

**MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
6:00pm**

Members Present

Belvedere: Block, Campbell, Kemnitzer, Lynch, Wilkinson
Corte Madera: Beckman, Casissa, Mongan
Fairfax: Ackerman, Coler, Cutrano, Goddard, Hellman
Larkspur: Haroff, Hillmer, Paulson, Way
Mill Valley: McCauley, McEntee, Ossa
Novato: Athas, Eklund, Lucan, Peele, Wernick
Ross: Brekhus, Kircher, Kuhl, McMillan, Robbins
San Anselmo: Burdo, Colbert, Fineman
San Rafael: Colin, Llorens-Gulati, Kertz
Sausalito: Blaustein, Cleveland-Knowles, Hoffman, Kellman, Sobieski
Tiburon: Fredericks

Ex Officio: Novato City Manager Adam McGill; Ross City Manager Joe Chinn; MCCMC Secretary Rebecca Vaughn

Guests were: Senator Mike McGuire; Summer Cassel, District Representative for Senator McGuire; Ben Horenstein, MMWD General Manager; Cynthia Koehler, Member MMWD Board of Directors; Supervisor Damon Connolly; Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters; Nancy Hall Bennett, League of California Cities North Bay Division; Melissa Apuya, District Director for Assemblymember Marc Levine,

Call to Order

President Eric Lucan called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers via webinar for April 28, 2021. A roll call of the Marin towns/cities was taken. At least one representative from each of the 11 Marin Cities and Towns were present.

He then called for Public Comment.

Public Comment –

1. **Brian Colbert, Mayor, San Anselmo** – Mayor Colbert stated that he and Mayor Colin co chair the MCCMC Economic Recovery Committee, and they are cohosting a symposium via zoom on the morning of Tuesday, May 4th on Collaborative City Making and Restaurant Trends. One panelist is an urban designer, one is a local restaurateur and one is in the investment space in restaurants. Secretary Vaughn will be sending out the invitation after the meeting and he invited the membership to share the invitation with anyone who may be interested in figuring out how Marin moves in to recovery and how we being to lay the foundation for Marin’s economic vitality 2.0.

2. **Barbara Coler, Councilmember, Fairfax** – As we are all grappling with the new RHNA numbers that are quite significant, the issues that people bring up a lot are parking, traffic and water, and water in particular, right now. Would MCCMC consider in the future writing a letter to MMWD and North Marin Water District to ask them if they are

looking at how they plan to answer when we all ask them if they can supply water, and if they do have plans to supply water. The RHNA for the entire county is about 4,500. She asked is President Lucan would consider adding this discussion to a future agenda.

Following public comment, President Lucan proceeded to of introduction guests and a continuation of the introduction of current Mayors.

President Lucan introduced the following guests in attendance: Supervisor Damon Connolly, Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Nancy Hall Bennett, League of CA Cities, Melissa Apuya, District Director for Assemblymember Marc Levine. He then introduced several current Mayors and invited them to participate in "Two Truths and a Lie" to introduce themselves.

The following Council members were introduced: Sashi McEntee, Outgoing Mayor, Mill Valley; Jill Hoffman, Sausalito; John McCauley, Incoming Mayor, Mill Valley

President Lucan continued the Two Truths and a Lie icebreaker with current Mayors: James Campbell, Belvedere; Eli Beckman, Corte Madera; Kate Colin, San Rafael; and Julie McMillan, Ross. The remaining Mayors will be introduced at the next MCCMC meeting.

4. Presentations:

4.a. Senator Mike McGuire – Update to MCCMC Regarding the Current Legislative Session and State Coronavirus Response

President Lucan introduced Senator Mike McGuire and thanked him for providing this update to MCCMC.

Senator McGuire began his update by stating that 81% of the population of Marin County has received at least one dose of the Covid vaccine, 60% of all of those in the county have received two doses. If we take a look at the state average, it's just under 50% that have received two doses. He acknowledged the work that the Marin County Department of Public Health has been doing, it's really impressive.

He covered some of the significant economic recovery packages that are going to be coming forward from the state. Congressman Huffman talked about the federal side. We would like to talk about homelessness funding, affordable housing funding, fire funding and then you're going to see a robust package advanced tomorrow on all issues of the drought.

