

Magical Marin: Open Space on the Fringe

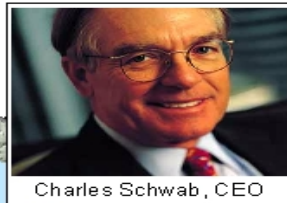
New Partners for Smart Growth
February 3, 2012



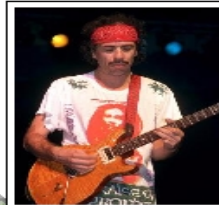
Marin's Cultural Landscape



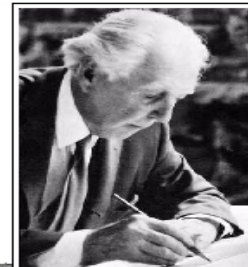
Anne Lamott, writer



Charles Schwab, CEO



Carlos Santana, musician



Frank Lloyd Wright, architect



Sim Van der Ryn, architect



Gary Fisher, bike innovator



Peter Coyote, actor



George Lucas (with friend), filmmaker



Grateful Dead, band



Bonnie Raitt, musician



Metallica, band



Hyatt, hotel

Who protected Marin's open space?
people, groups, politicians, government, NGO's



Ellen Straus & Phyllis Faber MALT Co-Founders 1980



2 Current Marin Conservation League Leaders

Nona Dennis

- ◆ Retired Environmental Consultant and Environmental Educator
- ◆ Taught Environmental Management in USF graduate program
- ◆ Past board member & Life Member of the Environmental Forum of Marin
- ◆ Past chair of Mill Valley Planning Commission
- ◆ Past President of the Calif. Association of Environmental Professionals

Michelle Passero

- ◆ Senior Climate Policy Advisor to The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ Has 15+ yrs of experience working in land conservation, environmental law
- ◆ Expertise in forest, climate policy & related conservation matters
- ◆ Published several articles re: forest carbon markets and carbon rights
- ◆ Grad degree in Sustainable International Development & a J.D.



How? political action, collaboration, education, prosperity, a “virtuous” cycle



In the early 20th century, state and federal governments established Muir Woods, Mount Tamalpais, and Samuel P. Taylor Parks.

In 1962, federal law set up the Point Reyes National Seashore.

In 1971, the Marin County Planning Department published a seminal land-use planning document, *Can the Last Place Last?*

It proposed a vision for a countywide open space system.





1962 - Point Reyes National Seashore

Celebrating Marin Public Lands - 2012

- Marin Municipal Water District – 100 years
- Point Reyes National Seashore – 50 years
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area – 40 yrs
- Marin County Open Space District – 40 years



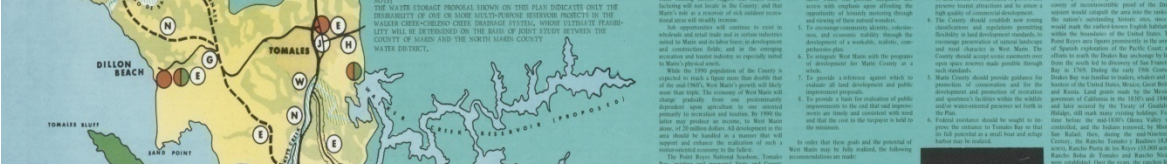
WEST MARIN GENERAL PLAN

ADOPTED BY MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON JULY 10, 1967 (B/S RES. NO. 93661) AND AMENDED MARCH 4, 1969 (B/S RES. NO. 6944)

A GENERAL PLAN has been prepared as a guide to the future development of the West Marin County General Plan. It is a long-term general plan for the orderly development of the County. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people.

As the population of the County increases, it will be necessary to provide a fair and equitable distribution of land. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people.

NOTE: THE WATER STORAGE DEMONSTRATION ON THIS PLAN INDICATES THE FEASIBILITY OF ONE OR MORE MULTI-PURPOSE RESERVOIR PROJECTS IN THE MARIN GREENBELT CHINA CREEK DRAINAGE SYSTEM, WISSE ESTIMATE FEASIBILITY WILL BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF JOINT STUDY BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MARIN AND THE NORTH MARIN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT.



LEGEND

- RESIDENTIAL**
- CATEGORIES A & B LOW DENSITY
 - CATEGORIES C & D MODERATE TO LOW DENSITY
 - CATEGORY E MODERATE DENSITY
 - CATEGORY F LAGOON RESIDENTIAL
 - CATEGORY G HIGH DENSITY
- COMMERCIAL**
- SHOPPING CENTERS
 - HISTORIC COMMERCIAL
 - SERVICE COMMERCIAL
 - COMMERCIAL RECREATION
- COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
- HIGH SCHOOL PARKS
 - CEMETERY
- SCHOOLS**
- E ELEMENTARY
 - J JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
 - H HIGH SCHOOL
 - JC JUNIOR COLLEGE
- REGIONAL PARKS-CONSERVATION**
- BE BEACH PARK
 - BO BOATING PARK
 - W WATERSIDE-VIEWPOINT
 - O GEOLOGICAL SITE
 - NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS
 - FISH AND WILDLIFE PRESERVES
- ALTERNATES:**
- A WATER RECREATION
 - B MULTIPLE RESIDENTIAL
 - C LAGOON RESIDENTIAL
 - D NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL
- CIRCULATION**
- STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY
 - COLLECTOR ROAD
 - PARKWAY

OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

The West Marin General Plan is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people. It is intended to guide the development of the County in a manner which will be in the best interests of the County and its people.

CLIMATE

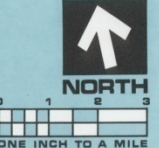
The climate of West Marin is characterized by a Mediterranean climate with mild, wet winters and dry, sunny summers. The climate is generally pleasant and healthy, with moderate temperatures and a long growing season. The climate is generally pleasant and healthy, with moderate temperatures and a long growing season.

HISTORY

The history of West Marin is rich and varied, with a long and colorful past. The area was first settled by Native Americans, and later by European explorers and settlers. The area has a long and colorful past, with a rich and varied history. The area has a long and colorful past, with a rich and varied history.

