



NOTICE OF THE WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 9:30 AM

AGENDA

LOCATIONS:

Open Session to start at or after 9:30 a.m.

Marin Water Board Room – 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

Outside location for Director Larry Russell - Le Méridien Denver Downtown, Business Center, 1475
California Street, Denver, CO 80202

Public Participation:

The public may attend this meeting in-person or remotely using the following methods:

On a computer or smart device, go to: <https://marinwater.zoom.us/j/81071577373>

By phone, dial: **1-669-444-9171** and use Webinar ID: **810 7157 7373**

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

During the Meeting: Typically, you will have 3 minutes to make your public comment, however, the board president may shorten the amount of time for public comment due to a large number of attendees. Furthermore, pursuant to Government Code, section 54954.2 (the Brown Act), the Board may not take action or discuss any item that does not appear on the agenda.

-- **In-Person Attendee:** Fill out a speaker card and provide to the board secretary. List the number/letter (ex: 6a) of the agenda item(s), for which you would like to provide a comment. Once you're called, proceed to the lectern to make your comment.

-- **Remote Attendee:** Use the "raise hand" button on the bottom of the Zoom screen. If you are joining by phone and would like to comment, press *9. The board secretary will use the last four digits of your phone number to call on you (dial *6 to mute/unmute).

In Advance of the Meeting: Submit your comments by email in advance of the meeting to boardcomment@marinwater.org. To ensure that your comment is provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting, please email your comment 24 hours in advance of the meeting start time. Comments received after this cut off time will be sent to the Board after the meeting. Please do not include personal information in your comment such as phone numbers and home addresses.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters**

This is the time when any person may address the Board of Directors on matters not listed on this agenda, but which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

4. **Regular Items** (9:35 a.m. – Time Approximate)

- a. Minutes of the Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors' Meeting on March 20, 2025

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the minutes

- b. Watershed Wildfire Modeling

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on staff's presentation on Mt. Tamalpais Wildfire Pathway Analysis

- c. Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) Forestry and Prescribed Fire Support General Services Agreements (GSA), FY26-28

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the proposed 'BFFIP Maintenance' GSA contract (CN-2050) and the proposed 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contract (CN-2051) for award of the contracts to the lowest qualified bidders at a future regular meeting of the Board of Directors

- d. Watershed Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan Landbird Study

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the presentation from Point Blue Conservation Science on landbird monitoring report

- e. Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study Update

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on staff's update on the status of the E-Bike Pilot, other efforts advanced as part of the Feasibility Study, and next steps for advancing bike access planning

5. **Upcoming Meeting**

The next Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

6. **Adjournment** (11:15 a.m. – Time Approximate)

ADA NOTICE AND HEARING-IMPAIRED PROVISIONS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California Law, it is Marin Water's policy to offer its public programs, services, and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. If you are an individual with a disability and require a copy of a public hearing notice, an agenda, and/or agenda packet in an appropriate alternative format, or if you require other accommodations, please contact the Board Secretary/ADA Coordinator at 415.945.1448, at least

two business days in advance of the meeting. Advance notification will enable Marin Water to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

Information agendas are available for review at the Civic Center Library, Corte Madera Library, Fairfax Library, Mill Valley Library, Marin Water Administration Building, and marinwater.org.

Posted: 06-06-2025



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Minutes of the Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors' Meeting on March 20, 2025
From: Terrie Gillen, Board Secretary
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: June 12, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: X Approve Information

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the minutes

SUMMARY: The Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors' Meeting took place on March 20, 2025. The minutes of that meeting are attached.

DISCUSSION: None.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft March 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Communications & Public Affairs Department	 Terrie Gillen Board Secretary	 Ben Horenstein General Manager



NOTICE OF THE WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 9:30 AM

MINUTES

LOCATIONS:

Open Session to start at or after 9:30 a.m.

Marin Water Board Room – 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

Public Participation:

The public attended this meeting in-person or remotely using the following methods: on a computer or smart device, <https://marinwater.zoom.us/j/81071577373>, or by phone, 1-669-444-9171 using Webinar ID #: 810 7157 7373.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Ranjiv Khush called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Diana Maier

Larry Russell

Jed Smith

Matt Samson

Ranjiv Khush

2. Adoption of Agenda

Director Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda. Vice Chair Samson seconded the motion.

There were no public comments.

Voting Yea: Directors Maier, Russell, Smith, Samson, and Khush

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

There were three (3) public comments.

4. Regular Items

- a. Minutes of the Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors’ Meeting on December 19, 2024

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the minutes

Director Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Samson seconded the motion.

There were no public comments.

