The mission of the Marin Conservation League is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.
The Marin Conservation League Board of Directors is pleased to bring to you its Annual Report for 2009, which highlights the League’s activities during the year. The League’s 75th anniversary, 2009, was a special year. Three-quarters of a century after MCL’s founding in 1934, three lessons continue to hold true:

1) The strategies, tactics, and tools to protect land and the environment that were championed by the League’s founders are as relevant in 2009 as they were in 1934!

2) Constant vigilance is essential, as old issues persist, often for years, and new issues arise.

3) Members and supporters of MCL are the backbone of the organization—without you, MCL could not continue to carry out its mission!

The calendar of activities for 2009, featured on pages 3 through 5, shows the diversity and scope of issues that occupied MCL’s attention. What is listed there, however, is but the tip of an iceberg: each item represents research, field visits, analysis, meetings, discussions, public testimony, and myriad communications by our volunteers. Our web site, marinconservationleague.org, was completely redesigned in 2009 and now gives you current, updated information on issues as they arise and on MCL’s responses. Our Newsletter continued five times last year to bring you in-depth articles about current issues and events. And we lived up to our promise to use e-mail and "snail mail" judiciously to bring you special alerts and announcements.

The pages of the 2009 Annual Report limited the number of contributors that could be listed. Please know that you all are MCL supporters, no matter how large or small the contribution you are able to make. And our thanks go out to all of you for your support! With your help, MCL will continue to serve the environment of Marin on your behalf.

**Nona B. Dennis**

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### Statement of Activities

**January 1 to December 31, 2009 (Prepared from MCL Records)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted (Operations)</th>
<th>Temp. Restricted (Projects/Dedic’t)</th>
<th>Board Restricted (Legacy / Land)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$ 72,955</td>
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<td>$ 72,955</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>$ 29,440</td>
<td>$ 93,127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events &amp; Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$ 18,966</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support</strong></td>
<td>$ 155,608</td>
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<td>$185,048</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividend Income</td>
<td>$ 4,654</td>
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<td>$ 27,753</td>
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<td>Project Management Fees</td>
<td>$ 878</td>
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<td>Sales of Inventory less costs</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$ 53</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$ 5,676</td>
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<td>$ 27,753</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transfers</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer: LOL to Operations</td>
<td>$ 70,540</td>
<td>-$ 70,540</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer: Operations to LOL</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>$ 27,196</td>
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<td>$ 0</td>
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<td><strong>Total Transfers</strong></td>
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<td>-$ 27,196</td>
<td>-$ 70,540</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support, Revenue &amp; Transfers</strong></td>
<td>$ 259,021</td>
<td>$ 2,244</td>
<td>-$ 42,787</td>
<td>$218,478</td>
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**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted (Operations)</th>
<th>Temp. Restricted (Projects/Dedic’t)</th>
<th>Board Restricted (Legacy / Land)</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$ 204,775</td>
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<td>$ 204,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$ 37,953</td>
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<td>$ 37,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>$ 50,004</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Results from operations</td>
<td>-$ 33,711</td>
<td>$ 2,244</td>
<td>-$ 42,787</td>
<td>-$ 74,254</td>
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<td>Investment Gain, Realized &amp; Unrealized</td>
<td>$ 30,033</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>$ 213,129</td>
<td>$ 243,162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Equity</td>
<td>-$ 3,678</td>
<td>$ 2,244</td>
<td>$ 170,343</td>
<td>$ 168,908</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity, Start of 2009</strong></td>
<td>$ 291,802</td>
<td>$ 68,431</td>
<td>$ 1,018,919</td>
<td>$ 1,379,152</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity, Year End 2009</strong></td>
<td>$ 288,123</td>
<td>$ 70,675</td>
<td>$ 1,189,261</td>
<td>$ 1,548,059</td>
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This statement summarizes MCL’s financial results for the 2009 calendar year for each of the funds maintained by MCL and for the organization as a whole. The figures are taken from MCL’s books and records and are unaudited. The financial data are organized into three classes: The Unrestricted (Operations) Fund supports the income and expense reflecting MCL’s environmental advocacy programs. The Temporarily Restricted class records MCL’s management of more than seven separate funds that are dedicated to specific projects or uses. The Board Restricted class records the income and expenditures of the Legacy of the Land, MCL’s endowment fund. The income from this fund provides ongoing support for MCL’s advocacy programs.