GEOLOGY

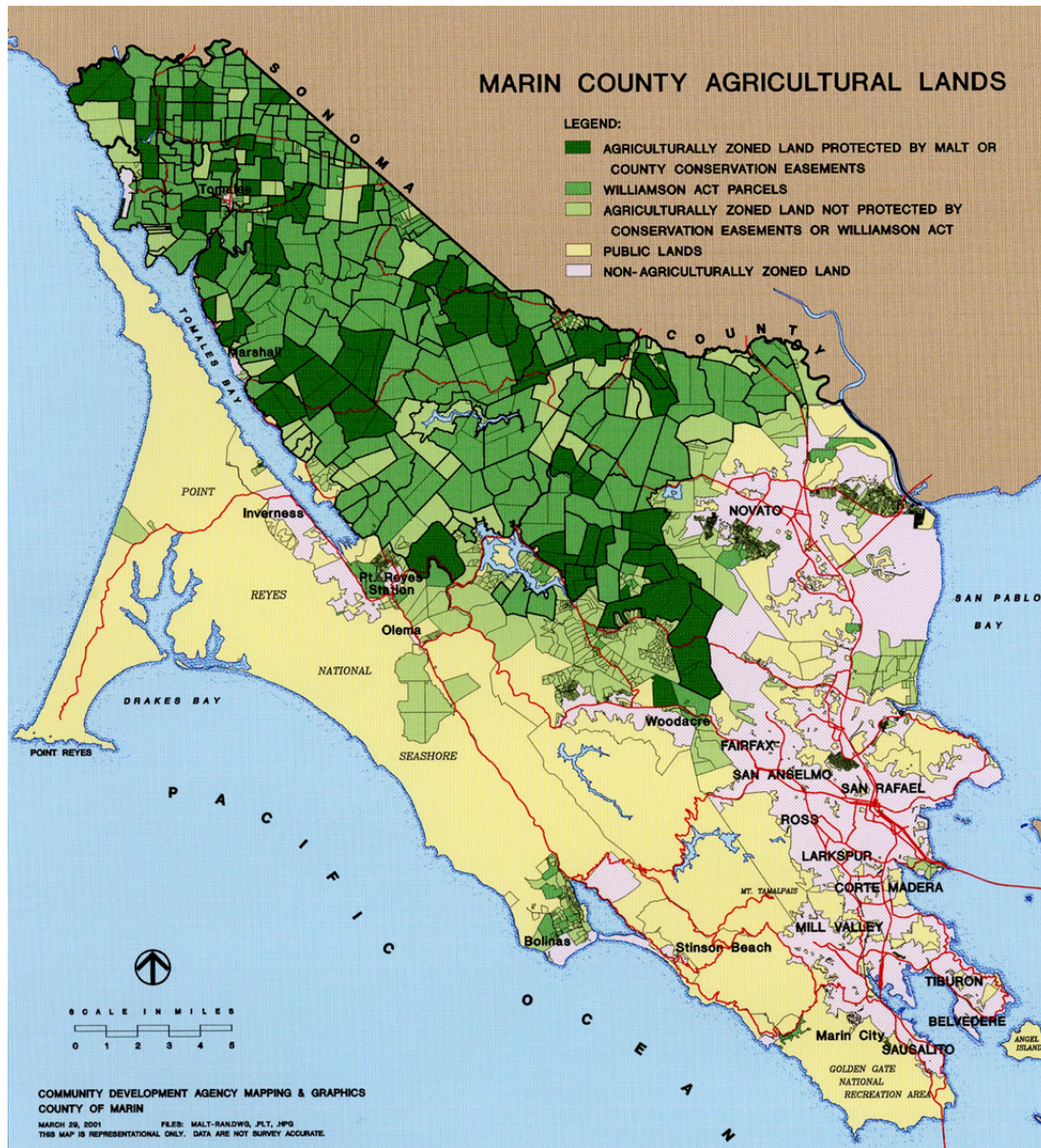
The geology of West Marin is diverse, with a variety of rock formations and geological features. The area is characterized by its rugged terrain and scenic views. The area is characterized by its rugged terrain and scenic views. The area is characterized by its rugged terrain and scenic views.





History of the Marin Countywide Plan

- First adopted in 1973
- Freeways and major sprawl had been proposed in W. Marin
- The Countywide Plan established 3 environmental corridors focusing development within the Highway 101 transportation corridor



1973 – Countywide Plan

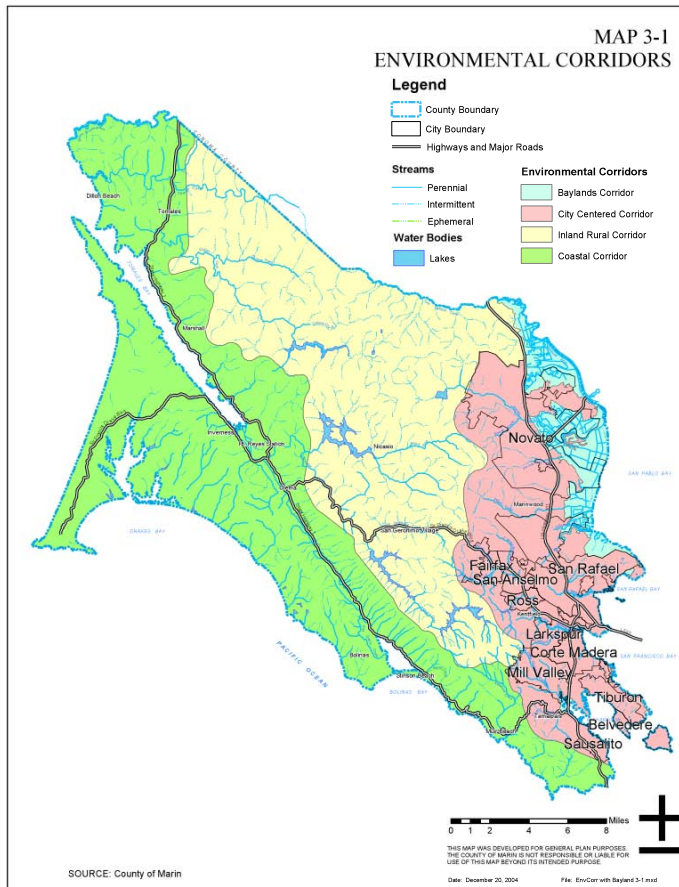




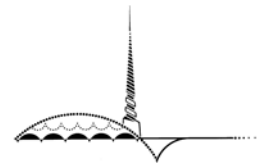
History of Marin Countywide Plan

- Updated 3 times:
- 1982 – Reviewed by a Cities/County committee & energy issues added
- 1994 – GIS mapping, transportation modeling, Ag & Parks/ Recreation Elements added
- 2007 – Baylands Corridor, socioeconomic indicators, sustainability & climate change added

