



January News 2013

I'm sending out this month's E-News a bit early in order to alert you to time sensitive opportunities to review and comment on several upcoming major development projects in our community—College of Marin's New Academic Center, The Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project and the Marin General Hospital Replacement Building Project. Each is significant to our community and to the County at large. I encourage residents to learn more about each and participate in the public review process.

Additionally, there are two important community safety efforts happening this month. First, I urge you to take advantage of the Office of Emergency Services upgrading of its emergency notification system by registering your cell phone to receive emergency alerts from the County. You will be informed of floods, wildfires, crimes in your neighborhood and other emergency situations that can be key to you and your family's safety. The other effort is a Gun Buy-Back Program to be held on January 15th and 21st at various locations throughout the County. Please join me in supporting both these efforts.

If you have any questions or comments, please call at 415-473-7331 or email me at krice@marincounty.org.

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College of Marin's New Academic Center Project

The College of Marin has released its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the New Academic Center (NAC) on the Kentfield Campus. All comments regarding the DEIR must be received by Thursday, January 31st at 5pm.

Project Description: The project site is located on the central campus in Kentfield, near the corner of College Avenue and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The proposed NAC would house 16 general purpose classrooms and cost about \$23 million. The NAC would replace four existing older buildings on the same site: Harlan Center, Business Management Center, Onley Hall and the Administrative Center.

How to Review: The DEIR document is available for review at the Swinerton Management and Consulting on-site offices at 700 College Avenue, Building PE-8 in Kentfield. The Draft EIR and other associated documents, including the project site plans can also be viewed on the College of Marin's website:

<http://www.marin.edu/MeasureC/LegalInformation/LegalInformationLibrary.htm>

How to Comment: Comments must be received in writing and can be sent via email to llowe@esassoc.com with COM NAC DEIR noted in the subject line or mailed to: Lesley Lowe, AICP CTP, Environmental Science Associates, 350 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612. **The deadline for comments is Thursday, January 31st at 5pm.**

Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) released the Environmental Documents for the Highway 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project on December 17th and are hosting an open house and public hearing on Tuesday, January 29th at Redwood High School to review the documents and receive comments.

Project Description: Caltrans and TAM are proposing to improve traffic operations and relieve congestion for multiple travel modes along the US Highway 101 corridor between the Town of Corte Madera and the City of Larkspur. This will be accomplished through the reconfiguration of existing US 101 interchanges, and the construction of auxiliary lanes and collector-distributor roadways. Pedestrian and bike improvements are also included in the project.

How to Review: Environmental Documents are available online at the Caltrans website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm or on the TAM website at www.tam.ca.gov (click on Projects & Programs – Hwy 101 Greenbrae Twin Cities).

How to Comment: A public open house and hearing is scheduled for January 29th at the Redwood High School cafeteria located at 395 Doherty Drive in Larkspur from 6-8pm. You can also submit comments via email to Valerie_Shearer@dot.ca.gov or by mail to: Caltrans District 4, Attention: Valerie Shearer, Senior Environmental Planner, Office of Environmental Analysis MS-8B, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660. Questions may be directed to Valerie Shearer via email or phone (510) 286-5594 or to Bill Whitney, TAM Project Manager, via email bwhitney@tam.ca.gov or phone (415) 226-0823. **The deadline for comments is Thursday, February 14th at 5pm.**

Marin General Hospital Replacement Building Project

The Marin County Healthcare District, as lead agency for the project, is in the process of completing the environmental review process for the Marin General Hospital Replacement Building Project. The proposed project includes a five-story, 300,000 square-foot hospital replacement building; a five-story, 100,000 square-foot ambulatory services building; and two parking structures. Every aspect of the hospital will meet or exceed the latest state-mandated standards for earthquake safety. The Final Environmental Impact Report will be discussed by the Marin County Planning Commission at a public workshop in February.

How to Review: The EIR has not yet been completed/made public, but the electronic files of the DEIR are still available online at the Marin Healthcare District's website at <http://www.marinhealthcare.org>. Visit <http://www.marincounty.org/main/calendar> for meeting dates/times/agenda or call (415) 473-6278.

Gun Buy- Back Program – January 15th and 21st

In response to the recent Sandy Hook tragedy, District Attorney Ed Berberian has joined with Marin's police jurisdictions, the Marin County Sheriff, the County's Board of Supervisors, Marin County's Superintendent of Schools, local mayors and other leaders to launch a Gun Buy-Back Program.

