

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

**Wednesday, September 23, 2020
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
6:00pm**

Members Present

Belvedere: McAuliffe, McCaskill, Wilkinson
Corte Madera: Beckman, Casissa, Kunhardt
Fairfax: Ackerman, Coler, Goddard, Hellman
Larkspur: Haroff, Hillmer, Paulson, Way
Mill Valley: McEntee, Wickham
Novato: Athas, Eklund, Lucan, Peele, Wernick
Ross: Brekhus, Kircher, Kuhl, McMillan, Robbins
San Anselmo: Colbert
San Rafael: Colin, Gamblin,
Sausalito: Cleveland-Knowles, Withy
Tiburon: Fredericks, Thier

Ex Officio: MCCMC Secretary Rebecca Vaughn

Guests were: Supervisors Connolly, Rice and Rodoni; District Attorney Lori Frugoli; Nancy Hall Bennett, League of California Cities North Bay Division; Mark Van Gorder, PG&E Senior Government & Public Affairs, North Bay

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 September 23, 2020. A roll call of the Marin towns/cities was taken. He then opened the meeting with an icebreaker game of zoom Pictionary. And following the icebreaker, President Lucan honored outgoing President Elizabeth Brekhus and thanked her for her service to MCCMC as President for 2019-2020.

He then called for Public Comment.

Public Comment

1. Ann Wakeley, Larkspur - Stated that she is here along with her colleague Regina Bianucci Rus, representing the Marin County League of Women Voters to urge you to support Proposition 15, the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act, which we call schools and communities first, and has also referred to as, split roll. The closer we get to November 3rd, the greater the flow of misleading and inaccurate assertions about this proposition. We're doing what we can to inform voters with factual, accurate information. Briefly, Proposition 15 would change California's property tax system to require regular market value property tax assessment of commercial and industrial properties. As you know, these assessments are currently made only when property is sold because of Prop 13, passed by voters in 1978.

If Prop 15 passes, commercial and industrial properties will be reassessed and taxed based on market value, at least every three years. Proposition 15 protects small businesses by excluding properties valued at \$3 million or less. Additionally, it eliminates the business personal property tax on fixtures and equipment for those with 50 or fewer employees, and it provides a \$500,000 exemption for all of their businesses. Here is what Proposition 15 won't do. It won't impact residential properties of any kind. Residential properties, including apartments, mobile home

parks, assisted living facilities, anything residential, will continue to be taxed under the current system and will not be reassessed until sold.

The same goes for property used for agriculture. Proposition 15 exempts agricultural property from reassessment. This includes land and agricultural improvements such as barns, dairies, and orchards. Changing how commercial and industrial properties are taxed is estimated to up to \$12 billion a year in additional funding for local governments and schools throughout California. So what will passing Proposition 15 mean for Marin County? First, by estimate, Marin County would receive about \$72 million, once these changes are implemented. 60% would go to county and city governments and special districts, 40% to K-12 public schools and the College of Marin. Our county government is expected to get around \$24,000. Cities would receive an amount dependent on the value of their commercial and industrial properties. The 40% designated for school districts will be pooled statewide, protected for use solely by K-12 public schools and community colleges and distributed based on the state's local control funding formula, with the addit guarantee that all school districts get a share. Passing Proposition 15 will provide much needed money to local governments in schools in Marin and throughout California. Thank you.

2. Regina Bianucci Rus - Spoke to address two arguments from the opponents of Prop 15. The first is that now is not the time to increase taxes on businesses, not when we are dealing with the impacts of wildfires in COVID-19, but the reassessment of commercial and industrial properties will not begin until July, 2022 and could be delayed longer. By then, our economy should be recovering from our current disasters. The second argument is that Prop 15 would negatively impact small business. The conclusion of a comprehensive economic report from Blue Sky Consulting Group is that as much as 84% of small businesses would actually see a reduction in their property taxes as a result of Prop 15. How can that be? Around 54% of all small businesses are home-based protected by Prop 13's assessment provisions. Further small businesses, defined as having 50 or fewer employees and property valued at less than 3 million would be exempt and have a 500,000 exemption for business personal property tax.