In 2009, MCL’s results were favorably affected by improving investment values. Applicable accounting rules require MCL to adjust the value of its investments on its books to market at year-end. For 2009, there was a $243,162 increase in the value of MCL’s investment assets which was recorded as income.

Your support of MCL’s environmental work contributed to MCL’s 75 years of success. Thank you!
JANUARY
Recommended that the Whaler’s Point hotel proposal on Richardson Bay be denied due to its inconsistency with the Tamalpais Area Community Plan, Countywide Plan (CWP), and Marin County Code.
Reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the 650 N. San Pedro Road Master Plan and testified before the San Rafael Planning Commission that the proposed development would exceed current zoning, pose significant grading, tree removal, and water runoff issues, and would disturb an existing heron rookery.
Hosted a preview of “Saving the Bay”, a 4-hour documentary on the history of San Francisco Bay to be aired later on KQED.

PARKS, OPEN SPACE PRESERVES AND TRAILS
Recrational use of public parks and open space in Marin was a MCL focus in 2009 and will continue to be so in 2010. MCL helped to acquire most of Marin’s state parks and has long been a vocal supporter and protector of California’s state park system. But, in 2009, MCL objected when California Department of Parks and Recreation (“State Parks”) approved a project to convert the 3.5 mile single-track Bill’s Trail in Devil’s Gulch in Samuel P. Taylor State Park to accommodate mountain bikes. State Parks claimed the conversion was exempt from CEQA review despite the trail’s being located in steep terrain and in designated critical habitat for the endangered coho salmon. To ensure that potentially significant adverse impacts of the project on the coho were studied, MCL, supported by other environmental organizations, retained legal counsel and threatened suit. Within days, State Parks rescinded its approval of the project and dropped its claim that the project was exempt from CEQA. The Bill’s Trail conversion remains pending. In 2010, MCL will continue to work with both State Parks and Marin’s Open Space District to protect the natural resources in Marin’s parks and open spaces while finding ways to accommodate environmentally appropriate access for hikers, equestrians, and cyclists.

Commented on the inadequacies of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for MMWD’s proposed desalination plant, and recommended that the District fully test the effectiveness of conservation and efficiency programs as environmentally and economically preferable alternatives.

FEBRUARY
Encouraged the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to extend for a second year the building permit moratorium in the San Geronimo Valley, to allow time for development of a plan to restore natural stream functions and riparian habitat for the endangered coho salmon.
Toured the MMWD watershed with a District vegetation ecologist to learn about the life cycle and management of highly invasive French Broom, and the challenges facing MMWD in managing their watershed.
Submitted “scoping” comments for an EIR on Tiburon’s Easton Point, which emphasized the site’s high visibility and the need to protect endangered dwarf flax, native grasslands, and woodlands.
Administered the seventh year of a project to remove invasive plant species on the Gold Hill (behind Dominican University) and Peacock Gap areas of San Rafael.

MARCH
Submitted comments on the Town of Corte Madera’s Draft General Plan, emphasizing the need to strengthen conservation policies and protect wetlands and waterways.
Supported the Ocean Protection Council’s preparation of a Master Environmental Assessment on single-use plastic and paper bags.
Endorsed AB68 and AB87 state legislation to establish the Single-Use Carryout Bag Reduction Act and communicated our endorsement to our local legislators.

APRIL
Reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Marin Headlands and Fort Baker Transportation Infrastructure and Management Plan, urging the National Park Service to place greatest emphasis on preserving natural resources on the Marin side of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
Hosted MCL’s 75th Anniversary Annual Dinner on April 17 featuring nationally syndicated commentator Bill Press, and awarded MCL’s Peter Behr Lifetime Achievement Award to environmental journalist and author Harold Gilliam.
Opposed a Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) proposal to adopt an 800-mile network of High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes throughout the Bay Area and encouraged the MTC to disclose the effects of such lanes on vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gas reduction, and social equity.

STUDIED a private landowner’s illegal en- Continued next page
croachment onto City of San Rafael Open Space lands at 81 McNear Drive, and supported the City's denial of the landowner's request for an exemption for the encroachment.

**MAY**

Requested the County to require preparation of a Subsequent EIR for the second phase of a Lucas Film development at Grady Ranch, originally approved in the mid-1990s.

Met with the City of San Rafael and urged the City to oppose the proposed subdivision of the Canalways property to allow storage of debris boxes at a site designated as a Wetlands Conservation Area.

