

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Town of San Anselmo

Report Title: Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?
Report Date: September 11, 2020
Public Release: September 11, 2020
Response By: Ford Greene, Mayor, amended by Brian Colbert, Mayor

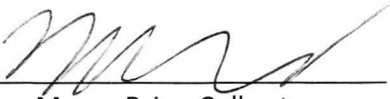
FINDINGS

- We agree with the findings numbered: F4 and F5
- We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F1, F2, F3 and F7 (see attached for portion of the finding that is disputed and explanation of the reasons therefor)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations R4 and R6 is being implemented, see summary regarding the implemented action attached.
- Recommendations _____ has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, see attached timeframe for implementation.
- Recommendations _____ require further analysis, see attached explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion, which timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- Recommendations R1 will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, see attached explanation.

Date: 9/10/21

Signed: 
Mayor Brian Colbert

Number of Pages Attached: 2

Brian Colbert
Mayor

Alexis Fineman
Vice Mayor

Steve Burdo
Council Member

Ford Greene
Council Member

Eileen Burke
Council Member



August 25, 2021

The Honorable Judge Andrew Sweet
Marin County Superior Court
Post Office Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Deborah Haase, 2021-22 Foreperson,
Marin County Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: Amended Response to Grand Jury Report dated September 11, 2020, "Climate Change: How Will Marin Adapt?"

Dear Honorable Judge Sweet and Ms. Haase:

This letter explains in detail the Town of San Anselmo's response to the Grand Jury Report referenced above. The report directs the Town to respond to Findings F1–F5 and F7 and Recommendations R1, R4 and R6. The Town Council declared a climate and ecological emergency exists in February 2020. We resolved to advocate for mobilization at all levels of government to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis. We appreciate the effort to raise awareness of this important issue.

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

Response: Agree in part. Marin County has one of the highest carbon footprints in the Bay Area.¹ Marin County jurisdictions have met their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions goals largely due to actions at the State level, and not due to actions on the part of local governments. State vehicle fuel efficiency, renewable portfolio standards, Title 24 energy efficiency standards, and waste reduction standards have led to local GHG reductions. However, the Marin climate action plans do not yet address consumption-

¹ Jones, C. M, & Kammen, D. M. (2015). A Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Inventory of San Francisco Bay Area Neighborhoods, Cities and Counties: Prioritizing Climate Action for Different Locations. UC Berkeley. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2sn7m83z>

based GHG emissions. Marin governments need to step up local efforts to reduce and mitigate the causes of the impacts that trigger “adaptive” measures.

Finding 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: Agree in part. Adaptation planning is essential, but the County should have a comprehensive approach to address climate change that integrates mitigation, adaptation and resilience planning. An integrated response to climate change will ensure that plans comprehensively identify issues, opportunities and costs. Planning must ensure that adaptation, as a rule, does not exacerbate problems.

Finding 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: Agree in part. As noted in the report, sea level rise planning should include mitigation, adaptation and also resilience. The County should not over emphasize sea level rise planning but should also take into consideration droughts, wildfire, air pollution, landslides, droughts and flooding.

Finding 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: Agree. As noted above, the efforts should be comprehensive.

Finding 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: Agree.

Finding 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: Agree in part. Marin lacks any county-wide organization or governance structure to facilitate adaptation efforts. But there are local examples of regional efforts that include funding sources, such as the Ross Valley and Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority and the Ross Valley Flood Protection & Watershed Program that could be examined and considered for possibly consolidating under one larger climate mitigation and adaptation effort county-wide.

Recommendation 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 Town agrees that a multi-jurisdictional task force should be formed, in collaboration with agencies and regional groups, and charged with developing a single, comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional adaptation and mitigation strategy for all of Marin with assistance from an Office of Sustainability and Resilience. The plan should address all climate impacts, including flooding, sea level rise, wildfire, heat, drought, health, air quality, and additional results of warming conditions. The recommendation will not be implemented by the Town of San Anselmo since this recommendation specifically asks the County to take the lead in forming a new task force to develop a 'single, comprehensive, multi jurisdictional adaptation strategy for all of Mann'. As one of many entities that could be involved, San Anselmo is not in a position to assess the capacity or willingness of the County to effectively implement this recommendation or its timeline for implementing the recommendation.

The multi-jurisdictional task force should analyze the cost and opportunities for funding at the level required to avoid much larger costs in the future. 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 the San Anselmo community into this countywide process, we urge you to initiate the local adaptation planning actions called for in the Town's Climate Change Action Plan.

The Town believes we must address these adaptation and mitigation together not separately. The Task Force should be charged with more than adaptation planning and mitigation, striving for a comprehensive plan for the county to draw down more carbon than it emits.

The Board of Supervisors can complement the countywide task force by completing formation of DRAWDOWN Marin to provide countywide leadership to achieve the 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 addressing climate change. DRAWDOWN Marin 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.

The Town supports a multi-jurisdictional collaboration to update local hazard plans in response to Senate Bill 379 similar to the effort to update local hazard mitigation plans in 2019 and in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Recommendation 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: This recommendation is being implemented. The Town is a supporting member of the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership (MCEP). MCEP has been essential in assisting the Town with preparation of its climate action plans, plastic bag ban, and other efforts. MCEP has long declared its support for studying, securing funding, 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.

To help support the capacity of MCEP, we support a centralized grant-seeking function for climate protection and resilience within the County government.

Recommendation 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.*

Response: This recommendation is being implemented. The Town has a Sustainability Commission (since 2000) that is actively involved in development of the Town's Climate Action Plans and annually reports to the Town Council on the Town's progress in meetings its climate action goals but the Town lacks funding to realize the goals. The Town has not funded a full-time sustainability coordinator but has dedicated \$20,000 in the 2019/2020 budget for Public Works staff to work as a Sustainability Coordinator. The Town would benefit from County support of a staff sustainability coordinator – either unique to our Town or shared with other nearby towns – to allow us to leverage other public as well as private funding sources to implement recommendations in our climate action plan.

The Town will be implementing Senate Bill 379, which added the requirement that jurisdictions update their general plans to “address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies.” The Town will seek to amend its Climate Action Plan in the future if necessary, to further coordinated and effective climate action countywide.

The Sustainability Commission can be tasked to monitor and report on the Town's mitigation and adaptation efforts. But the Sustainability Commission is comprised of all

volunteers and the Town currently has limited staff availability to finding funding sources and implement the wide range of mitigation and adaptation programs urgently needed. The Town supports a centralized grant-seeking function for climate protection and resilience within the County government. Any future measures enacted to support climate protection and resilience should consider funding local jurisdiction efforts to carry out local actions.

The Town of San Anselmo Town Council reviewed and approved this response on November 24, 2020, at a duly noticed and agendaized public meeting. If you have further questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian Colbert", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Colbert
Mayor

2021 SEP 15 P 2:40

MARIN COUNTY
COUNSEL'S OFFICE