Regarding the economic outlook for the state, California was America's economic engine prior to this pandemic and despite our challenges, we're going to be America's economic engine in the years to come. California is going to retain our fifth largest economy. California lost a congressional seat but one important fact that we need to remember, over the last decade, California has actually gained 2.2 million people that have moved into the state. Not as fast as the rest of the United States of America, but we've gained from the previous census cycle 2.2 million folks coming to California for opportunity. If we look at the third and fourth quarter of this year, we're going to have near record growth and it is anticipated that California is going to have the strongest third and fourth quarter, both in job creation as well as tax generation that the state has seen in the last 60 years. It's really positive according to all of the state economists.

We believe that we're going into one of the strongest economies that we've seen in 60 years by the end of this year into 2022 and through 2023. We believe that we're going to be back to 2019 job

numbers by middle of 2023. We were expecting it to be 2024 but because of that 26 billion that's going to be landing in federal stimulus in state of California through Joe Biden's plan, we expect to take an entire year off of this COVID-induced recession. At the end of our fiscal year, the state of California will finish total surplus just under \$40 billion. And how that has happened, our two main bread and butter segments for our taxes, corporate income tax and personal income tax. The more we make, the more we pay in state of California and we have never seen higher tax returns coming into state coffers than we have during the pandemic. And it's quite perverse because we also have never seen the wealth divide as big as it is right now in the state of California and that is a crisis as we move forward.

California has paid off more bond debt than we've ever paid off this year alone. We have refilled our rainy day fund. We took \$9 billion out at the start of the pandemic and we've already repaid that \$9 back into our rainy day fund. Schools will have the biggest year that they have ever had, with K12 public schools getting an additional \$1,400 to \$1,700 per student next year. Plus on the federal side, an additional \$4,300 one time funding is going to come from the federal government to help get California schools reopened. In addition to that, we're going to put down another \$1,600 in state funding to be able to help them get reopened and to be able to deal with any challenges as we move forward. So K12 public schools are going to be looking really solid here into this next school year.

He also stated that there's been a lot of concern for K12 public schools because of declining enrollment, kids shifting from charter schools, from traditional public or going from traditional public to private schools, that they would lose their average daily attendance. We have provided all school districts in the state of California a hold harmless agreement. This year and next year, they are not going to lose any funding, it's going to be based on 2019 pre-pandemic level attendance. So over this year and next year, there will not be any school district funding in any district throughout the state of California which is really critical.

The state's biggest challenge when it comes to the economy is going to be hospitality and tourism, that's why we're advancing a recovery initiative to invest \$45 million one time to be able to get tourism safely restarted when the California Department of Public Health says to do so in marketing California. We did it after the 911 attacks. Our region, San Francisco Bay region, the North Coast, San Diego and Los Angeles benefited mightily from that. California has a \$145 billion-dollar tourism economy, it generated \$12.3 billion in state local taxes prior to the pandemic with 10 consecutive years of growth. We believe that this \$45 million is going to turn into about \$10.3 billion in revenue and approximately \$865 million in state and local taxes in the first year alone. When it comes to tourism what we know especially in Southern Marin, tourism is so critical to our overall economies.

He then spoke about the economic recovery and where we're investing. Number one, as you all know, we put 2.6 billion into tenant protection. Any tenant living at 80% of area median income that has an agreement with their landlord, will be able to stay in their unit through June 30th of this year. The state is looking at a potential renewal on that in the coming few weeks. We will not use that entire \$2.6 billion, we believe the total back rent isn't going to break a billion and a half across the state. Again, the strings attached are 80% of area median income qualifies. If the tenant and the landlord agree, the tenant is obligated to stay in that unit through June 30th and the state will pay 80% of the back rent owed and that goes all the way back to the start of the pandemic.

The other big agreement that we finally have with the IRS is tax conformity for PPP loans as well as grants. So if you are a business owner and you're not publicly-traded, and you've lost 25% of your income over the last year, you will be able to write off all state side of taxes when it comes to employment costs, rent and leases and utility costs. This is going to mean on average for a business that has 50 employees or less, will receive a \$50,000-tax reduction from the state. So that's a huge shot in the arm for small businesses in Marin County and throughout the Bay and throughout California.