Voting Yea: Directors Maier, Russell, Smith, Samson, and Khush

- b. Azalea Hill Trail Restoration Revisions

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on proposed revisions to the Azalea Hill Trail Restoration

Watershed Resources Director Shaun Horne and Tania Treis with Panorama Environmental, Inc. presented this item.

Discussion followed.

There were four (4) public comments.

- c. Lagunitas Creek Enhancement Project Phase 1B Construction

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the Lagunitas Creek Enhancement Project Phase 1B, which is scheduled to be advertised for bid and brought to a regularly scheduled Board Meeting for award in spring of 2025

Watershed Resources Director Horne and Fisheries Program Manager Jonathan Koehler presented this item.

The directors provided comments.

There was one (1) public comment.

d. Watershed Facilities Assessment and Conceptual Plan

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on approving a grant award of \$200,000 from the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Fund to advance a Watershed Facilities Assessment and Conceptual Plan

Watershed Resources Director Horne and Claire Mooney with Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

There were two (2) public comments.

5. Upcoming Meeting

The board secretary announced that the next Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on June 12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors adjourned on March 18, 2025 at 10:53 a.m.

Board Secretary



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Watershed Wildfire Modeling
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: June 12, 2025

SH
BH

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on staff’s presentation on Mt. Tamalpais Wildfire Pathway Analysis

SUMMARY: In October of 2019, the District adopted the Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP), which describes the actions the District will implement to reduce wildfire hazards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem function. To better understand the potential risks to critical facilities, neighboring communities and the efficacy of existing and proposed fuel reduction efforts, the District continues to evaluate various wildfire modeling technologies to help inform the District’s work. The Watershed Committee will receive a presentation on the Wildfire Pathway modeling approach that has been carried out to help inform BFFIP actions on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed.

DISCUSSION: California is facing unprecedented wildfire crisis as a result of decades of fire exclusion and increasing impacts associated with climate change. In many California ecosystems, biodiversity, carbon stability and overall ecological resilience are dependent on the regular occurrence of fire. In addition, the wildfire seasons over the past few years have brought record impacts to communities, critical infrastructure and ecosystems. In 2019, Marin Water adopted the BFFIP to guide land management decisions and address wildfire risk while protecting biodiversity on District watershed lands. Additionally, One Tam partner agencies completed the Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy in 2023, which furnishes a science-based framework for identifying how and where agencies can work both independently and together across jurisdictional boundaries to protect forest resiliency while helping to address wildfire hazards. The District has been increasing the pace and scale of forest resiliency work on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed and has completed a fire pathway analysis to evaluate the efficacy of BFFIP treatments.

The District worked with Willow Labs, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Pathways Analysis. Assessing community wildfire risk using fire pathways is an emerging technique that analyzes fuel continuity under specified

fire weather planning scenarios and identifies the corridors of fuel, topography, and wind capable of bringing fast-moving fire into a community. The resulting “pathways” are produced using Finney’s Minimum Travel Time algorithm to represent paths of least resistance for fire spread across a landscape: contiguous routes along which wind, terrain, and fuel are likely to align to produce runs toward community values at risk. To model post BFFIP implementation fire behavior, this study uses a Marin Water-specific fuels crosswalk logic developed by Carol Rice and Esther Mandeno in 2022. This crosswalk logic supplies rules for converting pre-treatment fuels and canopy characteristics into their potential post-treatment counterparts. This crosswalk logic incorporates vegetation type, existing fuel model, canopy cover, and species composition within each treatment unit to select the post-treatment state.

In addition to being useful for analyzing community exposure to fast-moving fires, this analysis is also appropriate for evaluating threats to critical infrastructure, such as water distribution systems. Water systems, particularly those that provide potable water to communities, are essential to support the recurring needs of the community, firefighting response, and enable all other aspects of society to function. Because of the BFFIP’s multiple objectives of water quality management, ecological stewardship, infrastructure protection and fire risk reduction, planned vegetation management activities are strategically located to maximize benefits across these different objectives. Staff will provide a presentation on the Mt. Tamalpais Wildfire Pathway Analysis that reviews the effectiveness of BFFIP treatments to date and future refinements that can be made based on the modeling outputs.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) Forestry and Prescribed Fire Support General Services Agreements (GSA), FY26-28
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: June 12, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the proposed 'BFFIP Maintenance' GSA contract (CN-2050) and the proposed 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contract (CN-2051) for award of the contracts to the lowest qualified bidders at a future regular meeting of the Board of Directors

SUMMARY: The District is currently in year six of implementation of the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) that was adopted in 2019. The current BFFIP maintenance contract with Forster and Kroeger will expire on June 30, 2025. Staff propose using a new three year 'BFFIP Maintenance' General Services Agreement (GSA) contract to provide labor and equipment necessary to further maintain treatments outlined in the 2019 BFFIP vegetation Management Actions. In addition, the current BFFIP forestry contract with Bay Area Tree Specialists will also expire on June 30, 2025. Staff again propose using a new three year 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contract to provide labor and equipment necessary to implement treatments outlined in the 2019 BFFIP vegetation Management Actions, including pile burn support.