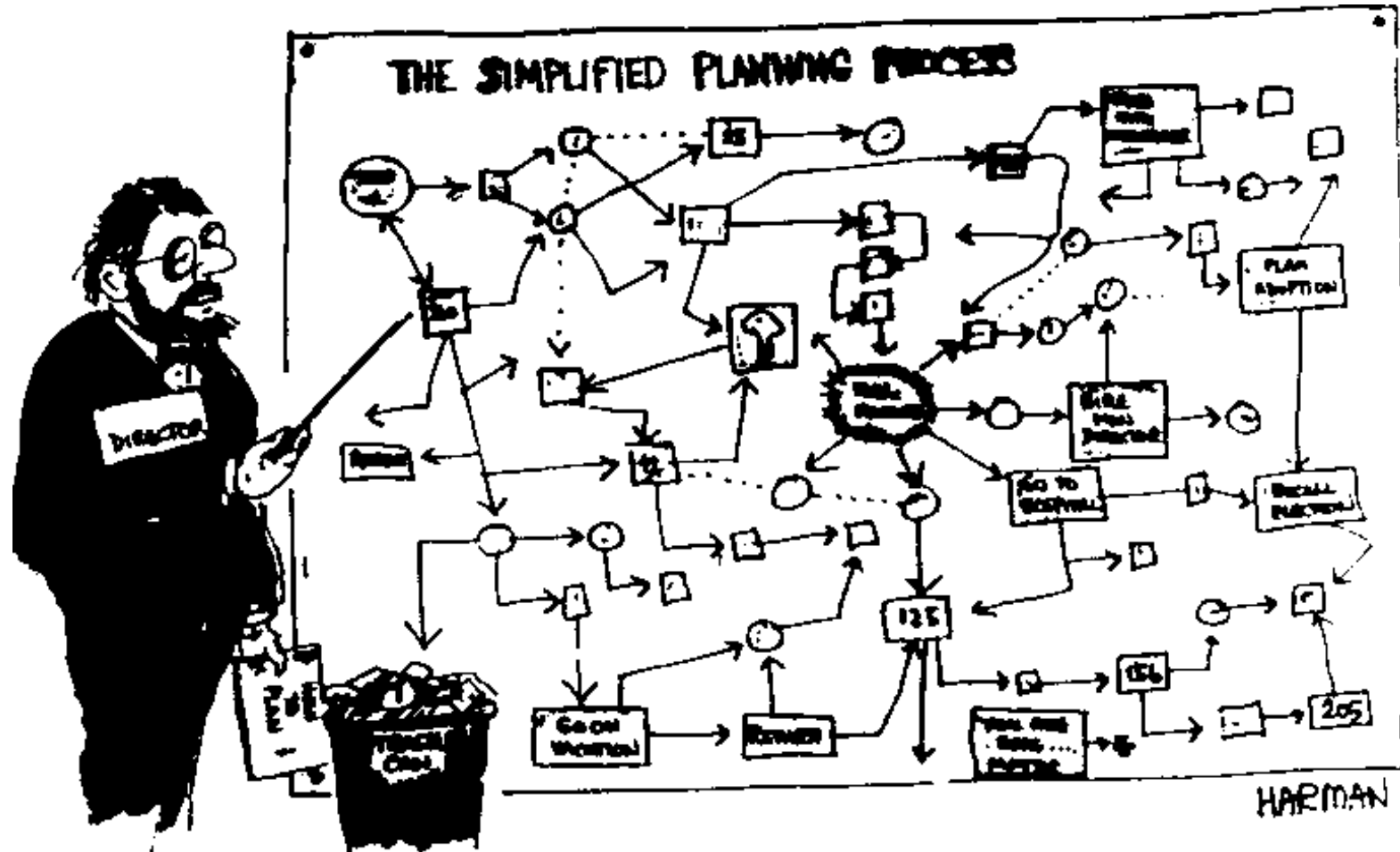
Marin Countywide Plan Environmental Corridors



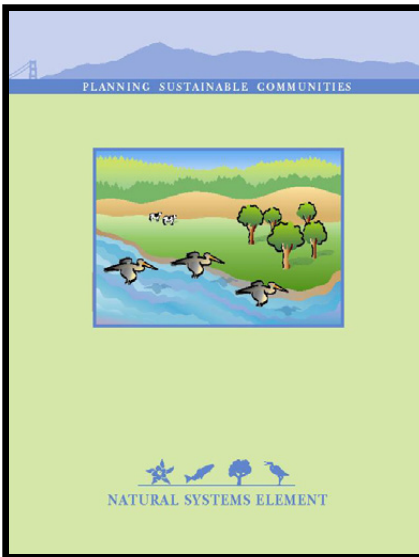
- There were 3 environmental corridors:
 - The City-Centered Corridor
 - The Inland Rural Corridor
 - The Coastal Corridor
- A 4th, Baylands Corridor was added in 2007.



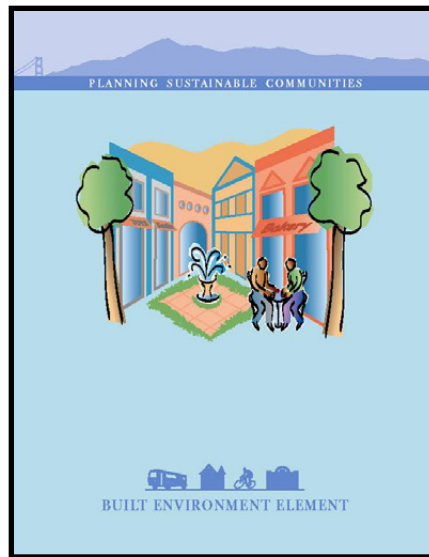
“Planning is best done in advance”