Marin residents can be compensated for the surrender of their firearms on January 15th and January 21st at identified local police stations throughout the County. January 15th, Martin Luther King's birthday, was selected as the primary date for this program given its consistency with Dr. King's teachings and commitment to non-violence.

For more information regarding the buy-back, including time and locations, visit: <http://www.marincounty.org/Home/Depts/DA/Gun%20Buy%20Back>. Questions can be directed to District Attorney Ed Berberian at eberberian@marincounty.org.

Register Your Cell Phone Now to Receive Emergency Alerts

You can now register your cell phone or VoIP (voice over internet protocol) phone to receive emergency alerts sent by call, text, or email from the County of Marin. Emergency situations may include flooding, wildfires, and subsequent evacuations; public safety incidents including crimes that affect your neighborhood; and post-disaster information about shelters, transportation, or supplies.

This service has been launched by the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services as a new important update of the Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS). TENS is a high-speed communications system that can quickly notify members of the public by phone of critical emergency information in situations where property or human life is in danger.

Listed and unlisted/blocked Marin County landline phone numbers are already included in the emergency notification system. Cell phone and VoIP numbers are not included and require your registration. This service is available to you if you live, work or go to school in Marin County and are at least 18 years of age.

Register your phone at <http://www.alertmarin.org/>.

California Public Utilities Commission Consideration of New Area Code for 415 Area

The 415 area code is expected to use up all the available prefixes by October 2015. To ensure that new numbers are available for customers and technology expansion, the California Public Utilities Commission has begun the process to introduce a new area code to the geography now served by the 415.

A public meeting will be held in San Rafael on January 17th at both 2pm and 7pm in the San Rafael City Council Chambers at 1400 Fifth Avenue.

If you are unable to attend these public meetings, you may comment at the Commission's web site <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/415areacode>, or via e-mail to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov, or submit written comments to the Commission's Public Advisor's Office at 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90013. Call the Area Code Hotline number for more information at (866) 340- 6147.

Upcoming Local Events

White Hill Hike

Wednesday, January 23, 2013, 10am – 3pm

Meet at the White Hill trailhead on Sir Francis Drake Blvd on White Hill.

We'll aim for lunch at the summit, but we'll make the 1,000 foot ascent at a pace that will allow us to find plenty of mushrooms, birds, and other wildlife along the way. This walk is for adults. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. Heavy rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. David Herlocker will lead.

Questions: Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or dherlocker@marincounty.org

Cascade Canyon Hike

Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 10am – 2pm

Meet at the gate at the end of Cascade Dr in Fairfax.

There's no better time than this to enjoy the beauty of this preserve, the creeks are flowing, and the waterfall should be spectacular. We can enjoy wildflowers as well as mushrooms, and if the sun is shining, we might even find some of the first butterflies of the season. When the creek is full, we have to use a trail that is cut into a stone bank above the water; this narrow section can be slippery and challenging. This walk is for adults. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. Heavy rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. David Herlocker will lead. Questions:

Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or DHerlocker@marincounty.org.

Nature for Kids: Cascade Canyon

Thursday, February 21, 2013, 10am – 1pm

Meet at the gate at the end of Cascade Dr in Fairfax.

By now the creek should be rushing, and the waterfall might be going full blast. We'll search for insects, amphibians, and more. We will learn about an amazing fish called the steelhead that comes into the bay from the ocean and swims up this creek to lay eggs and then goes back out to sea! When the creek is full, we have to use a trail that is cut into a stone bank above the water; this narrow section can be slippery and challenging. Strollers are not recommended. We request that no animals (except service animals) attend. Heavy rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 on the morning of the walk for a recorded message to see if the walk is cancelled. David Herlocker will lead. Questions: Contact David at (415) 893-9508 or DHerlocker@marincounty.org.

Waterfall Walks: Baltimore Canyon

Saturday, February 23, 2013, 10am – 12pm

Meet at the gate at the end of Crown Rd in Kent Woodlands.

Meet a ranger for a walk down one of our most popular trails, the Dawn Falls Trail. A discussion of creek ecology, watersheds, and water conservation will be included on the way. This walk will be approximately 2 miles round-trip; the second half will include a sustained uphill climb. Dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes (it could be muddy or slippery), and bring water and snacks. Friendly dogs are welcome, but must be leashed. Rain does not cancel the event. Questions: Call (415) 473-2816.

For a complete listing of County events and meetings, visit <http://www.marincounty.org/main/calendar>.

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