

AGENCY RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: *Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?*

Report Date: September 11, 2020

Response Date: December 1, 2020

Agency Name: Town of Corte Madera **Agenda Date:** December 1, 2020

Response by: Eli Beckman **Title:** Mayor

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3, F5
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: F4, F7
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: N/A

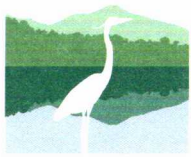
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered N/A have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R4 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R1, R6 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 12/8/20 Signed: 

Number of pages attached 7



THE TOWN OF
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MARIN COUNTY CALIFORNIA

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December 1, 2020

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

Foreperson Dilworth:

At its regular meeting on November 17, 2020, the Town Council reviewed the report "Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?" dated September 11, 2020. The report calls for a response from the Town of Corte Madera to Findings (F1-F5, F7) and Recommendations (R1, R4 & R6), which we have attached to this letter.

As an introduction to our specific responses, the Town of Corte Madera would like to reference the following Town-led and collaborative regional efforts to date that established the basis for our responses:

In 2018, the Town adopted a [Climate Action Plan](#) with the purpose of compiling existing and potential strategies (i.e., actions, projects, and programs) that the Town's government and the community can use to address climate change. It provided a brief background on what climate change is and its potential impacts, but focused on the efforts Corte Madera can take to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate, to the extent feasible at the local level, the potential impacts of climate change. An update to this document is in the late stages of development and is likely to be adopted by Town Council in early 2021.

In fall of 2018, the Town embarked on a planning process to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan focused on enhancing the resilience of Corte Madera. Through this effort, with the collaboration of Town elected officials, staff, community organizations, agencies, and local residents, the Town of Corte Madera Climate Adaptation Plan will provide the necessary foundation and framework for us to make critical decisions that address the Town's extensive range of climate change-related risks. This document is in the late stages of development and the [Draft Climate Adaptation Plan](#) was made public on November 19, 2020, where the final draft will likely be adopted by Town Council in early 2021.

In addition, there are existing regional adaptation planning efforts; such as [BayWAVE](#); [Drawdown: Marin](#); the General Plan Safety Element in coordination with the [Marin County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan \(LHMP\) Update](#); the General Plan Environmental Justice

Element, and [Marin Climate and Energy Partnership](#), which all involve multi-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination.

Should the members of the Grand Jury require any additional information, please contact the Town Manager Todd Cusimano at 415-927-5061 or tcusimano@tcnmail.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eli Beckman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eli Beckman
Mayor

Attachment A: Town of Corte Madera, Response to Marin Civil Grand Jury Findings & Recommendations

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA – RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDINGS

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

Agree. The Town has been an active participant in the countywide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, the Town prepared a Climate Action Plan in 2016 that was adopted by the Council in December 2018, and is in the process of updating it further. A Climate Action Committee was formed in early 2020 with the goal to lessen greenhouse gas emissions and further the goals addressed by State climate goals and the Town's Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan and fully implementing the programs outlined in both. To date the Town has leased three electric vehicles; purchased an electric bicycle; installed one electric vehicle charging station at Town Hall, is in the process of considering the implementation of green building reach codes for development projects; has implemented sustainable construction methods and materials on Town projects; and has applied for numerous grants with the intent to implement further green and sustainable infrastructure.

The updated Climate Action Plan states that community greenhouse gas emissions totaled 121,068 metric tons in 2005 and 76,926 metric tons in 2018, falling 36 percent, or 44,142 metric tons CO_{2e}. Reductions occurred in all inventoried sectors. The largest decline occurred in the Non-Residential sector, primarily due to the closing of the WinCup factory. Emissions declined 77 percent in this sector and 25,243 metric tons. Addressing government operations, in 2018, the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership prepared a Local Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory report for Corte Madera comparing emissions between the baseline 2005 year and 2015. The inventory shows that local government operations emitted an estimated total of 777 metric tons CO_{2e} in 2015, down 9 percent from 2005 levels. The greatest reduction occurred in the vehicle fleet sector, where emissions dropped 54 metric tons CO_{2e}, or 22 percent. Other significant reductions occurred in the water delivery sector (37 metric tons) and the buildings and facilities sector (32 metric tons). Furthermore, The Local Government Operation GHG Inventory does not reflect the Town's decision in 2017 to begin purchasing 100 percent renewable energy for municipal operations. If this action is factored in, emissions from government operations would be 622 metric tons CO_{2e} and 27 percent below 2005 levels.