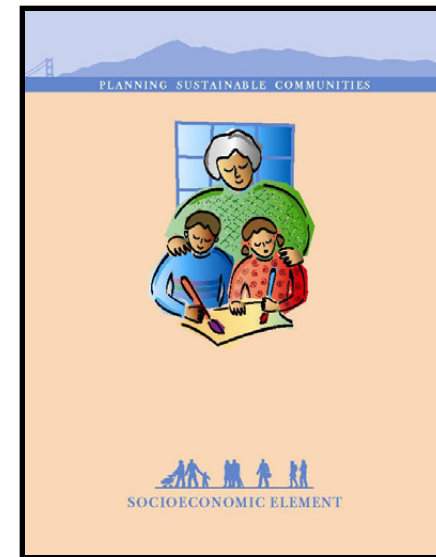
Marin Countywide Plan:
Elements



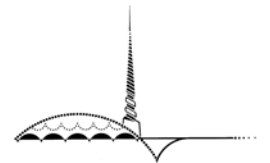
Natural
Systems and
Agriculture



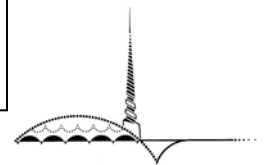
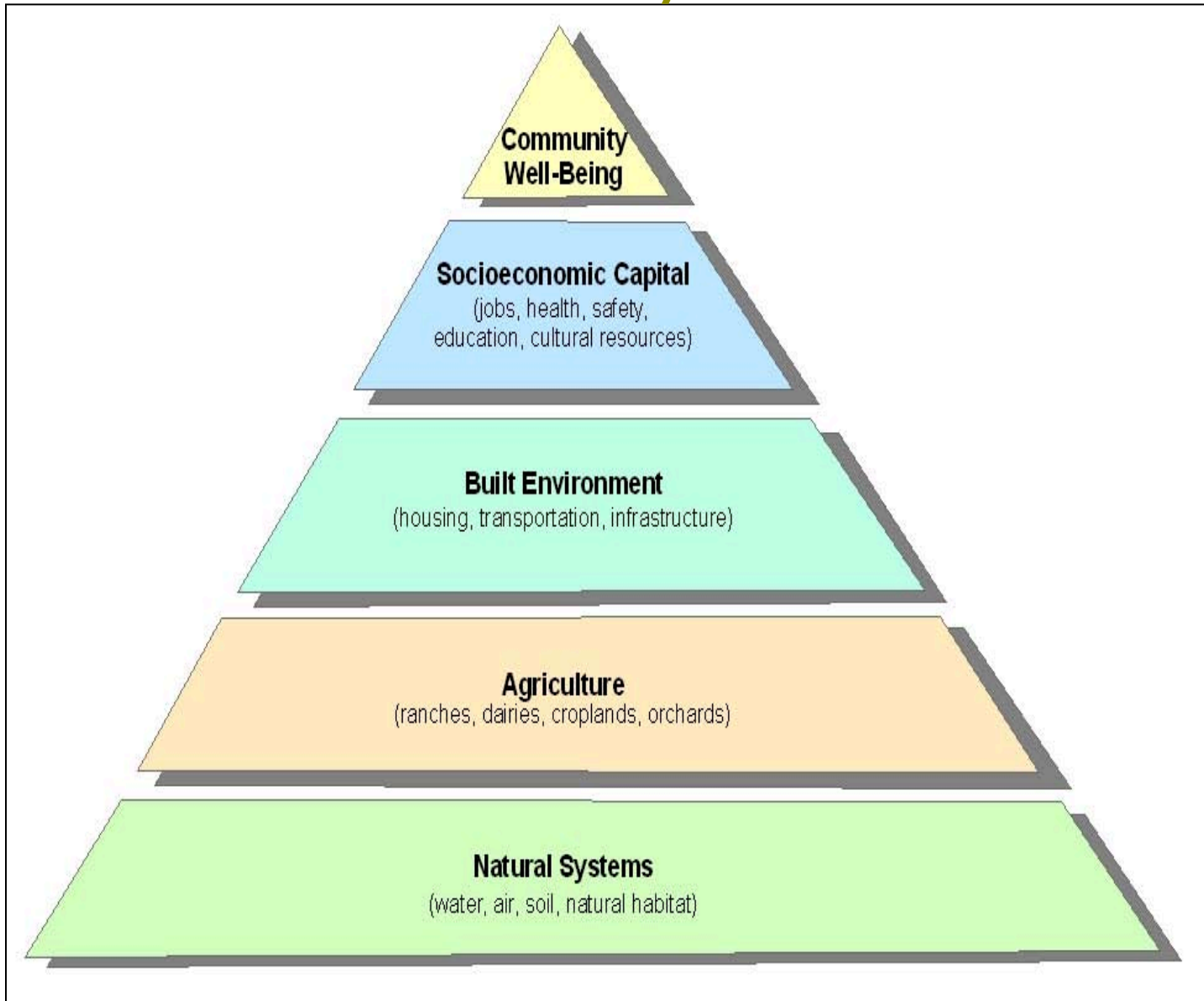
Built
Environment



Socioeconomic



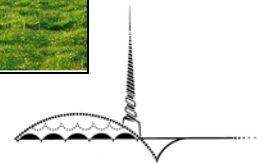
Framework for Sustainability



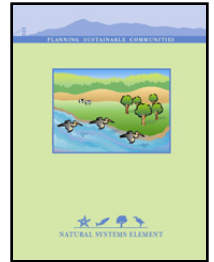
Natural Systems & Agriculture

Topics in the Natural Systems & Agriculture Element:

- Biological resources
- Water resources
- Environmental Hazards
- Atmosphere and climate
- Open space
- Trails
- Agriculture and food



Natural Systems and Agriculture



Hot Topics:

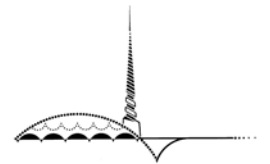
- Sensitive Biological Resources
 - Riparian, wetlands, & baylands protection
- Agriculture
 - Trails
 - Home sizes
- Climate Change
 - Greenhouse gas reduction, & adaptation strategies



Key Trends & Issues



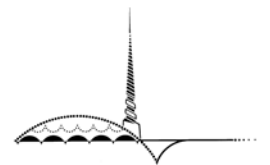
- Agricultural production is changing.
- Organic agriculture is expanding.
- Agricultural producers are struggling.
- Residential demand is affecting agriculture





Key Policy Considerations

- Should subdivision of agricultural land continue to be strongly discouraged?
- Should minimum agricultural parcel size be increased?
- Should agriculture be further restricted in environmentally sensitive areas?
- Should residential home size be further restricted?
- Should small scale agricultural diversification and organic farming be encouraged?



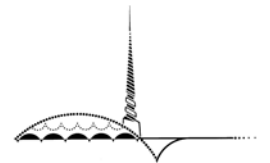




Natural Systems & Agriculture:
Agriculture & Food



- Preserve Agricultural Lands and Uses
- Promote Local & Organic Food Products
- Support Sustainable Agriculture
- Encourage Community Gardens & Healthy Food in Schools & Workplaces



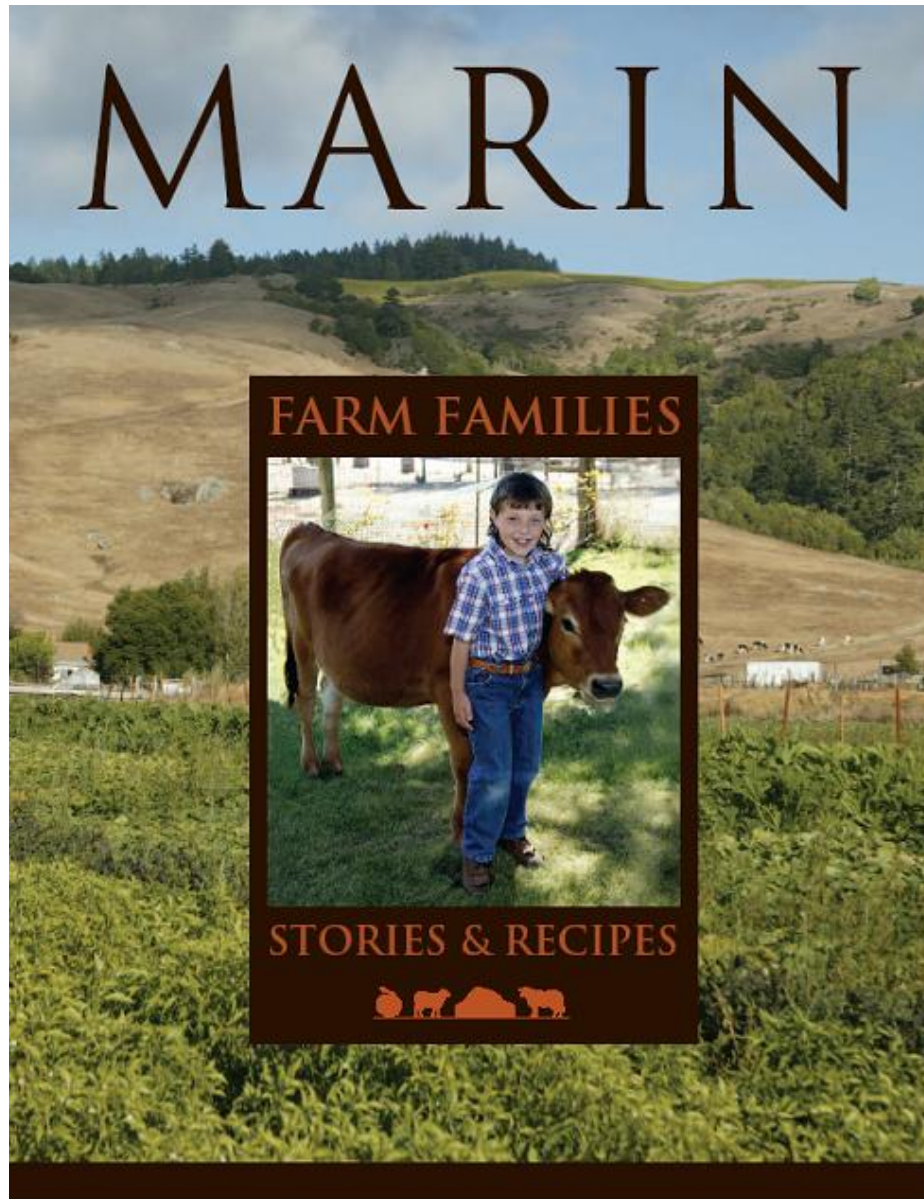
Ways to Get Started:

