



DATE: November 9, 2020

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Administration, Projects & Planning Executive Committee

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director *Anne Richman*
Derek McGill, Planning Manager
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: TAM Response to 2019-2020 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report on ‘Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?’ (Action), Agenda Item No. 6

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration, Projects & Planning (AP&P) Executive Committee reviews the recommended response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report on [‘Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?’](#), provides comments and refers it to the TAM Board for review and acceptance.

BACKGROUND

On September 11, 2020, the 2019-2020 Marin County Civil Grand Jury released its Report on [‘Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?’](#) A response is required by local municipalities, the County of Marin, TAM, Marin Clean Energy (MCE), Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and Marin General Services Authority (MGSA) in addressing the findings and recommendations in the Report. The report can be found online at this link: <https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/gj/reports-responses/2019-20/climate-change--how-will-marin-adapt.pdf?la=en>

As noted in the report, Marin jurisdictions have all adopted climate action plans aimed to mitigate the impacts of climate change. As transportation is the largest sector of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Marin County, TAM is a member of the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership (MCEP), and staff closely coordinate with jurisdictions in developing plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Staff also serve on the Drawdown Executive Steering Committee, and on the transportation subcommittee of Drawdown to support the larger community efforts in reducing emissions. Furthermore, with many transportation assets at risk from the effects of sea level rise, TAM has supported sea level rise adaptation planning, funding and project development. TAM collaborates closely with the BayWAVE and C-SMART efforts, led by the County of Marin, and will continue to support collaborative processes to address the impacts of Climate Change.

The Grand Jury Report provides several recommendations to advance adaptation planning to protect Marin County from the impacts of climate change. Adaptation planning efforts are underway throughout the County, and the report outlines recommendations for revisions to the organizational structure of these efforts. Implementing effective adaptation planning in the county will require a broad coalition of government agencies and community partners, and we commend the Grand Jury for looking closely at the issue of climate change and adaptation planning.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

TAM is required to respond to the following findings and recommendations: F1-F5, F7, R1, R4. TAM staff has conducted a thorough review of the report and provided responses to these findings and recommendations (Attachment B).

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the recommended response.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will incorporate comments from the AP&P Executive Committee and present the revised draft response letter to the TAM Board for review and approval at the November 19, 2020 TAM Board meeting. TAM is required to respond to the Grand Jury report within 90 days of the report's issuance (by December 11).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - TAM Chair's Draft Cover Letter to Response
Attachment B – TAM's Draft Response to the Grand Jury Report
Attachment C – Marin Climate Action Network Letter to TAM



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Dennis Rodoni
Judy Arnold

November 20, 2020

The Honorable Judge Andrew Sweet
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

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

SUBJECT: Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report on ‘Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?’

Dear Judge Sweet and Ms. Dilworth:

On November 19, 2020, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved TAM’s response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report on ‘Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?’. Attached is TAM’s response for your review and acceptance.

TAM appreciates the Grand Jury’s focus on Climate Change in Marin. Please contact TAM’s Executive Director, Anne Richman, at arichman@tam.ca.gov or 415-226-0820 if you have any questions about TAM’s response.

Sincerely,
Judy Arnold
Chairperson, TAM Board of Commissioners

Attachment: TAM Response to Grand Jury Report

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TAM RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?

Report Date: September 11, 2020

Agenda Date: November 19, 2020

Response by: Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)

FINDINGS

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

Response: Marin governments have made progress toward meeting greenhouse gas reduction goals and mitigating impacts of climate change. However, to meet ambitious state and local goals, much work remains to be done. TAM is supportive of these efforts and supports transportation greenhouse gas emission reductions through voter approved expenditure plans and programs that promote multi-modal transportation solutions including walking, biking, transit, carpooling and ride-share, and alternative fuel vehicles.

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: TAM agrees that adaptation planning is essential for a variety of reasons as described in the Grand Jury report.

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: The BayWAVE and C-SMART vulnerability assessments developed by the County Community Development Agency and Department of Public Works respectively, support multi-jurisdictional collaboration related to the potential impacts of sea level rise. These efforts are still underway, and the BayWAVE Executive Steering Committee has been meeting monthly to advance the planning and policies related to sea level rise. TAM staff participates in these meetings to improve our understanding of the local transportation issues related to sea level rise. As these efforts advance, the County and local jurisdictions are better positioned to focus on these topics, however, further understanding and public input is needed to support adaptation planning.