The remaining 16% of small businesses that own premises that would be reassessed under Prop 15 might see an increase in cost depending on their circumstances. For the 10% of small businesses that rent premises that would be reassessed, the precise impact would depend on the disparity between the assessed and market value of their property. And the extent to which market forces allows landlords to raise rents for these businesses. Proposition 15's biggest financial impact would be on the very large corporate industrial and commercial enterprises. The Chevrons, Walmarts, Targets and Disneyland. An estimated 10% of these corporate entities would pay 80% of the total revenue anticipated.

These corporations have national and international standing and are governed by stockholders and investors around the world. They are the ones that have benefited most from our current system of property assessment. They would finally be paying their fair share. The League of Women Voters of California have been working with a broad coalition of educators, labor, business, social justice organizations, and local community leaders first, to place Proposition 15 on the ballot, and now to encourage voters support. We hope you will join us in this effort. And if you have any further questions, you can please email us lwvmc@marinlwv.org. Thank you.

Seeing no further public comment, President Lucan proceeded to introduction of the guests in attendance: Supervisor Damon Connolly, Supervisor Katie Rice, Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, Mark Van Gorder, PG&E. He then continued with the presentation.

4. Presentations:

4A: Mark Van Gorder, PG&E Sr. Government and Public Affairs, North Bay - Presentation on PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program and Public Safety Power Shutoff work performed to date

President Lucan introduced Mr. Van Gorder and thanked him for providing this presentation to MCCMC.

Mr. Van Gorder thanked the mayors and council members joining the meeting, as well as the Supervisors in attendance.

He explained that his presentation is about PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program. A typical question that he will get is, why is our power off in our city or our town, or area, there's really no wind blowing. So that people understand, the power for our service territory is transmitted along these very large transmission towers. And these are 500, 1,000 volt towers. It drops down as it comes into our substations. And it basically casts a network of transmission lines that carries power from one location to another, to another. And it comes across primarily from this American Canyon Vallejo area, comes across Napa, Petaluma and it comes down North, even from the Santa Rosa Northern area down ultimately the pinpoint area is actually there in your city.

This substation is probably familiar to anyone who's driven North or South at the 37 interchange, this is one of our larger substations. And so the power will go out and it serves the entire area of Marin County via these lines. Again, these lines here are all transmission lines, so they carry a lot of power. They're not what we call distribution lines. The distribution lines run both overhead, those are the power poles that many people are used to seeing, and underground. And just as an example here, I'm just using an area here in Novato, the green shows underground circuits. So these homes here, they don't have the power poles you would drive in and around the road and see power poles. Over in this neighborhood where it's orange, we dropped down to street level, you'd see power poles, and this is our distribution system.

So really quickly, that is how power gets from one place to another. And I'm going to pull out here for just a second, and what I want to show is distribution lines. Each one of these triangles is a substation. So if we zoom into Bolinas, for supervisor Rodoni, if he's still with us. Here's a very small substation out in Bolinas, we could jump over to Mill Valley and take a look at the substation there. That substation is called Alto and here's that substation. So again, the green arrows represent the substations, each substation then has lines that go out overhead and then serve underground to all of your constituents, the businesses and the residents of Marin County. So I'm going to turn off the transmission lines, I want to keep the substations in here because that's going to come up as we move into the next part of the discussion.

But as you can see, those electric lines in various areas come over some high original lines and some dense vegetation areas. That's really a key message here is that those are those lines come over areas that get very high winds. Sometimes the offshore wind flows and very dense vegetation. I took a drive out today, out to Lake Berryessa over into Winters and that way. Part of me would encourage anyone to take that drive and take a look at how badly the damage from the fires there has been. It's sobering. So I'm going to move on from this Google Earth Presentation. This really is a quick summary, but our objective is to use the weather stations and high definition cameras to give us a good look.