In addition, as you know, we have \$1.2 billion in small business grants that have been allocated. Expect another half billion that's going to come here in the May Budget Revise. And if you're earning \$30,000 or less, the most vulnerable residents, you're going to get an additional \$600, on top of the \$1400 from the feds, from the state of California, it's called the Golden State Stimulus, 5.7 million Californians will receive that. Also, all of your bars, your restaurants, your hair salons, your nail salons, your barbers, your masseuses, in your communities, will no longer have to pay their state license fees for the next two years. So all fees will be waived by the state for state licenses. So that's 659,000 businesses across California, we're going to invest \$115 million into that.

The other area to help reopen our economy, is to get state-subsidized childcare centers reopened. Two thirds of minimum wage earners in California are women. And what we know is if we're not investing in state-subsidized childcare centers, women will not be able to reenter the workforce. We have approximately 410,000 kids going a state-subsidized childcare center, many have shut down due to the pandemic. We're going to put an additional \$525 voucher per student to get those childcare centers reopened in the coming 90 days. So that's really critical that we're investing in those childcare centers to be able to reopen up for the workforce especially those working in service-related jobs.

Last thing I'm going to say on the pandemic, Marin County has received \$400,000 to reach out to communities of color who may not be receiving the vaccine. What we know right now in the state, 55% of all positive cases in California come from Latino families, 46% of all deaths due to COVID-19, from Latino families. What we also know is that if you're earning less than \$50,000, you are much less likely to have received the vaccine by now. So we are working with every county in the state to be able to target those hardest-to-reach communities in particular communities of color.

So \$400,000 will be invested with Supervisor Connolly, who I want to say welcome to him and thank him for his hard work with the county of Marin, and a partnership to reach out to folks in the Canal, Novato, and Marin City, to be able to hit those hardest-to-reach populations and it can go for three different areas of investment, pop-up vaccination clinics, signing up folks in My Turn or hiring culturally-competent outreach workers that will bring folks in for vaccinations. We firmly believe come end of June, we will have more vaccination doses than takers, so we really have to start working on those hardest to reach communities.

He then transitioned to an update on homelessness. He thanked the mayors in Southern Marin County who have been coming together as a collaborative to start focusing on homelessness. Thank you, Mayor Hoffman, as well also want to say thank you to Mayor Colin in San Rafael. We just met with Supervisor Connolly today on all issues of homelessness in San Rafael with a collaborative between the city, the county and the state. You are going to see significant homelessness funding moving from the state, minimum of \$750 million this year in Project Homekey. We'd like to be able to get it up to \$1 billion and I think you will see that in the governor's May Revise.

Now, there's a big focus on service funding. So what the Senate would like to do is give a commitment to all cities and counties that you will see \$10 billion in homeless funding over the next five years, \$2 billion a year. A lot of that would go to expanded service and program funding for Project Homekey. So right now, if you have a Project Homekey development in your community, you will get approximately two years of funding for wraparound services, drug and alcohol addiction and mental health. Let's just be honest about it, we need extended funding, so what we'd like to propose is a guaranteed five years of funding per unit.

So that's going to be a really significant focus that we'd like to be able to move forward with, so that there are direct dollars coming to cities and counties to be able to secure those units and have those wraparound services. The piece I'll also say on affordable housing, you're going to see \$500 million in low income tax credits advanced for affordable housing. Plus, you're going to see a housing bond that will be put onto the ballot next year, 2022, approximately \$5.5 billion, maybe up to \$6.5 billion affordable housing for cities and counties.

Senator McGuire then covered the issues of fire. This is something that we have been super involved in negotiating. \$536 million is now secure and it's moving into cities, moving into counties and special fire districts. So the \$536 million is going to go into the following, and we'd like to work with each and every one of you to secure local vegetation management grants for your cities. Out of the \$536 million going for fire response, fire resiliency as well as prevention, \$380 million is going to go into two programs, the Forest Health Program and the Fire Prevention Program, both grant programs through CAL FIRE. You are also going to see funding coming through the Coastal Conservancy that will be focused in on hard-to-fund projects in Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and some portions of LA County. We believe that we're going to see significant movement on vegetation management, dead or dying tree removal, some strategic forest thinning in Marin County with these dollars. In addition, we're hiring 1,400 additional CAL FIRE seasonal firefighters. He stated that in addition to this \$536 million, you're going to see another half billion more on July 1st. They are working with Chief Weber for Marin County Fire to be able to secure funding for a Marin County-specific handcrew. So Jason Weber has been tenacious in his advocacy along with the board of supervisors on this and we're hoping to be able to get additional dollars for Marin and the six other contract counties who don't contract with CAL FIRE additional funds. We also have purchased seven C-130 cargo planes from the Coast Guard, we're going to reoutfit them to become fire bombers. So they're going to get large bladders in their belly and they will be put to you starting this year along with our 12 new Black Hawk night fighting helicopters that are going to be strategically placed throughout the state.