Buy, Fresh, Healthy Local Food



Ways to Get Started:

Marin Farm Families

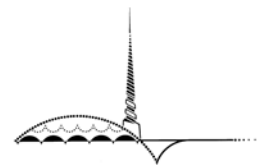
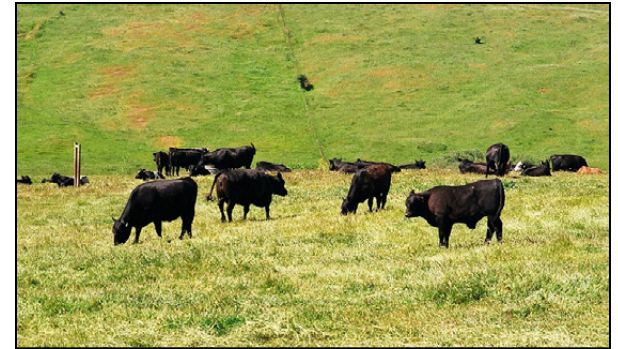


What are the desired outcomes?

Goal: Preserve agricultural lands and resources.

Policies:

- Encourage contractual protection
- Preserve agricultural zoning
- Discourage subdivision of agricultural lands within the Coastal, Inland Rural, and Baylands Corridors
- Limit non-agricultural development.

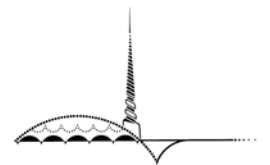




How will results be achieved?

Implementing Programs:

- Limit residential building size
- Require production and stewardship plans – if larger homes are proposed
- Encourage merger of parcels on lands protected by agricultural conservation easements
- Standardize conservation easements
- Facilitate land conservation contracts.
- Review the TDR program.
- Revise agricultural zoning districts.
- Assess density in agricultural districts

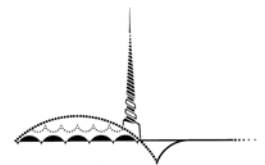
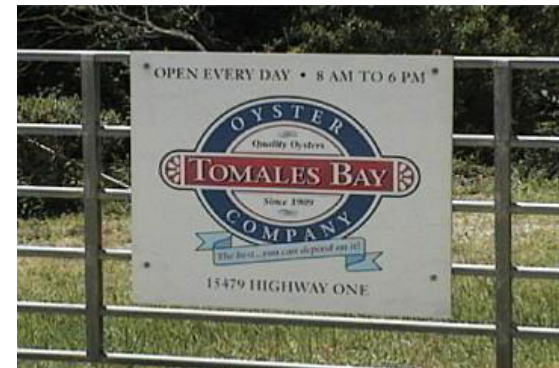


What are the desired outcomes?

Goal: Improved agricultural viability.

Policies:

- Promote organic certification
- Support local, organic, and grass-fed agriculture
- Support small-scale diversification
- Encourage agricultural processing
- Market local products
- Promote small-scale crop production
- Preserve and promote mariculture

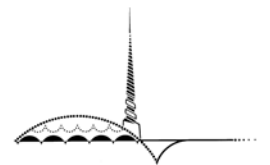


What are the desired outcomes?

Goal: Community food security.

Policies:

- Support local food production.
- Promote local and organic food.
- Enhance food security education.



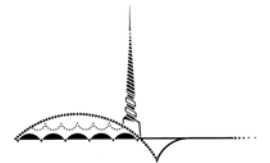
Natural Systems & Agriculture:

Agriculture & Food

Goal: Community Food Security



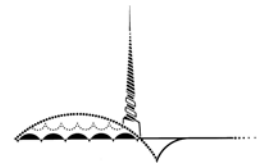
Why? *“Locally available, fresh, organic food provides numerous health benefits and can be more readily accessed in the event of an emergency”*



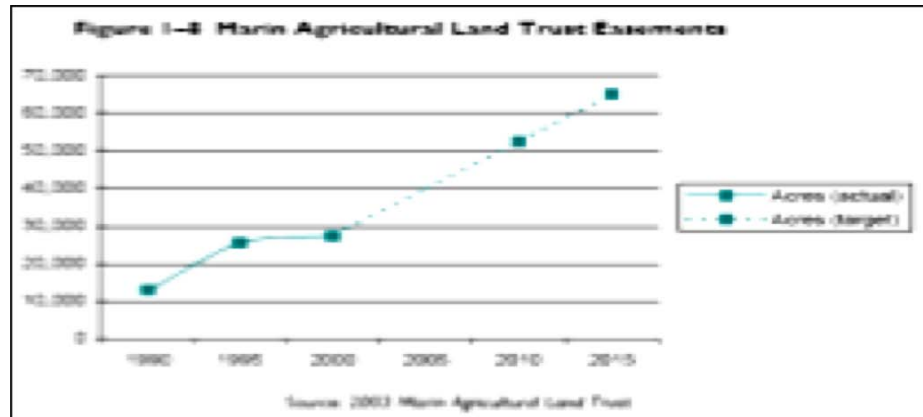
How will results be achieved?

Implementing Programs:

- Encourage community gardens.
- Provide community education.
- Promote edible landscaping.
- Use locally grown and/or organic foods in county services.
- Promote organic food in schools.
- Support local groups.



How will success be measured?

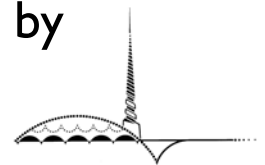


Indicator	Benchmark	Targets
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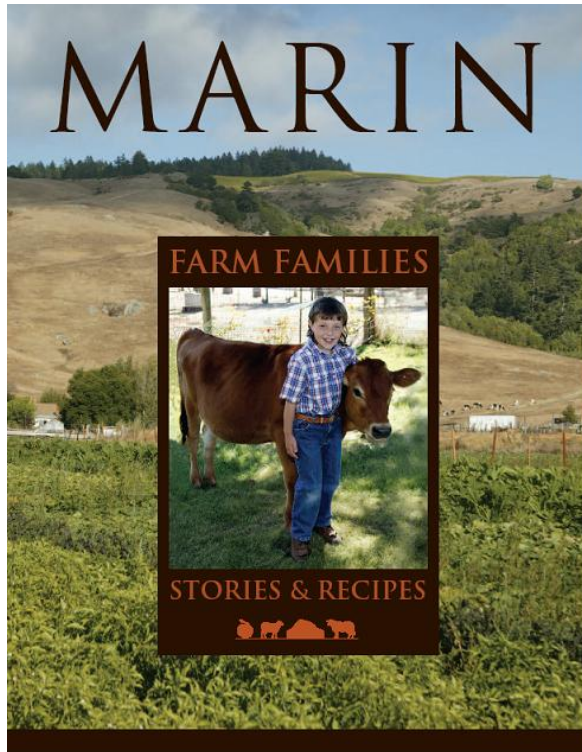
Acres preserved with agricultural easements.

