.

Not to be left out of the fun a pair of Mallards flew in for a splash landing. The male was pretty talkative. He looked up at me and made little quack sounds. I think others may have feed him in the past so perhaps he was hoping I'd toss down some bread crumbs. The Mallards hung out for quite a while. They didn't seem to even notice the Steelhead whirling around.



VALLEY OBSERVATIONS

Linda, Lagunitas. On my morning walks lately we have some squirrels who are having the best time teasing my dog Addy. The first squirrel greets us on the Mountain View bridge. I've named her Bongo Betty. She thumps her front paws on the bridge then zips up the nearest tree. Addy flips out- man! she does air born summersaults causing me to hold tight to her leash. Betty bounces from tree to tree as we walk, mocking Addy with her antics till we get part way up the hill. Apparently squirrels have territories, because a new fellow takes over at the same location each day. He stops Betty in her tracks. Looks down at Addy and begins jumping from tree to tree as we walk. I don't know how Addy manages to twirl and jump while going uphill- it's quite the work out for me too! I've named this guy Tom Tom (of course). After we reach the top of the hill Tom Tom waves good bye and our walk is pretty quiet till we get to the bottom of Lagunitas Road. That's where we meet up with Ed. A big fat squirrel who steps out on the telephone wire and safely watches Addy completely wig out. I'm so lucky she doesn't bark at them!

Jean, Lagunitas. Well, the feisty little Rufous hummingbirds have arrived right on schedule and, as usual, do their intimidating little dance to scare the larger resident Anna hummingbirds away from the six feeding perches on the hummingbird feeder outside my office window. They are really scrappy, yet beautiful, as they spread out that beautiful orange striped tail. I have never seen so many hummingbirds at the feeder before. Is there less food for them because of the drought? Less water? I wonder. There are anywhere from 10-12 feeding most of the day. Lee and I put up a second feeder on the other side of the house next to the kitchen and that one empties quickly too. They finish seven cups of sugar water before the day is over. I've run out of sugar twice — never happened before. Off to the store . . .

LARNER SEEDS OPEN HOUSE.

Sunday, April 19, from 12 to 4 pm.

Garden Tours at 1 and 2:30

"Open House at Lerner Seeds," Part of the CNPS Celebration of Native Plant Week.

Lerner Seeds is proud to announce that artist, musician, and faithful Lerner Seeds employee Jeff Manson will be leading tours for this special Open House. Jeff has been filling orders, coddling seed grow-outs, working in our design department, and bringing in lots of young people. Occasionally, he writes a song about our work, such as one pointing out the differences between the horticultural and the wild forms of farewell-to-spring, *Clarkia amoena*. It's about time this was the subject of a song!

We know you will enjoy Jeff's informative take on the various garden features at Lerner Seeds. The Garden Shop, Nursery, and Demonstration Garden will all be open & available, with some native snacks as well (Editor's Note- the snacks are delicious and nutritious!). Come join us. Directions are at LernerSeeds.com.

Gardening During the Drought

It's spring, yeah!, time to jump into the garden and start pulling weeds and planting---ummm what? It's hard to plan the garden when we are headed into strict water rationing. Carefully consider your choices. Native plants are always a good. For inspiration I enjoy attending the **Open House at Lerner Seeds** in Bolinas - see Note- and it's always a treat to participate in Native plant week.



California Native Plant Week, April 11-19

The Marin Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has planned an exciting week of activities promoting California native plants. For more information see cnpsmarin.org/nativeplantweek.

Our vegetable garden is in Forest Knolls. It gets sun, but not too much. This is important because for years now we've grown strong healthy tomato crops using very little water. Our technique also addresses another side of nature in that we have gophers and various moles in abundance. First step, go to West End nursery (or any nursery might due) and off the left end of the parking lot are large planting containers for free. We cut out the bottom and added wire, then buried them in the garden. Next we added excellent composted soil and planted the tomatoes in the buried containers and watered to establish the plant, and then stop watering... Yes, you read me correctly. Less water forces the plant to flower and produce fruit. We water sparingly late in the day only once or twice (if it's been really hot) a week during the growing season. We've found that the tomatoes will be smaller but packed with flavor! Because of the drought we will be planting a smaller number of plants.

If you have techniques that are tried and true please share. Send to lagunitaslinda@gmail.com

VALLEY LIZZARD

Eric Morey has provided the photos of the Valley and this great little guy giving us the eye! Thank you Eric



GRAYWATER

New! For a limited time, MMWD is offering rebates up to \$50 on laundry-to-landscape graywater system components. Graywater is untreated household waste water which has not come into contact with toilet waste.

This includes used water from:

Bathtubs, Showers, Bathroom wash basins, Clothes washing machines and Laundry tubs

Graywater does not include:

Waste water from kitchen sinks, Waste water from dishwashers, Laundry water from soiled diapers

Additional information on graywater can be found by visiting the MMWD Graywater Links page.

To learn what is legal in Marin County go to <http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/environmental-health-services/graywater-systems>

Here you can download the 'Simple Graywater Notification Form' required for putting in a Laundry to Landscape system. The permit is free. There are tabs that will lead you to schematics of 'Simple Systems' and notes on how to size your system.

The SGVPG worked hard to establish Residential Graywater Codes. First in 2007 we attended public hearings in Sacramento at The Department of Housing and Urban Development providing input for wording of what is now a part of the California State Plumbing Code. We contacted Steve Kinsey for a letter of support and he jumped right in, made a huge Graywater splash, which helped to change what were insanely archaic codes.

State Codes can be interpreted by municipalities and areas of unincorporated Counties; while these entities are bound to enforce the minimum of the Code they are at liberty to create Ordinances that enforce the Code at a stricter level. After meeting with the Marin County Building Department it became clear that they needed guidance from the BOS in order to change some of the stricter ordinances we already had on our books. Steve came through for us again directing the Marin County Department of Public Works to write the Marin County Graywater Ordinance. SGVPG was asked to contribute to the wording of the Ordinance. Our wording was adopted. So good Valley-ites, go forth and Graywater!

SGV PLANNING GROUP NEWSLETTER

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- Please provide May Newsletter submissions by:
Thurs. April 30th, 2015

PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Please urge a friend or neighbor to join us.

\$15 Single, \$25 Family, \$0 Over 65 and under 21

Make your check out to SGVPG and mail to:

P. O. Box 57, Forest Knolls, CA 94933

* "This is the last place. There is nowhere else to go." -- Lou Welch

This line, always at the top of our agenda, is an excerpt taken from a poem by Lou Welch that was included in the extraordinary document "Can the Last Place Last?" which, in the late '60's laid the ground work for the unique County Wide Plan that was adopted in 1972 and created zoning, policies, codes & regulations that has served to preserve major parts of Marin from inappropriate development.