He then stated that the item he wanted to cover is drought. If you have drought projects, water efficiency projects, getting rid of your lawn and replacing them with drought-resilient landscaping, if you have water storage projects, get them ready to go. A minimum of \$2 billion will be available come July 1st. \$750 million of this is going to be dedicated to cities, counties, special districts. Other dollars that will be moving for agriculture, endangered species protection and then there will be dedicated funding for rural communities that are challenged with water districts that are low-performing as we did last drought. Again, \$750 million for cities, counties and special districts for water efficiency measures to replace lawns, to be able to patch leaks, to be able to do water storage, off stream storage, you name it. If you have a drought project ready to go, his office would like to work with you so that we can start getting them lined up for funding, and his office can be reached at 916-651-4002.

Summer Cassell, District Representative for Senator McGuire, provided her email address and stated his office would be happy to set up a technical assistance call with elected officials, public works directors, city managers, to be able to start lining these dollars up. And again, we believe that Marin County is going to be well scored because of the challenges that the Marin Municipal Water District is also advanced in and because of the Russian River challenges that we're seeing in the drought emergency. They also want to get Marin County into the drought emergency declaration, which is something that is a real priority for us.

At this point, Senator McGuire concluded his presentation and took questions from the audience. After Q&A concluded, President Lucan introduced the next presentation.

4.b. Ben Horenstein, General Manager, Marin Municipal Water District: Conserving Water during Drought

President Lucan introduced Ben Horenstein, General Manager of Marin Municipal Water District, to provide an update on drought conditions in Marin and conserving water during the drought. He also noted that one of the MMWD board of directors, Cynthia Koehler, has joining us as well.

Mr. Horenstein thanked MCCMC for having him at the meeting, and invited MMWD Board President Koehler to share any introductory words.

Ms. Koehle thanked MCCMC for having MMWD at the meeting. She introduced herself and stated that she represents Division 4, which is Mill Valley and Sausalito. She is glad that drought is being focused on and noted that she plans to be talking to most cities about this over the next few weeks and months.

Mr. Horenstein stated that his presentation will cover some data of where we are and what we're doing at this point and what we're thinking about going forward. All of you know we've been around a while serving almost 200,000 people, most of you here with water as well as protecting and preserving our watershed on Mount Tam. Most of MMWD's water does come from the watershed on Mount Tam, a number of lakes, as well as about 25% comes from the Russian River system and we are fortunate in the county to have not just a local supply but such a high-quality local supply up in the mountain.

We are in a drought, it's a historic drought as you may be hearing. 2020 was the second driest year in 90 years and in 2020, only 20 inches fell compared to our average of well over 50 inches. And this year is continuing, maybe projecting even a bit worse in terms of about 40% of average so far. Our total capacity in our reservoir storage system is at about 50% and typically this time of year of course, assuming we have some good winter rains capacity should be about 90% or more.

This is a very historic drought in terms of rainfall. He showed a chart depicting each April 1st since 1984, when MMWD had increased the storage they had in their systems, adding a reservoir and raising a dam. Since 1984 on April 1st, he noted that this is the lowest we've ever been, including in 1990 and 2014 where we were also experiencing droughts. So this certainly has our attention and I'm sure yours as well. In this past February, the board of directors approved a resolution declaring a drought and asking our customers to voluntary conserve water, hoping certainly that we would have a nice wet spring which unfortunately did not occur.

And earlier this month, the board declared a water shortage emergency and adopted water use restrictions. The board, at upcoming meetings, will be considering additional restrictions and prohibitions. These are largely intuitive, no washing driveways, no washing cars, garden hoses need shut-off nozzles, very important in terms of hours of irrigation, not irrigating lawns in the heat of the day, of course, you get a lot of evaporation and don't use that water wisely. Fixing leaks when you find them or restrictions on golf courses. Many cities or districts use potable water to flush sewers or street cleaning, construction projects requiring recycled water, not topping off decorative fountains and it goes on and on. And of course the public can access all of this information with one quick link on the MMWD website.