You may have even heard that we have a fire watch in place, there may be a red flag warning coming up this weekend. Thankfully, and fingers crossed, we don't think that that is going to impact the North Bay, not Marin County as of today, weather patterns can change over time, but at the moment, we don't think that that's going to happen from our meteorology department. We have community resource

centers and system hardening sectionalizing devices. All of this, I will get into in detail in a moment. We have a number of what we call community resource locations with COVID in place. We have defaulted in many cases to outdoor areas so that people can have easier social distancing can sit in their cars and parking lots.

Our original intention, pre-COVID, was to be in hardened facilities. So by community centers, libraries, schools, wherever that works. So we do have a number of agreements in place both for indoor and for outdoor, where people can charge batteries. I visited a couple of the community resource centers during the fires in Napa, where children, when the power was out, some of them were doing their homework on laptops and Zoom meetings and that sort of stuff. We also hand out bottled waters and food and information.

The sectionalizing devices we're installing, some new sectionalizing devices that essentially keep the power in areas that we call tier one or they're not high fire threat district areas. The California Public Utilities Commission has designated where those high fire threat district areas are and that's not a PG&E decision.

I'm sure by now everyone is familiar with this. A large portion of Marin County is either in the orange tier two or the even a more critical tier three high fire threat areas. The great number of the population are thankfully not in those areas, but those sectionalized, which we'll go back to in a second, is essentially they're designed to island a protective area where we can provide power to businesses and residents and keeping the power from flowing up into these tier two and tier three areas where there might be ignition if a branch or a tree or a bird or an animal got into the wires and could ignite a fire that way. And so that's what these sectionalizers there've been 50 installed. New. There were already other sectionalizing devices existing. There are 50 new sectionalizers, again, the intent is to keep power on during a public safety power shutoff safely so it doesn't get up into the Hills.

We have something called temporary micro grids. For each of those substations that I showed you, we are prepared to dispatch generators to those various sites and provide power in the event, is a critical aspect, that those transmission lines, that I referenced earlier, those larger power lines, not the distribution, those transmission lines go to the substations. And if we had to de-energize or stop power flowing through those, and the substation wasn't able to receive the power and then distributed out to the residents and businesses. We have the capability to bring generators into the substations and that's the plan or all of the substations in Marin, except for the substation in Sausalito, where we have generators pre-staged just because of the challenges of getting into the very small and tricky substation there in Sausalito. So we've come up with a pre-stage plan for them.

It says here on the slide, but it will depend on the scope of the event, how many generators we might be able to dispatch but if it's a very broad event and we're running short on resources, we may not be able to provide generators everywhere. But this slide here, these target dates have been met. Finally, very helpful slide for yourselves and your constituents. I check this, I'm a bit of a weather geek, I'm rather interested in especially events that we're hearing about high fire threat and red flag warnings. I like to go check out pge.com/weather. We are in an elevated status if you go to this link and check it out, it'll show that some parts of our service territory in the North and the East, up in the Sierra Foothills, View County area, are in an elevated status right now, we're going to continue to monitor that it will move. If the weather continues to pose a significant threat for shutting off the power in those areas, we'll go from elevated to watch to warning, and we start to send the notifications out and our public safety specialists. We'll work with the office of emergency services in advance, and the messaging goes to the customers and the power shut off for safety in a fire event. Safety Action Center is a great place for constituents to get information, to prepare and again, backup power, prepare for power, down PSPS updates.

That is pretty much the presentation. Many of you, I think almost all of you, have my contact information. Some of you, if I'm sending too many emails or too much information, especially during this time of the

year, please let me know. I don't want to overburden you, but I do like to be perhaps overcommunicative, especially at this time when we may be shutting power off and provide you and staff with the tools to get information out, to constituents so that they can be prepared to have power out or know where to go to get support.

Following the presentation, Mr. Van Gorder took questions from the audience. After Q&A concluded, President Lucan thanked Mr. Van Gorder for his time and continued with the business meeting.