In a letter to the City of San Rafael, identified numerous deficiencies in the DEIR for a massive recreational facility proposed on San Rafael Airport lands, including no analysis of habitat of the endangered California clapper rail and other species along Gallinas Creek tidal marshes, traffic impacts, conflicts with the City of San Rafael General Plan, and alternative proposals.

Submitted a letter brief to the California Supreme Court in support of the Marin Flood Control and Water Conservation District's petition for review of the lower courts' decision invalidating a Ross Valley flood control assessment election.

Joined other organizations to urge Congress to adopt federal legislation that would eliminate lead from drinking water.

Made comments on the North Coast Railroad Authority Russian River Freight Rail Project DEIR, which identified unresolved issues such as direct impacts of the project's footprint, pedestrian safety, barriers to wildlife movement, noise and vibration effects on a nearby hospital, emissions from older diesel locomotives, and growth inducement.

Urged Governor Schwarzenegger to reconsider his proposal to eliminate funding for California State Parks as fiscally unsound and an inducement to illegal activities on closed park lands.

**JUNE**

Supported the County Planning Commission’s denial of the Karuna LLC (Draper) proposed Master Plan and land division in San Anselmo because of the encroachment of proposed residences into County Ridge and Upland Greenbelt, the substantial grading in a Stream Conservation Area, and failure to cluster proposed home sites.

**JULY**

Testified at the Redwood Landfill Waste Discharge Permit hearing before the Regional Water Quality Control Board, urging that an independent monitor be assigned to ensure consistency of compliance and that sufficient financial bonding be required to cover catastrophic levee failure.

Administrated funds for the seventh year of a long-term project by Friends of Bayfront Meadow, Mill Valley, to restore vegetation on Bayfront Meadow on the shoreline of Richardson Bay.

Hosted the Annual Picnic on the Porch for MCL members and their guests at the League’s office.

Opposed Senator Feinstein’s proposed rider to a federal appropriations bill that would extend Drake’s Bay Oyster Company’s right of use in the Pt. Reyes National Seashore ten years beyond its 2012 expiration date, noting that Drake’s Estero was designated a “potential wilderness” in 1976 under the Wilderness Act and that the extension would set a precedent for other, similar wilderness designations nationwide.

Participated in hearings on the County’s updated Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan, recommending that members of the public rather than County staff be appointed to the IPM Commission to avoid conflict of interest, and emphasizing that specific site characteristics rather than standardized methods should dictate how any part of the IPM ordinance is applied.

**AUGUST**

Opposed MMWD’s approval of a budget allowing for preliminary design of a desalination plant, pointing out that conservation and efficient water use are the most environmentally sound and least expensive means of securing supplemental water supply.
Commented on CalTrans’ FEIR for Highway 101 widening through the Marin-Sonoma Narrows north of Novato, voicing concerns that the report did not incorporate design exceptions and modifications that would reduce the project’s overall environmental footprint in sensitive wetland areas without causing traffic congestion or compromising safety.

Supported the County’s continued work on a San Geronimo Valley Draft Salmon Enhancement Plan (SEP) that seeks to restore viable populations of endangered coho salmon, but criticized the Plan’s heavy reliance on voluntary compliance and urged adoption of enforceable ordinances, particularly a riparian tree ordinance, to better protect stream habitat.

Testified before the County Joint Powers Authority regarding its Draft Zero Waste Strategic Plan, supporting establishment of effective zero waste programs in the County and the creation of and funding for common franchise agreements.

Organized Coastal Cleanup volunteers to clean up San Rafael’s Mahon Creek, the Starkweather Shoreline Park in east San Rafael, and Scottsdale Pond in Novato.

Submitted comments to the City of San Rafael on the FEIR for the proposed Target store on an old landfill south of Home Depot, emphasizing the requirement to address greenhouse gas emissions, impacts on the local business community, transportation issues, the possibility of leachate escape from the landfill, and need for a setback or buffer to protect wildlife movement.

Submitted testimony that the DEIR for “Alta Robles,” a 14-lot subdivision for estate-sized homes planned on Paradise Drive on the Tiburon Peninsula failed to mitigate significant impacts:

- sensitive geological and hydrological nature of the sloping site, extensive modifications required to repair 17 landslides and avoid a sensitive serpentine grassland community, visibility of residences on ridges, and other features that fail to comply with the Tiburon General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
- Testified at a scoping session for the DEIR for the proposed “Commons at Mt. Burdell” on the Fireman’s Fund site in Novato, noting areas of concern such as source of water supply, treatment and disposal of wastewater, traffic and parking impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and air quality.
- Reviewed the Negative Declaration for the Tennessee Valley/Manzanita non-motorized pathway—a constructed multi-use boardwalk—and recommended additional measures to mitigate the impacts of expanding access into sensitive wetlands and habitat of the endangered California clapper rail.
- Submitted testimony before the BOS on the certification of the FEIR for the San Rafael Rock Quarry, pointing out that numerous significant impacts of the combined reclamation plan and operating permit over the approximate 15-year life of the quarry are cumulative and have not been adequately mitigated.

