

*"A society grows great when people plant trees
in whose shade they shall never sit."* —Greek Proverb



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Dear Friend,

Thank you for supporting the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) through your charitable giving, joining us for an event, volunteering, or taking an interest in our grassroots advocacy in coastal Marin.

Amidst our leadership transition, our work continues as strong as ever as we approach the end of the year. As the Interim Executive Director, I write with urgency to ask for your support by making a tax-deductible contribution before December 31st, which will help launch our efforts in the new year.

Through your generous charitable support, we bring people, science, and policy together

to save vital ecosystems, defend environmental laws, ensure accountability from our leaders, and mobilize community members to take action on issues impacting coastal Marin County, affectionately known as West Marin. Our environmental protection successes often do not happen overnight, but through unwavering diligence, they are achieved through our dedicated legislative and policy advocacy; working with key stakeholders and partners; and voicing concerns to local, state, and federal agencies.

Our local work makes a big difference for Marin County. We are unique because we are able to partner and work across jurisdictional boundaries on many environmental and social issues that impact our County and beyond. For 52-years we have been fostering an environmental legacy of protection for our shared environmental landscapes, habitats, and wildlife with successful protection for the places we love like Tomales Bay, Drakes Estero, and the Tomales Dunes.

However, we cannot do this vital work without you. Your involvement and investment in our local grassroots mission are critical to our continued success in protecting and sustaining West Marin's unique lands, waters, and biodiversity, and remaining responsive to the ongoing and increasing environmental challenges.

Please join me in making a meaningful tax-deductible contribution, to help us reach our \$100,000 fundraising goal before December 31st, which will be matched up to \$20,000 by our generous board of directors. Review the enclosed materials to see how your donations are being put to work and take action:

By joining our member circle, or renewing your annual support. Our members' charitable giving represents 70% of our annual budget to accomplish our advocacy, education, and community engagement mission. See enclosed remit for information on your member status.

Already a member? Consider a tax-deductible year-end contribution to help us meet our goals. Your one-time gift, above your annual membership, will help strengthen our organizational capacity and enhance our programmatic work.

As we plan for the new year, we are steadfastly committed to protecting public lands, safeguarding our coast and ocean, empowering the next generation of advocates through our field trips and internships, expanding our community outreach and education, and continuing to focus on climate resilience.

Continue reading to learn more about how a gift can help today...



Donor Snapshot

with member and volunteer
John Dulger-Sheikin

"The California coast is something I have always been able to count on, a perpetual source of happiness, inspiration, and harmony. Like a loving mother, it gives and gives without expectation or intention, and I feel so incredibly fortunate to have it be a part of my life. I volunteer with the EAC as a way of giving something back to the coastal region closest to my heart and home, hoping to help in some small way to preserve its wonder for my children and theirs. It feels like the least I can do."

John, his wife Brenda, and two kids Dimtri and Athena live in Roseville, California. They joined the EAC member community after visiting our educational exhibit at our office this spring. Their charitable giving is matched by State Street Employer Matching Fund, and helps double their impact for our mission. In addition, John has joined our Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival Committee, and also volunteers his time with our Marin MPA Watch program, for events, and on many office projects.

Thank you for your service and dedication to our cause!

In 2024, we plan to strengthen and streamline our programs to focus our efforts on the most critical and urgent challenges including:

- **Protecting public lands to ensure our sensitive coastal habitat and resources are protected** while continuing our joint water quality monitoring program at Point Reyes National Seashore;
- **Advocating for coordinated and science-based sea level rise planning in Marin County** and California, while amplifying and refining our climate crisis awareness work to build community resilience and protect our irreplaceable coastal resources;
- **Ensuring fisheries and aquaculture are adaptively managed, sustainable and properly-sited**, including participation in the Ocean Protection Council's aquaculture action plan public process, as well as monitoring new lease proposals as the newly created statewide public interest criteria are implemented;
- **Safeguarding critical habitat in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** by advocating for boundary expansions and protections to our local MPAs like Duxbury Reef and Drakes Estero from increasing climate and overuse threats while meeting California's 30x30 goals;
- **Strengthening the Marin MPA Watch community science program** through volunteer recruitment and trainings to collect human use data in Marin County's MPAs that helps inform statewide management;
- **Formalizing our Duxbury Docent program in partnership with Marin County Parks and Open Space** by creating an Advisory Committee and strengthening our volunteer presence on the reef to protect habitat and educate the visiting public;
- **Expanding our legal and policy internship program into fellowships to further our legislative reach** in advocating for the protection of the California Coastal Act and other bedrock environmental laws; and
- **Advancing the Cleaner California Coast Initiative**, a collaboration between three counties (Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino) with Leave No Trace to increase public stewardship and lessen coastal pollution through a coordinated messaging campaign focused on education, training, and actions to reduce litter and increase protection and stewardship of our coast.

Join me in contributing to our cause by December 31st to help us launch into the new year with renewed energy and the capacity to proactively protect our coast. Please review how your donations are being put to work in the enclosed materials, and if possible, please consider increasing your charitable giving to help us meet rising inflation and operational costs. Thanks again for staying engaged, and I hope to see you at the Winter Gathering on December 9th! Details below.

In deep gratitude for our community of supporters,



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs | Interim Executive Director



P.S. Meet our team and learn more using the QR with your phone camera or by visiting eacmarin.org/staff.



JOIN US FOR OUR
WINTER GATHERING

CELEBRATING OUR GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY & YOU!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023
1:00 - 4:00 PM

BUCK HALL AT THE LODGE AT MARCONI
18500 CA-1 MARSHALL, CA 94940



Come meet our team and community over delicious seasonal appetizers, drinks, and with live music from Desi & The Mish. RSVP today! eacmarin.org