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: TAM agrees that the projected effects of climate change include impacts on public health, ecosystems, and social equity. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) effort has worked to develop effective and equitable adaptation solutions that integrate adaptation planning into local and regional planning efforts. The ART program supports multiple sectors and cross jurisdictional collaboration that build local and regional capacity to address these issues. With adaptation planning efforts underway on community

or project specific levels, there are additional opportunities to advance these topics and support inclusive planning around the complex and significant challenges related to climate change, and significant work will still need to be conducted.

- 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: There is presently limited local, regional, state and federal funding available to support adaptation and sea level rise. Although these issues are being addressed at the local and county level, TAM agrees that state, regional or federal funding will be required to adapt to these challenges.

- 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: TAM agrees that there will need to be continued coordination and collaboration across agencies and jurisdictions throughout the county, region and state. The BayWAVE effort has developed a collaborative approach and potential organizational structure for local elected officials and staff to share local efforts related to sea level rise. However, the BayWAVE effort may not be the only organizational structure to facilitate this, and local hazard mitigation plan coordination may also serve a similar role. Any organizational structure to respond to the challenge of adaptation will need to consider a range of administrative, financial and policy matters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Response: The County of Marin along with the municipalities and other agencies of the County have convened several multi-jurisdictional collaborative processes. TAM serves as a member of the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership (MCEP), attends the county BayWAVE Executive Steering Committee meetings, and serves on the Drawdown Executive Steering Committee and Transportation Subcommittee. Additionally, the County and local jurisdictions coordinate local hazard mitigation plan development for all jurisdictions. TAM would be supportive of efforts to use an existing structure, where feasible, that has staff and elected representation to provide technical resources and policy direction in development of such a strategy. If a new task force is required, TAM would offer support and technical resources as appropriate to support these efforts.

- 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: MCEP is comprised of staff from the incorporated towns and cities in Marin county, the County of Marin, TAM, the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), and Marin Clean Energy (MCE). TAM provides technical support and resources to support climate change reduction from the transportation sector. MCEP has long declared its support for studying, securing funding for, and implementing adaptation planning in its mission statement:

"The mission of the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership (MCEP) is to create a countywide partnership that allows partner members to work collaboratively, share resources, and secure funding to: 1) discuss, study and implement overarching policies and programs, ranging from emission reduction strategies to adaptation, contained in each agency's Climate Action Plan; and 2) collect data and report on progress in meeting each partner member's individual greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets."

However, the challenge of sea level rise and climate change adaptation requires the close coordination of local elected officials, the general public, as well as planning, public works, flood control districts and regional and state agencies. Should the County and local jurisdictions determine that MCEP is best positioned to convene all of the required representation, or if another multi-jurisdictional partnership such as BayWAVE or local hazard mitigation plan development coordination can provide the representation necessary to address adaptation planning and support development of a multi-jurisdictional strategy, TAM would continue to be supportive of these efforts with technical support and resources as appropriate. TAM also understands that administration of such an effort needs to be considered, specifically the resources and policies needed to launch and sustain such an organization or process. Since MCEP is funded by contributions from its members for specific work elements including updates to Climate Action Plans, if MCEP's scope were expanded, TAM could consider increasing its contributions within available revenues to support the administration and specific work elements required to advance adaptation planning.

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MARIN CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

October 24, 2020

Board of Commissioners
Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Honorable Commissioners,

The Marin Climate Action Network, or MCAN, is a group of environmental leaders from organizations across Marin that first conceived of DRAWDOWN Marin. We are pleased that DRAWDOWN Marin's Strategic Plan is being finalized this fall. We believe that the governing body of this comprehensive, countywide, public/private campaign to confront Climate Change could play a pivotal role in the reorganized and reinvigorated climate efforts recommended by the Marin Grand Jury's September 11 Report on Climate Change.

We urge you to include the following actions in your response to the Grand Jury:

- 1. In response to Grand Jury Finding F1, we ask that you emphasize to the Grand Jury that ongoing and enhanced support for climate 'mitigation' programs is essential for the success of climate 'adaptation.'** Although TAM, 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 throughout the county and region. 'Adaptation' efforts must start with 'mitigation,' that is, effective steps to reduce the causes of the worsening impacts now triggering 'adaptive' measures.
- 2. In response to Grand Jury Recommendation R1, we ask that you urge the Marin Board of Supervisors, in collaboration with municipalities, agencies, regional groups and state guidelines to convene a countywide Climate Resilience Task Force focused on developing a Marin Climate Resilience Plan to address all climate impacts, including flooding, sea level rise, wildfire, heat, drought, health, air quality, and additional results of warming conditions. 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 TAM into this countywide process, we urge you to convey to the Board of Supervisors TAM's particular responsibilities and programs related to climate impacts, including the growing vulnerability of the county's roads and transportation to flooding from sea level rise and increasingly intense storms, to closure**

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from wildfires and smoke, and to worsening health risks as heat events compound the baseline air pollution from internal combustion engines. Understanding such impacts, and the potential role of TAM in reducing them, will be key to the success of the proposed Task Force.

