



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Review of Nesting Bird Protections Takes Flight**

***Point Reyes Station, Calif. (Sept. 13, 2017)*** – Marin County District Four Supervisor Dennis Rodoni's office facilitated a stakeholder meeting at the Marin County Civic Center to improve bird nesting protections and policies. Attendees at the meeting included Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni and his staff, Maureen Parton, aide to Supervisor Kate Sears, representatives from Parks and Open Space, Marin County Department of Public Works, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Caltrans, the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC), Point Blue Conservation Science, and Marin Audubon Society.

The tone of the meeting was set by Supervisor Rodoni, asking the agencies, PG&E, and environmental groups to share information, concerns, and find solutions to areas that need improvement with the intent to better protect habitat and nesting birds. The participating agencies and PG&E provided presentations on their policies, practices, and training centered on their work involving vegetation management strategies for roadsides, tree removal, and infrastructure projects. These presentations were followed by a question and answer session that highlighted concerns around perceived lack of transparency, vegetation management timelines, biologist surveys, and communication issues.

EAC focused on the importance of bird nesting protections as part of vegetation maintenance protocols, including the need for transparency, enforcement, accountability, and consistent county-wide policies, where possible.

Morgan Patton, EAC's Executive Director, raised concerns about the complexity of the multiple entities involved with roadside work and the need for clear information about who to contact when a bird nesting concern arises. **"A concerned citizen doesn't know who to call. There are currently transparency and enforcement issues. How does the**

**public know that all of the applicable laws and policies are being followed when vegetation work takes place?” said Morgan Patton, EAC’s Executive Director.**

EAC has received numerous citizen complaints around harmful vegetation management practices occurring in West Marin, which prompted sending a letter on March 16, 2017 to the Marin County Board of Supervisors, co-signed by Audubon Canyon Ranch and Point Blue Conservation Science recommending a bird nesting protection ordinance, observation of the current laws, and a restriction of vegetation work to the non-nesting season. Since then, EAC has received over 100 signatures in support of improved bird nesting protections for mowing, trimming and other routine maintenance projects occurring in Marin County.

**Birds are under threat due to climate change, habitat loss, human disturbance, and pesticides; and Marin County is a particularly unique bird area, as it is located along the Pacific Flyway, where over 54 percent of all North American birds have been sighted and recorded.**

EAC continues to advocate for stronger bird nesting protections in Marin County, including consistent, transparent, and documentable best management practices around bird nesting surveys and training. EAC will continue to advance the conversation with the intention to provide better protections for nesting birds in Marin County.

**How You Can Help?** Sign our [online petition](https://www.eacmarin.org/bird-protection) (<https://www.eacmarin.org/bird-protection>) to raise awareness about this issue.

**For More Information visit:** <https://www.eacmarin.org/wildlife/>

**About EAC:** EAC’s [Mission](#) is to protect and sustain the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin.

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