27,517 acres preserved in 2000.

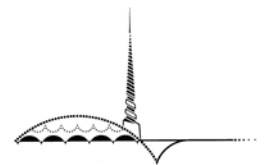
Increase by: 25,000 acres by 2010; 12,500 additional acres by 2015



How will success be measured?



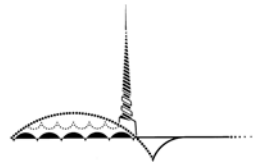
Indicator	Benchmark	Targets
Acres of land farmed organically	357 acres in 2000	Increase by 1,500% by 2010 and 1,700% by 2015



How will success be measured?

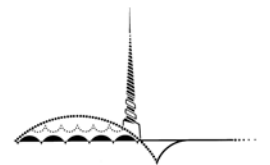
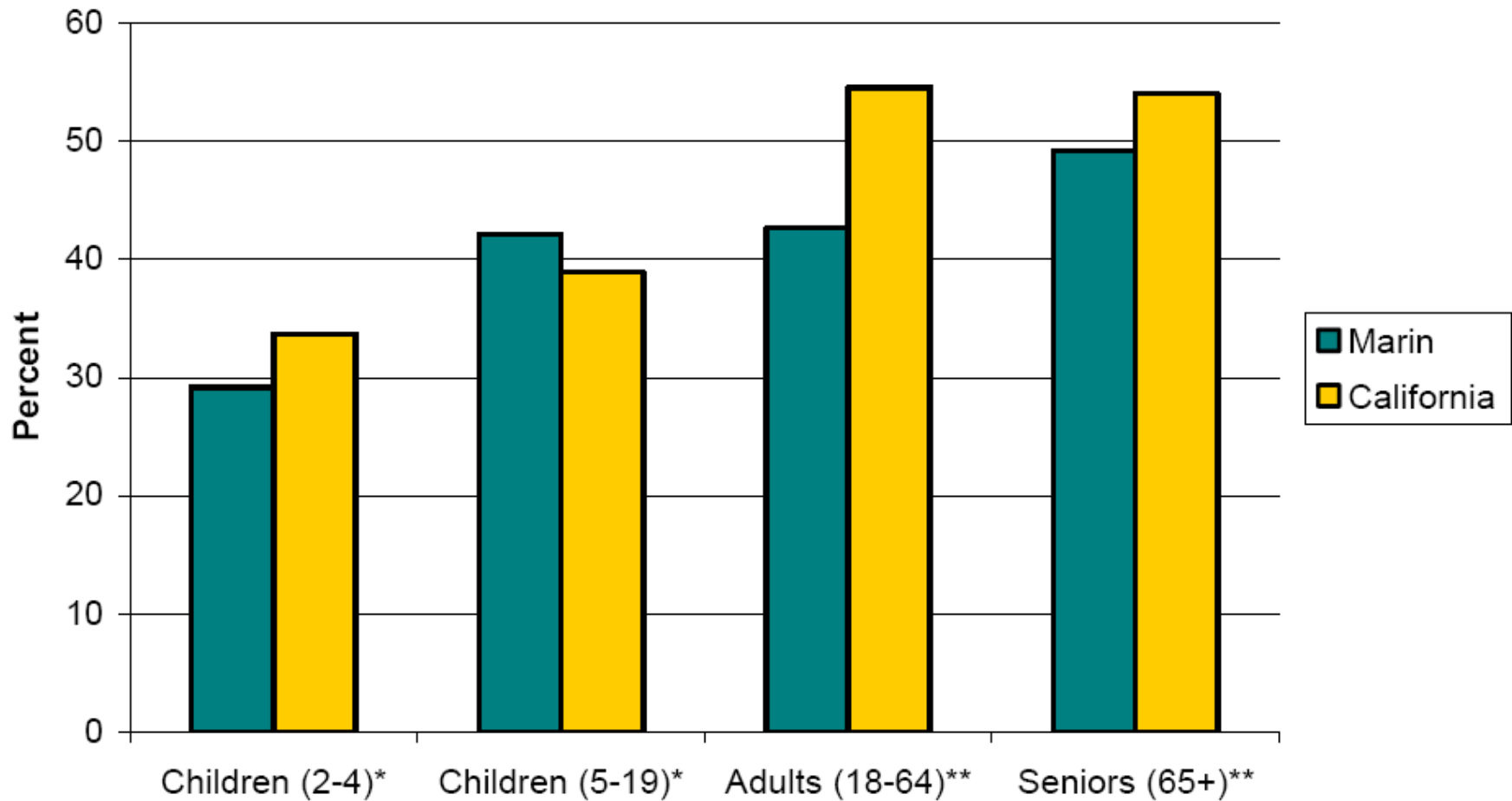


Indicator	Benchmark	Targets
Annual Sales of identified Marin farmers' markets	9,860,000 in 2005	Increase annual sales 10% by 2010 and 15% by 2015



Public Health

Figure 4-27 Overweight Population in Marin



Public Health:

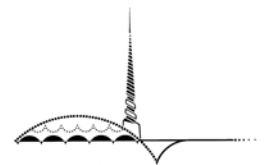
What are the desired outcomes?

Goal: Reduced rates of Obesity, Eating Disorders, and Chronic Disease Such as Heart Disease and Breast Cancer



How?

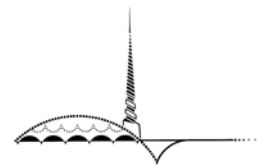
- Promote Nutrition Education and Access to Healthy Foods
- Promote Physical Activity
- Promote Healthy Environments
- Develop Disease Prevention and Management Programs



How will success be measured?



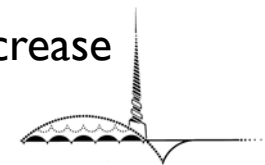
Indicator	Benchmark	Targets
Number of servings of fruits and vegetables consumed daily by children.	53% of children ate 5 or more servings of fruit and vegetables in the day prior to the survey.	Percentage of children eating 5 or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day increase 10% by 2020.



How will success be measured?