He stated that their focus is education and really relying on their customer base to follow the asks that we're making of them and we do have an enforcement to further that encouragement as well as a variance and process for exceptions. When you set these kinds of regulations at the speed that we're doing that we can't anticipate every unique circumstance, so those are already coming in, and we're working through those.

The guidelines include a lot of conservation tips that we're providing our customers in terms of the best way to irrigate with the precious water. There's greywater systems which is an emerging area of interest for us and many of our customers, rain barrels, checking leaky toilets and faucets collectively, it really does add up and newer appliances are much more efficient. We talked about a lot of this and, again, we're back in. It's really our youngsters that hear this in schools and help educate us about turning the

water off when brushing the teeth and shorter showers and the like. We're supporting our customers with incentives and rebates and the board is considering next Tuesday to enhance some of the rebates to really target a number of things but lawns were very focused on, irrigation as we're approaching the summer months are the demand on our system during the summer doubles, and that's really attributed to irrigation and lawns, of course, are the thirstiness of any irrigation that we have.

Signage is now available and you can request drought signs directly from MMWD and they will deliver them to you to help get the word out. There is also a lot of information for the public available on our website: <https://www.marinwater.org/waterrules>. They will also be providing presentations at each of the city and town council meetings.

MMWD Board President Koehler added that the district has fantastic conservation staff and another service that we offer is that staff will come out if there are leaks. So that's another thing that the district can do to help people in your community.

Following the presentation, Mr. Horenstein took questions from the audience. After Q&A concluded, President Lucan continued with the remainder of the meeting agenda.

5. **Committee Reports:** All Committee reports were submitted in writing and are available in the [agenda packet on the MCCMC website](#). President Lucan thanked those who submitted written reports and encouraged the membership to review the reports.

5.a. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
5a. Written report from Supervisor Damon Connolly

5.b. Association of Bay Area Governments
5b. Written report from Pat Eklund, Novato

5.c. Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District
5c. Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon

5.d. Transportation Authority of Marin
5d. Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon

5.e. Legislative Committee Report
5e. Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon

5.f. Marin Local Agency Formation Commission
5f. [Shared Services Workshop Announcement](#) provided by Sashi McEntee, Mill Valley

5.g. Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART)
5g. Written report provided by Dan Hillmer, Larkspur

5.h. MCCMC Climate Action Committee
5h. Written report from Alexis Fineman

6. BUSINESS MEETING

6.a. Announcement of Upcoming Expiration of Terms of the MCCMC Representatives to the Marin County Homeless Policy Setting Committee (HPSC)

Secretary Vaughn explained that the request for this notice was brought to the Executive Committee by the current members whose terms are expiring with a request to reach out and request letters of interest from the membership. The Executive Committee received two letters of interest that were included in the packet, one from Susan Wernick representing Novato, and one from Rachel Kertz, representing San Rafael. An additional letter received was received from Steven Block, representing Belvedere, shortly before the start of the meeting, so it will be included in the next month's agenda packet. There are two seats with two-year terms. F

James Campbell, Belvedere, stated that he has been co-chairing with Damon Connolly, and noted that this committee offers a really a good deep dive into the homeless policy of the county and the committee. The voting members are made up of stakeholders, county staff and of course the electeds but there are many other are stakeholders who also participate in the meetings. It's basically setting the policy for where grants will be funded and where the money will be spent that's coming in from the county.

President Lucan thanked Mayor Campbell for the summary and stated that MCCMC will be making those appointments at the next meeting in May, and invited anyone else who may be interested to submit a letter of interest, in advance of the May meeting.

6.b. Review of Draft Agenda for May 26, 2021 MCCMC Meeting To Be Held Via Zoom

There were no comments from the membership and no public comments received, in person or via email, on the draft agenda.

6.c. Approval of Draft Minutes of the March 24, 2021 MCCMC Meeting

President Lucan called for any edits or corrections to the March 24, 2021 draft minutes. Hearing none, he called for public comment. No public comments were received, in person or via email, regarding the draft minutes, and President Lucan called for a motion.

There was a motion and second (Eklund / Campbell) to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 MCCMC meeting. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 11-0.

Adjournment

President Lucan thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:16pm to the next regular meeting scheduled for May 26, 2021 to be held via Zoom videoconference.