We also ask that you urge the Board of Supervisors to complement the countywide Resilience Task Force by completing formation of DRAWDOWN Marin to provide countywide leadership to achieve the climate protection ('mitigation') 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 reducing climate change.

As a nonprofit public/private partnership that guides and supports solutions to climate change, the DRAWDOWN Marin Board of Directors (now being formed) 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.

We further request that you urge the Board of Supervisors 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 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, and continued support for core DRAWDOWN Marin capacities, including start-up fundraising, outreach, and administrative support.

3. In response to Grand Jury Recommendation R4, we ask that you confirm TAM's commitment to work to strengthen funding and organizational support for the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership, including MCEP's proposed role on the Board of DRAWDOWN Marin, to increase assistance to all jurisdictions and agencies in implementing coordinated Climate Action Plans and programs throughout the county, addressing both climate protection and resilience. We urge you to express the priority that TAM places on coordinated climate solutions by scheduling regular staff updates on its participation in MCEP.

To help support the broadened MCEP scope and capacity, we suggest that you endorse a centralized grant-seeking function for climate protection and resilience within the County's Climate and Resilience Team (R3), as well as consideration of pro-rata distribution to all jurisdictions and agencies of a portion of funds derived from any future measures enacted to support climate protection and resilience.

Finally, we ask that you reaffirm to the Grand Jury and to MCEP's other partners, TAM's key climate commitments, including helping to fund the rapid transition to electric vehicles by residents and businesses throughout Marin, along with support for transit, cycling, walking and the compact development that supports them.

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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. The speedy development of a local clean energy economy, green building rehabilitation, regenerative agriculture and land management, and workforce development to support adaptation strategies could be crucial to the current economic recovery.

In 2020, we have all experienced the urgency of the climate crisis firsthand, in intense heat, unhealthy air, uncertain rainfall, and ‘Armageddon skies.’ The Grand Jury has done a timely service in suggesting ways in which we can meet this growing crisis, coping with its impacts while continuing to reduce the pollution driving the crisis. As the Report emphasizes, we must do both together, and we will only succeed if we act together as a whole community. Building that cohesion is at the root of these recommendations and essential to meeting the existential threat now confronting us with bold, immediate, and effective action.

We ask that you include our recommendations in your response to the Grand Jury. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Marin Climate Action Network:

Leslie Alden
William Carney
Carleen Cullen
Belle Cole

Robert Gould
David Haskell
Wendi Kallins
David Kunhardt

Kiki LaPorta
Doug Wilson
Chris Yalonis

Attachments:

*Marin Climate Action Ecosystem
Key Recommended Responses to Marin Grand Jury*

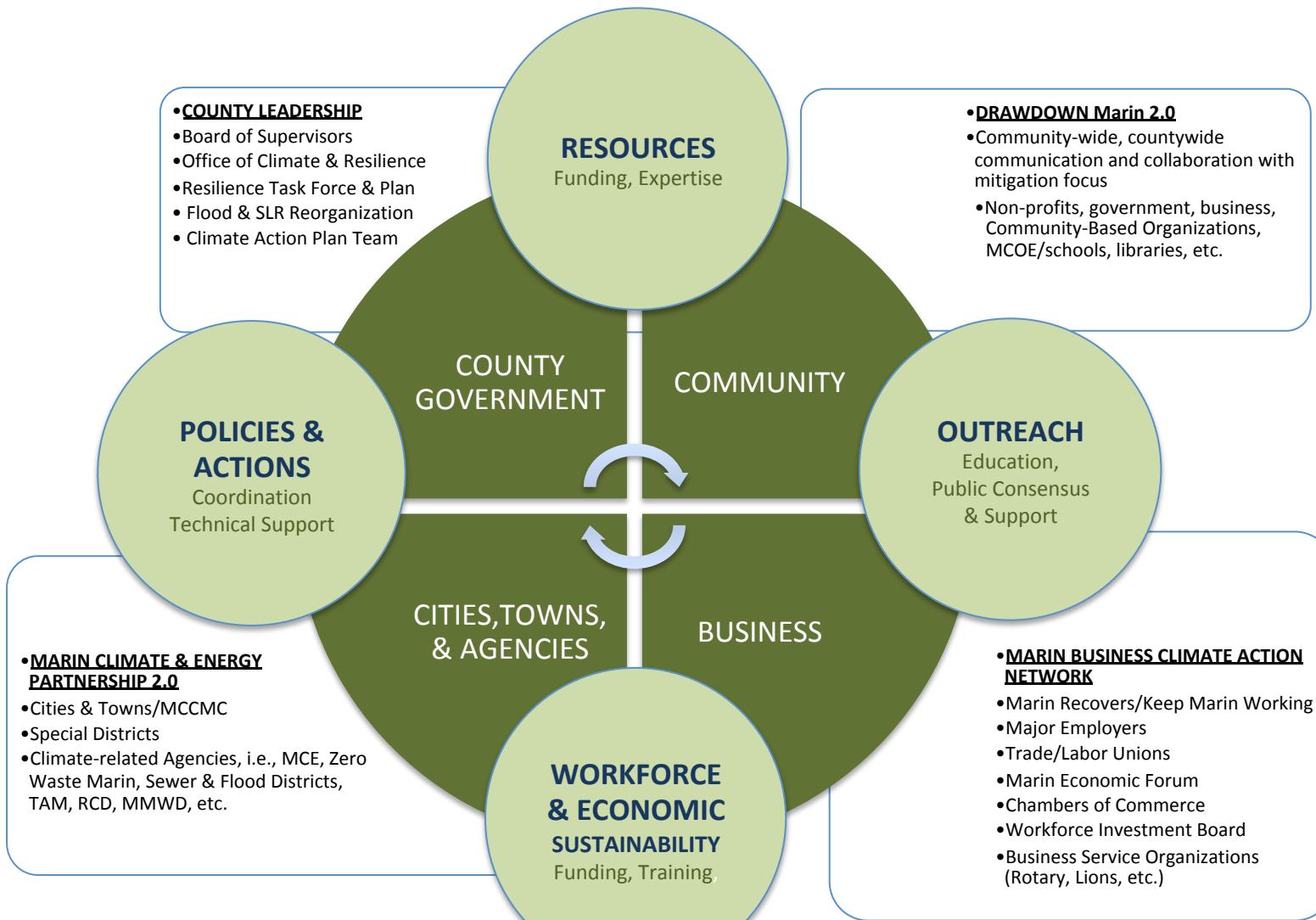
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Marin Climate Action Ecosystem



Re-Imagining Marin's Climate Action Ecosystem:

Summary of Key Recommended Responses to Grand Jury

MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF CLIMATE & RESILIENCE (new)

CONSOLIDATE a multi-departmental & multi-disciplinary team within the County Administrator's Office, bringing together staff expertise to collaborate, integrate, and implement climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Climate & Resilience Officer. Staff from Community Development, Public Works, Health & Human Services, Parks & Open Space, etc.

- Countywide Resilience Task Force and Plan
- Flood & SLR Feasibility Study & Reorganization
- Climate Action Plan & Sustainability Programs
- Open Space Restoration & Carbon Sequestration
- Land Use Planning
- Preparedness for Climate Impacts on Health

MARIN CLIMATE & ENERGY PARTNERSHIP 2.0

STRENGTHEN membership, funding, and focus of this multi-jurisdictional partnership that coordinates and supports staff to analyze and implement Climate Action Plans, climate policies, and climate programs across all jurisdictions.

MCEP Executive Officer. Staff from member agencies (and others that may be added): cities, towns, special districts, climate-related agencies including MCE, TAM, MMWD, Zero Waste Marin. Continue and increase funding commitment from members, augmented by grants and other sources.

DRAWDOWN Marin 2.0

COLLABORATE countywide by finalizing formation of this non-profit public/private partnership to provide leadership and support solutions to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and a thriving community, grounding government and community initiatives throughout Marin within a comprehensive framework for addressing climate change.

Executive Director. Broad-based non-profit Board composed of community, business, agency, and elected leaders.

MARIN BUSINESS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (new)

ENGAGE full range and resources of the business community in climate solutions through a collaborative of companies and related organizations. Create and execute economic recovery and ongoing development strategy with clean energy, electrification of transportation and buildings, and low carbon solutions. Drive workforce development with clean economy job creation and capacity building.

Group meets regularly with a rotating chair, collaborates, co-promotes, supports innovation and investment, advises policy makers on clean economy initiatives. Reports out impact metrics, sustainable business activities, programs and accomplishments.

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