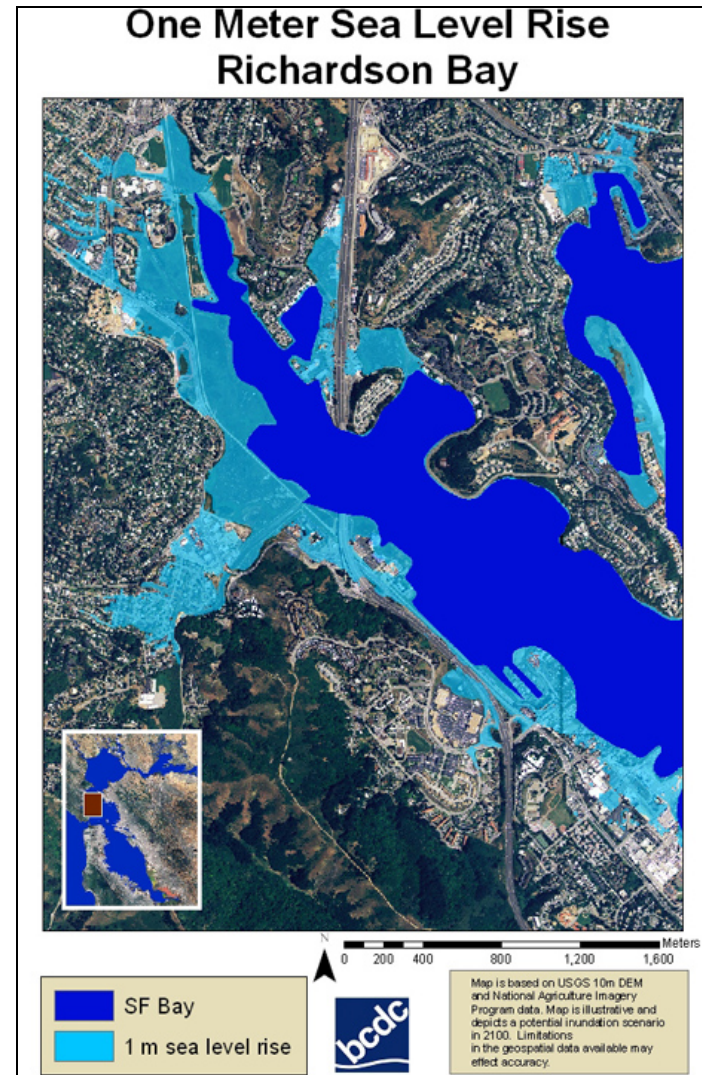
Indicator	Benchmark	Targets
Percent of population overweight and obese by age and gender.	34% children 2-17 overweight/obese in 2001; 60% children exercised at least 20 minutes on at least 3 days per week in 2002; 53% children-grade II in 2002.	Obesity decreases 10% by 2015. Amount of time spent in physical activity by children-grade II increases by 10%. Percentage of children eating 5 or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day increase 10%



Hot Topic: Climate Change

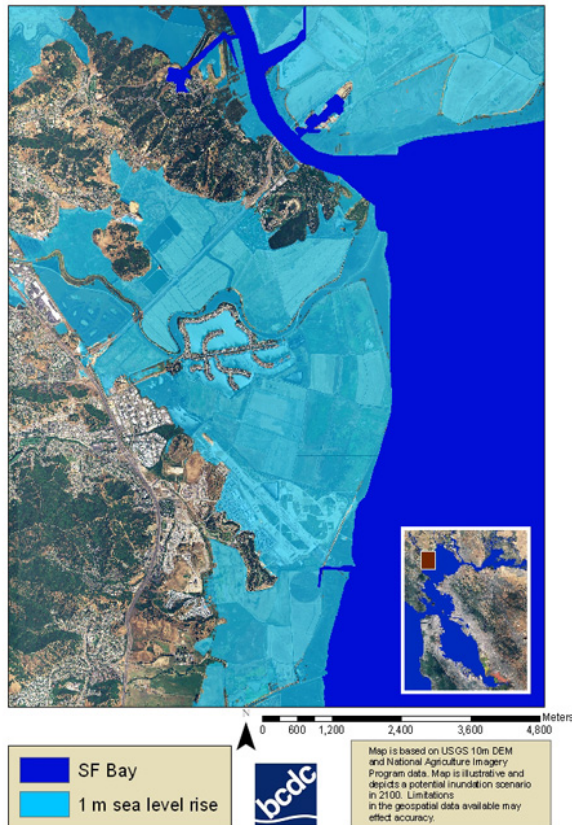


- Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Plan for and adapt to sea level rise
- Seek levee assistance
- Integrate climate change into planning process

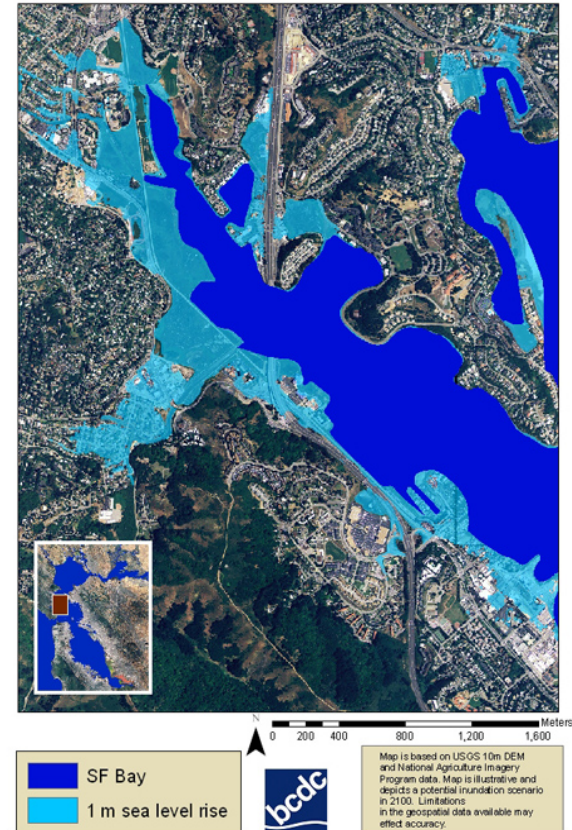


Adapting to Climate Change: 1+ Meter Sea Level Rise in Marin

One Meter Sea Level Rise
Petaluma River Mouth



One Meter Sea Level Rise
Richardson Bay







malt.
**MARIN AGRICULTURAL
LAND TRUST**



Marin's major crop is?



Grass

Marin County Agriculture

- **Agriculture gross product value
\$63 million**
- **Grazing Agriculture – 76%**
 - Diary – 55% & Beef - 21%**
- **Field Crops – 16%**
 - Hay, Silage – 12%**
 - Organic Row crops – 4%**
- **Aquaculture - 5%**
- **Nursery Crops - 1%**
- **Average farm 600 acres**





- Preserving farmland through conservation easement program
- Encouraging public policies which promote agriculture
- Educating the public about the importance of local agriculture

Acres and Dollars

Acres Permanently Protected

41,800 acres

66 family farms

Cost: \$50 million

Acres Still at Risk

60,000 acres

Cost: ?

Average Per Acre Cost of Easements

1983-90: \$ 460

1991-93: \$1,100

1994-2000 \$1,027

2001-2002 \$1,450

2003- 2005 \$2,250

2006-2009 \$3,200

Future

?

Conservation Easement Process

- Property Owner approaches MALT
- Evaluation of property by MALT Land Steward
- A recommendation is made to the MALT board
- Board authorizes independent appraisal
- Easement value is the difference between the land's easement restricted and unrestricted value.
- Appraisal agreed upon by landowner and MALT



Conservation Easement Process

- Baseline report documents in detail the property's condition
- Funding found (State & Federal Bonds & Private donors)
- Easement prepared for that property
- Easement signed by owner and MALT
- Landowner paid appraised value for easement.
- **JUST THE BEGINNING**

Stewardship and Monitoring



Malt promises to monitor the easements forever
Land Steward visits each property once a year
Provides assistance to landowners with land
management and conservation projects.