November

Submitted comments on the County’s draft Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) Ordinance, recognizing the desirability of clean energy but emphasizing the need to minimize wind power facilities’ effects on wildlife, and mitigate safety, visual, and noise impacts on neighbors.

Submitted EIR scoping comments on the County’s proposal to build a new Emergency Operations Facility across from the Civic Center and called for the EIR to thoroughly analyze alternative sites with fewer impacts on existing neighborhoods and on the architectural and cultural integrity of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Civic Center.

December

Urged various City Councils to continue their support of the Marin Energy Authority and Marin Clean Energy program, and urged the City of Novato, without success, to join the joint powers authority.

Collected a barrel of donated food for the Marin Community Food Bank during MCL’s annual Holiday party.

Continued to appraise the Highway 101 Greenbrae Corridor Improvement Project planning process by offering detailed suggestions to Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin on the scope of the project DEIR.
Gifts of $1,000+
Winifred and Harry B. Allen Foundation
Anonymous
Catherine Amaparano
Arntz Family Foundation
Brian Ashe and Cynthia J. Rigatti
Bank of Marin
Jean and Lee Berensmeier
Robert Blitzer and Xenery
Bunker & Company LLP
David and Claudia Chittenden
County of Marin
Carson Cox and Deborah Haase
Cox Family Fund
Nona Dennis
Joseph Donner, III
Kenneth Drexler and Sarah Leach
William Eastman
Dixon and Barbara Farley
Fred Gellert Family Foundation
Joanne and Peter E. Haas, Jr. Fund
Clara-Belle L. Hamilton Core Trust
Kathy and Rick Lowrey
Marin Horse Council
Marin Sanitary Service
Ron Miska
Redwood Landfill, Inc.
Bruce Scott and Trudie Behr Scott
Mick and Alison Seaman
Greg Shutkin
Sierra Club Marin Group
Marion and Willis Slusser
Jean Starkweather
Tamalpais Conservation Club
Rex Wolf

Gifts of $250-$499
Kathleen Abbott and Brannon Ketcham
Thomas Allen, Jr.
Bellam Self Storage and Boxes
Charles Broussard and Phoebe Moyer
Carla Buchanan
Anne and John Busted
Elise R. Carr
Chevron Humankind Program
The Cooper Foundation
Katherine Cecrellus
Robert and Katherine Cuneo
Don Dickenson and Doug Lee
Bruce Dodge and Wendy Wyse
Leona and Gerald Feikert
Fischer Family Fund
Barbara Ford
Margot Fraser Fund
Gary Giacomini
Jonathan Goerke and Cynthia Lamar
Alfred Heller
Paul Helikier
Terry Houlihan
iReuse Fund
David Jones and Intra Vodopals Warren Lefort
John Liddell
Pete and Doris Lindfors
James and Pamela Lloyd
Paula Lucchesi
Richard and Catherine MacDonald
MCP Fuel Co.
Edward Middleton
Sue Missimer
Susan and Dennis Moritz
Susanne Oberlin
Peter and Ellen Obstler
Carol Olwell
Edward and Christine O’Neill
Edith Pitch
Brenda and Douglas Redfern
Michael Ring
Peter and Judith Sager
Robert and Dorene Schiro
Noel and Janetta Shumway
Susan and Robert Spotz
Kaye Werdegar