Staff is requesting that the Watershed Committee review and comment on both the 'BFFIP Maintenance' and 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contracts, which will be brought to a future regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting for award of the proposed contracts to the lowest qualified bidders, and to authorize the General Manager to execute any and all future amendments to these contracts, which is deemed necessary, so long as they do not exceed 10% in total of the contract amount.

DISCUSSION: In October of 2019, the District adopted the BFFIP, and associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which describes the actions the District will implement to reduce wildfire hazards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem function. Vegetation management under the BFFIP aims to reduce fuel loads, maintain fuelbreak infrastructure, preserve defensible space, and

reduce invasive weed species. Vegetation management is conducted continuously throughout the year with the chief goal of reducing fuel loads and maintaining the watershed's biological diversity.

Over the last four years, Forester and Kroeger has successfully assisted the District under contract CN-1948 with implementation and maintenance of BFFIP vegetation Management Actions. On June 30, 2025 CN-1948 will expire and the District is now seeking bids for a new 'BFFIP Maintenance' contract in order to continue critical BFFIP implementation. Similarly, over the last four years Bay Area Tree Services have successfully assisted the District under contract CN-1967 with implementation and maintenance of BFFIP vegetation Management Actions. On June 30, 2025 CN-1967 will expire and the District is now seeking bids for a new 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' contract in order to continue critical BFFIP implementation, as well as support ongoing pile burn efforts.

For the past five years, Watershed Staff and contractors have successfully implemented vegetation Management Actions (MAs) outlined within the BFFIP. Implementation of Management Actions requires multiple contractors with a range of technical skills to conduct over 1,500 acres of annual vegetation treatments described in the BFFIP under MA-20, 'Fuelbreak Construction', MA-21 'Fuelbreak Construction', MA-23, 'Forest Stand Structure Improvement' and MA 24, 'Grassland and Oak Woodland Improvement'. These two new contracts, 'BFFIP Maintenance' and 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support', will provide skilled hand labor, necessary to continue planned maintenance and implementation of BFFIP Management Actions.

PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCESS:

The District will release a notice inviting bids for both a new three-year 'BFFIP Maintenance' and a new 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contracts. The notice will be published in the local newspaper and posted on the District's external bid posting website to inform contractors of the opportunity. Sealed bids will be received and reviewed by the District and the lowest qualified bidder will be selected and the GSA will be brought to a future Board of Directors meeting for approval of award.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The District, as the Lead Agency, has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA for the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) which was adopted in 2019. The proposed contracts and the work anticipated thereunder all fall within the scope of the BFFIP and PEIR.

FISCAL IMPACT: Over the initial three year period, during FY26, FY27 & FY28, Staff estimate the costs to perform the 'BFFIP Maintenance' contract will be \$5,818,254 and the cost to perform the 'BFFIP Forestry Services and Pile Burn Support' contract will be \$3,666,673. Funds for these contracts will be paid out of a combination of District BFFIP Operations and Capital funding, as well as with a secured Wildlife Conservation Board Grant and Cal Fire Forest Health Grants.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Watershed Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan Landbird Study
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: June 12, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the presentation from Point Blue Conservation Science on landbird monitoring report

SUMMARY: In October of 2019, the District adopted the Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP), which describes the actions the District will implement to reduce wildfire hazards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem functions on District watershed lands. To better understand BFFIP vegetation treatments and response of local landbirds, the District contracted with Point Blue Conservation Science in 2024 to evaluate short-term landscape-scale bird community changes attributable to nearby BFFIP vegetation treatments. The Watershed Committee will receive a presentation from Point Blue Conservation Science on the results of their 2025 'Bird response to vegetation management actions of Marin Water's Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan', which will help inform BFFIP actions on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed.

DISCUSSION: The landscape of Marin County has changed over the past 150 years due to factors like disease (e.g., Sudden Oak Death), the spread of invasive species, and a reduction in the frequency and acreage of fire. These altered habitats can increase the risk of larger and more severe fires. Marin Water's Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) aims to minimize risks from wildfire, preserve and enhance significant biological resources, and provide an adaptive framework for periodic review and revision. The vegetation management actions outlined in the BFFIP have the potential to influence biodiversity on Marin Water lands, and long-term monitoring helps the District understand the response of flora and fauna to stewardship actions.