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.

Agree. The Town initiated a Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) effort in the fall of 2018 and is on schedule to adopt the CAP in early 2021. This plan will act as a road map to assist Town decision makers in the prioritization and implementation of its Capital Improvement Plan and other policies and infrastructure improvements to reduce the Town's vulnerabilities to climate change to the fullest extent based on available funds and resources.

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.

Agree. In addition, our Town of Corte Madera updated Climate Action Plan and 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan also position the Town well to focus on adaptation planning and policies related to sea level rise, and also implementation of its developed strategies. These will require coordination with all neighboring jurisdictions taking similar actions, as sea level rise does not respect City and Town boundaries.

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.

Partially Disagree. Town elected officials and staff have been active participants in the countywide working group” and Drawdown: Marin efforts as well as the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership for many years. In addition, the working draft of the Town’s Climate Adaptation Plan established an over-arching goal to “incorporate resilience and equity into all of the Town’s plans, policies and projects.” Furthermore, the Town has hired the San Francisco Estuary Institute to assist with prioritizing the development of nature based solutions as part of its shoreline and sea level rise infrastructure strategies. However, there could be opportunities to do more in the areas of public health and social equity.

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.

Agree. However, not all government agencies perceive the same level of vulnerabilities to climate change. We observe that the shortfall of staffing and financial resources to address climate change adaptation varies significantly by jurisdiction and agency. Enhanced cooperation across the County to obtain appropriate resources could prove productive.

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.”

Although we agree there is no single overarching government entity directing the work of these valuable collaborative and interjurisdictional efforts, such as but not limited to; BayWAVE; Drawdown: Marin; the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership (MCEP); Environmental Justice

and Safety Elements for each General Plan and Marin Wildfire Prevent Authority (MWPA). Similarly, the Town led Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan have been developed effectively without an overarching interjurisdictional entity. Therefore, it is unclear if individual jurisdictions or the county as whole would benefit from empowering one of these on-going interjurisdictional collaborations or a completely new government entity with overarching responsibilities and authority.

TOWN OF CORTE MADERA – RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS
TIMEFRAME & NEXT STEPS

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.

The Town of Corte Madera agrees that an over-arching multi-jurisdictional task force would provide a benefit toward synthesizing the many completed and on-going efforts to further emphasize the importance of collaboration countywide and sharing of data and resources to our common goals related to addressing climate change. However, a decision of this magnitude requires further analysis and widespread support from external agencies that are beyond the Town's control. Therefore, the Town will request and participate in meeting(s) with the other jurisdictions in Marin prior to March 11th, 2021 to determine if there is majority support for this task force. If there is majority support from those agencies, the Town will diligently participate in multi-jurisdictional collaboration to develop the roles and responsibilities of this task force with the intent to formalize this task force as quickly as reasonably possible.

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.

In our response to this Grand Jury report, we have declared our 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. Prior to March 11th, 2021 the Town will send a follow-up letter directly to Marin Climate & Energy Partnership to further declare our support for broadened climate change planning efforts and to request a proposal from MCEP that summarizes this potential additional scope of work and associated membership dues. Furthermore, the Town will diligently participate in any follow up collaboration efforts to formalize this expanded role of Marin Climate & Energy Partnership.

R6. Each city and town, if it does not have a full-time sustainability coordinator (or similar position), should appoint a committee or commission charged with monitoring and reporting on its climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Agree. As stated in our response the Town of Corte Madera currently has a Climate Action Committee composed of Councilmembers, citizen volunteers and staff. The current role of this committee is to implement the Town's Climate Action Plan. Should this recommendation be formalized amongst the other jurisdictions in Marin, the committee is prepared to expand its responsibilities to also monitor the Town's adaptation efforts and be responsible for reporting on both items. However, given this decision requires further analysis and widespread support from external jurisdictions that are beyond the Town's control, the Town will request and participate in meeting(s) with the other jurisdictions in Marin prior to March 11th, 2021 to determine if there

is majority support for this appointed committee or commission approach and will diligently participate in multi-jurisdictional collaboration to develop the roles and responsibilities of these committees along with a framework of how the various committees from each jurisdiction can effectively collaborate and report on their climate change and mitigation adaptation efforts.