Gifts of $500-$999
Deborah and Arthur Ablin Family Fund
Janet Allen
Sarah Allen and Dudley Miller
Angel Island Association
Jean and Stuart Brown
Michael and Priscilla Bull
Ira Chin and Michelle Passero
Nancy Danielson
Michael Deverell
David and Erin Elliott
Mary and Gordon Feller
Bruce Fullerton and Antonina Markoff
Edward Gaston and Lori Zager
Sallie and Richard Griffith
Jan Hamrin and Timothy Rosenfeld
Cordy Hill
Katharine Johnson
Jack Krystal
Edward Mittelstaedt
Nardell Chitsaz & Associates
Pacific Union Real Estate Group
Bill and Carol Press
Richard Robbins
Roger and Dorothy Roberts
Molly and Max Schardt
Seagate Properties, Inc.
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
Larry and Grace Smith
Effie Westervelt
Steve and Chris Wilsey
Catherine Burford
Raymond Burgarella
Mary Buttaro
Helen Kennedy Cahill
Patricia Callahan and David Dee
William C. Callender
Donna Cameron
Tymber and Derek Cavasian
Mark Christian and Angela Stevens
Deborah and Bruce Clark
Joyce Clements, Lucy Reid and Susan Robinson
Helga and Terrence Comerford
Nora Contini and John Franklin
Crystal Cox and James Psyksaty
Idgi D’Arenda
Philip Darney and Uta Landy
Peter Davis
J. Brian DeVanty
Ethel and Vincent DeMaio
Charles and Liz Dennis
Thomas Dicker
Karen and Ferenc Dobrońy
Faye D’Opal and Warden Treanor
Carol and Columbus Duffy
Heather English
Mollie Eschen
Jules Evans
Anne Everest and James Kennedy
William Evens
Kit Everts
Phyllis Faber
Charles Flank
Anne and B. Mason Fleming, Jr.
Cynthia Flinn and Gary Oates
Lonnie Fogel
Robert Fordham
Frank Howard Allen Realtors
Alice Frederick
Thomas and Sally Freed
Michael Freeman
Esther and David Frey
Brook and Allison Fuller
Heather Furmidge
Kathryn Gallagher
Gardener’s Guild
Sandra Gartzman and John Judkins
Barbara George
Kay Gillis
Dale and Philip Going
Carol Gold
Catherine Goshay
Jim and Sharon Grant
Randy and David Greenberg
Jill and Bob Greenman
Gary and Barbara Habel
Jana Haehl
Alan Hakimi and Rachel Stone
Mark Hamilton, Jr.
Julie and Jordan Harris
Henry Helson
Roy Hendrickson
Robert Henn
John F. Herschleb
Harry and Elaine Hicks, Jr.
Frederic and Sandra Hirschfield
Sandra and Wade Holland
David Holloway
Jean Holm
Gillian Holt
Rachel Hooper and Peter Zingg
William Hudson
Bettina and David Hughes
Richard Hunt
David Hunter
Joan and Eugene Jacks
Mary Jane M. Jawetz
Colleen Johnson
Margery Johnson
Rick Johnson
Joyce Johnson
Kaiser Permanente
Astrid and Caroline Kristensen
Robert and Mary Kroninger
Ann Langston
League of Women Voters of Marin
Peter Ledee
Catherine Lee and Pamela Reaves
Mardi Leland
Jonathan Leon
Barbara and Warren Levinson
Natalie Lewis
Joan Lubamersky
Marjorie Macris
Sue MacMillian
Charles Maher
Marin Fence Co.
Margaret and Steve Martin
Robert Matthews
Pete McFarland
Sharon McNamee
Maureen Meikle
William Menas
Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation, Inc.
Peter Merts
Albert Meyer, Jr.
Bernard and Barbara Meyers
Sally Milligan
Anne Montgomery
Sandra Morrosh
Morre & Company, LLP
Roger Peters and
Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Cicely Muldoon
National Semiconductor
Alan and Patricia Negrini
Patty and Don Neuhuber
Robert Newcomer
Frank and Lois Noonan
North Bay Lighting & Electrical
Linda Novy
Diana and Donald Nunemaker
John and Karen Nygren
Frances Parks
James Parrinello and Colette Weil
Perry’s Art Supplies & Framing
Pleasures of the Heart
John Polivka
Lauren Pollik and Dieter Tremp
Alien and Lisa Preger
Alison Quyeser
Joan and Robert Raab
Barbara Rahe
Patricia Raven
Kathy and Phil Reilly
Alice Rich
Judith and Dennis Rodoni
Sheila and Michael Roekach
Thomas Scheffler
Barbara Scherger-Schmidt and
Jim Schmidt
Sonja and Rudy Schmid
David Schreck
Serenity Knolls
Marin Conservation League (MCL) works to preserve and protect the natural resource values and assets of Marin, focusing its action on issues of countywide significance or issues which may prove to be precedent-setting.

MCL places particular emphasis on those issues having important land use implications or impacts on Marin's environment and quality of life.

MCL looks for effective solutions through its own advocacy efforts as well as through working in close collaboration with other organizations to address major environmental challenges and concerns in Marin.