Marin County Parks Dept and Open Space District

“Preserving, protecting, and enriching the natural beauty of Marin’s parks and open spaces, & providing recreational opportunities for all generations.”

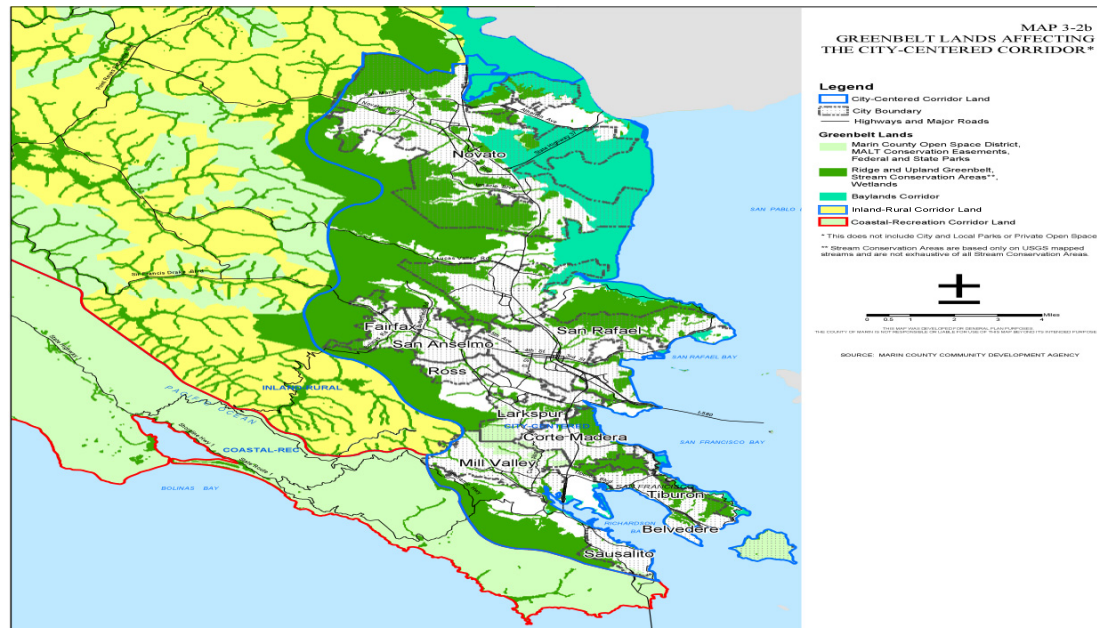
...While cultivating the
stewards of tomorrow.



In 1972, Marin voters created the Marin County Open Space District.

The District has focused on:

- Preserving land in the City-Centered Corridor
- Especially upland greenbelts and community separators.



Marin County Parks and Open Space provides:



- Places to watch a sunrise,
- hike, bike, ride a horse, swim, fish,
- see a harbor seal
- get healthy
- walk with your dog, launch a kayak
- watch a sunset.

And...



- 15,000+ acres of open space (in 34 open space preserves)
- 200+ mile road and trail network
- 27 community and neighborhood park facilities
- 4 regional parks, 2 boat ramps
- 7 paved multi-use paths
- 1 Wetland of International Importance

Open space planning & management

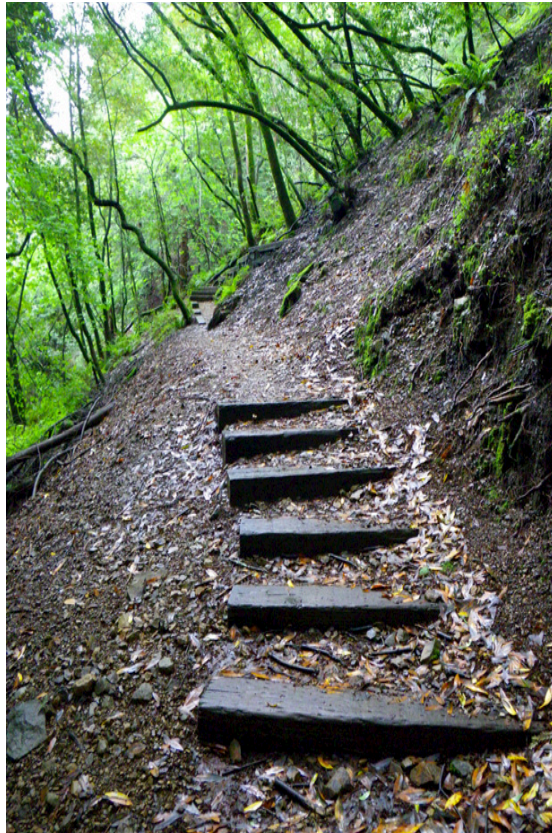
Strategic & opportunistic acquisition of:

- key lands to preserve open space
- Trail easements to close gaps in network

Monitoring of conservation easements



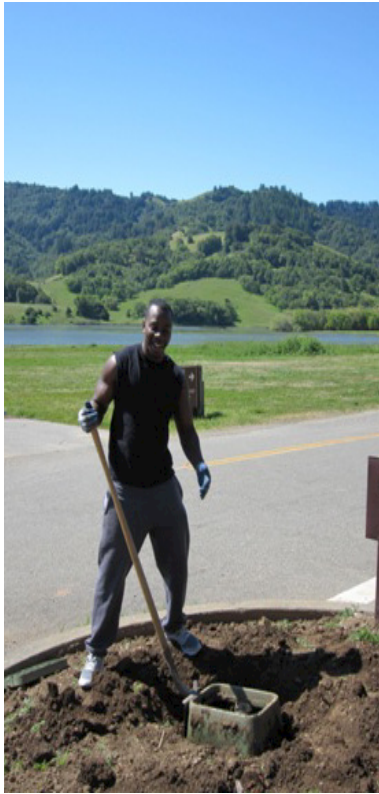
Road and trail management



- Sediment reduction and road reshaping
- Road and trail inventories and assessments
- GIS database
- Management Plan

Volunteer - participation

- 2010 parks volunteer numbers:
12,668 total hours from 1,867
Volunteers
- 2010 open space volunteer numbers:
12,084 total hours from 1,993
Volunteers



Environmental education - offerings

- Naturalist Walks
- Family Walks
- Assistance to rangers and Resource Management Program
- Other outreach – lectures, neighborhood education, articles



Ongoing Partnerships



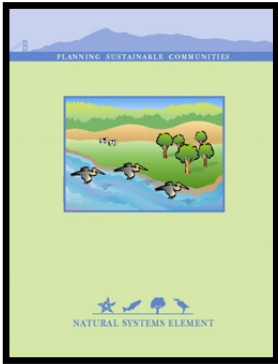
- Collaborate with Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, CA State Parks, Marin Municipal Water District for efficiencies managing
 - Visitor services & operations
 - Natural and cultural resources
 - Environmental education
 - Volunteers
- Partner with College of Marin, non-profits, and other entities to leverage resources and coordinate efforts

Special thanks to the:



Marin County Community Development Agency

Bay Conservation & Development Commission





A Building that Teaches

Contact Information:

Alex Hinds,

Center for Sustainable Communities,
Dept of Environmental Studies and Planning

Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA

hindsa@sonoma.edu