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) - Written report from Supervisor Damon Connolly
- 5.b. Association of Bay Area Governments – Written report from Pat Eklund, Novato
- 5.c. Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District - Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon
- 5.d. MCCMC Legislative Committee - Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon
- 5.e. Transportation Authority of Marin - Written report from Alice Fredericks, Tiburon,
- 5.f. Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) - Written report from Dan Hillmer, Larkspur
- 5.g. MCCMC Climate Action Committee – No written report submitted

6. BUSINESS MEETING

- 6.a. Consideration and Possible Action to Adopt MCCMC Operating Budget for FY 2020-2021, With Annual Dues Lowered From \$950 to \$750 for 2020-21 Only

President Lucan introduced the item. Secretary Vaughn explained that the annual budget, as presented, does not change much from year to year, however the Executive Committee is recommending a one time reduction in one of the components, the Annual Dues paid by the member cities, in acknowledgement of the cost savings experienced over the previous 6 months. The primary cost savings is a result of the cancellation of two meetings and the need for online meetings, which has meant that there are no payments currently being made to the host cities. There is a budget line item for payments made to each month's host city for the cost of meeting attendance for the MCCMC President, Secretary and up to two of that city's guest speakers. The reduction recommended by the Executive Committee would reduce the Annual Dues from \$950 to \$750 for 2020-21, and the Executive Committee will meet in April next year to evaluate and discuss returning dues to their previous level for 2021-22.

President Lucan reported that the Executive Committee reviewed staff's recommendation and were unanimously in support of it as well.

There were no comments from the membership and no public comment was received in person or via email.

There was a motion and a second (Athas / Brekhus) to Adopt MCCMC Operating Budget for FY 2020-2021, With Annual Dues Lowered From \$950 to \$750 for 2020-21 Only.

The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote of the cities/towns present, 11-0

6.b. Announcement of Upcoming Expiration of Terms and Call for Letters of Interest for the Following Committee Appointments:

Expiration of the following terms were announced and Letters of Interest solicited:

6.b.1. MCCMC Representatives to League of California Cities, North Bay Division Executive Board for Calendar Year 2021.

It was announced that three seats have expiring terms: Representative, 2nd Representative and Alternate Representative for one year terms commencing January 1, 2021.

Regarding 6.b.1, there was a motion and a second (Athas / Fredericks) to nominate Eli Beckman for MCCMC Representative to League of California Cities North Bay Division. Mayor Beckman accepted the nomination and stated he would submit a letter of interest.

6.b.2 Marin County Transit Board of Directors

It was announced that two seats have expiring terms: Representative and Alternate Representative, for two-year terms commencing 1/2021. The incumbents, Kate Colin, San Rafael (Representative) and Brian Colbert, San Anselmo (Alternate Representative) have both indicated intent to submit letters of interest.

6.b.3 Sonoma/Marin Area Rail Transit Board of Directors (SMART)

It was announced that one seat has an expiring term: Board member, for 4 year term commencing 1/2021. The incumbent, Dan Hillmer, Larkspur, has indicated intent to submit a letter of interest.

6.c. Review of Draft Agenda for October 28, 2020 MCCMC Meeting To Be Hosted By The Town Of Fairfax If Return To In-Person Meetings Is Allowed

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

6.d. Informational Item Only: Draft Minutes of the June 24, 2020 MCCMC City Selection Committee Meeting

President Lucan noted that the minutes for the June 24, 2020 Marin County City Selection Committee were being presented as informational only, and would be voted on by the City Selection Committee at their next available meeting.

No public comments were received, in person or via email, regarding the draft minutes.

6.e. Approval of Draft Minutes of the June 24, 2020 MCCMC Meeting

President Lucan called for any edits or corrections to the June 24, 2020 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 (Fredericks / Brekhus) to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 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 6:55pm to the next regular meeting scheduled for October 28, 2020 to be held in person, if possible, or via Zoom videoconference.