In the 'Bird response to vegetation management actions of Marin Water's Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan' (BBFIP Response) report, Point Blue evaluated short-term landscape-scale changes in the breeding landbird community on Marin Water lands. Point Blue used point count data from their ongoing long-term landbird monitoring program to analyze metrics of the bird community (overall bird abundance, species richness, and individual species abundance for 27 focal species within 50 m of each bird survey point), before BFFIP establishment (2019) and after (2022) in control areas with no vegetation management, as compared to areas with one of 4 major vegetation treatment categories:

1) Non-native Understory Removal, 2) General Understory Removal, 3) Douglas Fir Thinning, and 4) Mixed Layer Fuels Reduction. Because the treated proportion of the area within 50 m of each bird survey point was less than 100%, the results of this analysis represent evidence for a significant difference in the bird community in response to the mean treatment extent, which varied by treatment (range of means 19-72%). Point Blue analyzed data in a Bayesian framework, which allowed them to evaluate the probability of a positive or negative effect and distinguish a lack of effect from an uncertain response.

Point Blue found no evidence of significant negative effects of any of the 4 treatment categories on the local bird community abundance or species richness between 2019 and 2022, and no evidence of a widespread negative response across the study area since BFFIP was implemented. Instead, results suggest neutral or possible positive responses of the overall bird community abundance and species richness to the treatment categories analyzed. Specifically, Point Blue found possible positive responses of community abundance and species richness to Douglas Fir Thinning, and of species richness to Mixed Layer Fuels Reduction, but no large effect of the Non-native and General Understory Removal treatments on community metrics, despite having sufficient precision to detect a large effect.

The responses of individual species were complex and varied among treatments and habitat guilds. Point Blue detected more positive individual species responses to Douglas Fir Thinning than negative responses, a relatively even split of positive and negative responses across species for the Non-native Understory Removal and Mixed Layer Fuels treatment categories, and more negative than positive responses to the General Understory Removal treatment category. By habitat guild, Point Blue detected more positive responses for species affiliated with conifer/mixed hardwood habitat and species affiliated with multiple forest types, and more negative responses to treatments for species associated with oak woodland or scrub/chaparral habitats. However, due to limited sample sizes, Point Blue's results were uncertain for many individual species' response to each treatment, and of the 13 species for which they were able to estimate a response to more than one treatment category, 7 (54%) had opposing responses to different treatments.

Although short-term, these results provide the first insights into BFFIP treatments and response of the local breeding landbird community, which provides important insights into the effects of forest stewardship treatments on birds in Marin County. As efforts continue across California to reduce fuels and the risk of catastrophic wildfires, it is important to evaluate how species respond to different treatments. This type of data supports the District's adaptive management approach associated with scaling up and increasing the pace of BFFIP stewardship work. The initial results from this study will be used to inform future BFFIP vegetation management planning efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ATTACHMENT(S): None.



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study Update
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: June 12, 2025

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on staff's update on the status of the E-Bike Pilot, other efforts advanced as part of the Feasibility Study, and next steps for advancing bike access planning

SUMMARY: The Marin Municipal Water District (District) partnered with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) to engage District Board members, executive leadership, stakeholders, and constituents in the development of a Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study). Since June 2022, the District hosted six (6) community workshops, two (2) site visits, and completed an updated watershed census survey to solicit input relating to watershed operations and visitor management. The Board adopted the Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study) at the April 16, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.

DISCUSSION: The planning process for the Feasibility Study was designed to facilitate a conversation with the community regarding existing visitation in an effort to help address long-standing issues around various modes of recreation on Mt. Tamalpais. The Feasibility Study reviewed existing watershed recreational facilities, visitor use data, biological resources, stewardship and volunteer programs, and visitor management strategies. The planning process aligned with the District's adaptive watershed management strategy and informs multi-benefit outcomes that can be advanced to help protect the unique goals of different watershed visitors and the biodiversity of the District's watershed lands. The final section of the Feasibility Study presents a series of Strategic Opportunities organized around stewardship initiatives, visitor services, watershed facilities, and adaptive management operations.

Recently completed strategic opportunities include opening of Azalea Hill multi-use route, trail improvements along Azalea Hill hiking route, approval of an E-Bike Pilot Program, National Trails volunteer event, ongoing Ranger interpretive offerings, and the District is supporting Marin County Parks and Open Space with the purchase of a Terrain Hopper to improve accessibility opportunities on public lands. Staff will provide a brief presentation summarizing next steps for advancing bike access planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.