



## NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 03, 2026 at 5:00 PM

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### AGENDA

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#### LOCATIONS:

##### **Open Session to start at or after 5:00 p.m.**

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

Director Matt Samson - Ayres Hotel Redlands, Business Center, 1015 West Colton Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374

Director Larry Russell - Residence Inn, Business Center, 120 W. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

##### **Closed Session to immediately follow Open Session**

Marin Water Mt. Tam Conference Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

#### Public Participation:

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

On a computer or smart device, go to: <https://marinwater.zoom.us/j/88134852296>

By phone, dial: **1-669-444-9171** and use Webinar ID: **881 3485 2296**

#### 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](mailto: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. Regular Items**

- a.** Ranger John McConneloug Retirement Resolution

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Retirement Resolution for Ranger John McConneloug

**4. 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.

**5. Directors' and General Manager's Announcements (5:15 p.m. – Time Approximate)**

**6. Board Committee Reports**

Each Committee Chair or Vice Chair will provide a report on recent committee meetings. Directors may ask questions or provide brief comments or requests for additional information on an item.

**7. Consent Items (5:30 p.m. – Time Approximate)**

All Consent Items will be enacted by a single action of the Board, unless specific items are pulled from Consent by the Board during adoption of the agenda for separate discussion and action.

- a.** January 20, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept the minutes of the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting on January 20, 2026

- b.** Professional Services Agreement for Insurance Brokerage & Risk Management Services

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a Professional Services Agreement for Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services with Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC for fiscal years 2026/27 through 2028/29 and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract

**8. Regular Items (5:35 p.m. – Time Approximate)**

- a.** Bay Area Ridge Trail Dedication – Mt Tamalpais Watershed East

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Bay Area Ridge Trail dedication resolution for 11.26 miles of fire road on the Mt. Tam Watershed

- b.** Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project Update

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive an update on the Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project

- c.** Capital Program Update

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive a staff update on Fiscal Year 2026 second quarter Capital Improvement Program

## **9. Future Board and Committee Meetings and Upcoming Agenda Items**

This schedule lists upcoming board and committee meetings as well as upcoming agenda items for the next month, which may include Board interest in adding future meeting items. The schedule is tentative and subject to change pending final publication and posting of the meeting agendas.

### **a. Upcoming Meetings**

## **10. Announcement of Closed Session Item(s); Public Comments on Closed Session Item(s)**

Following announcement of Closed Session items and prior to recess into Closed Session, the public may speak up to three minutes on items to be addressed in Closed Session. The Board will convene to Closed Session in the Mt. Tam Conference Room after public comment.

### **a. Liability Claim**

(California Government Code §54956.9 (e)(3))

***Claimants:*** Sacha Bunge and Howard Gillis

***Agency Claimed Against:*** Marin Municipal Water District

Adjourn closed session and reconvene to open session in the Board Room and via Zoom.

## **11. Reconvene to Open Session; Closed Session Report Out**

## **12. Adjournment (7:00 p.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](http://marinwater.org).*

Posted: 01-30-2026



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** Ranger John McConneloug Retirement Resolution  
**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**  Action       Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Retirement Resolution for Ranger John McConneloug

**SUMMARY:** Ranger John McConneloug is retiring from the District after 20 years of service with Marin Water. Staff is requesting that the Board of Directors approve a Resolution acknowledging Ranger McConneloug's 20 years of services as a Marin Water Ranger.

**DISCUSSION:** At the time Marin Municipal Water District began operations in November 1916, it inherited watershed lands previously patrolled by private *Lake Keepers* and *patrolmen* from predecessor water companies. These early staff were responsible for guarding watershed lands, preventing trespass, and performing basic maintenance and fire patrol duties. In 1917, the District formally began hiring *Patrolmen* and *Lakekeepers* to oversee its growing watershed property, including fire prevention and general patrol. By 1968, the District was still using patrolmen, but *Lakekeepers* were phased out and replaced with *Recreation Attendants*. Throughout these decades, the patrol functions continued to evolve with watershed stewardship, visitor safety, and fire response as core duties. In 1974–1975, the District reorganized watershed staffing, separating patrol and maintenance, and officially establishing the Land Management Division. Job classifications were split between Rangers and watershed maintenance workers. In 1975, the title *Patrolman* began to transition toward *Park Ranger*, reflecting broader duties beyond simple patrol.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Park Rangers increasingly received emergency medical (EMT) and wildland fire training. By 2004, all Park Rangers were certified as EMTs. From 2002–2003 onward, formal memoranda of understanding were established with the Marin County Fire Department, integrating District resources into larger local fire response efforts. The Park Ranger program became a California POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) accredited in 2010, and the District was recognized as part of FIRESCOPE (a statewide mutual aid fire response system). Rangers serve as peace officers, wildland firefighters, EMTs, search-and-rescue specialists and more. The District's Rangers trace more than a century of evolution from informal watershed keepers to a professional ranger force

with public safety, natural resource stewardship, and enforcement authority integrated into watershed management and emergency response across the Mt. Tamalpais watershed.

Ranger McConneloug has been working as a Ranger for over 25 years and served the District for more than 20 years as a Watershed Ranger on Mt. Tamalpais. During this time, he experienced and contributed to much of the evolution of the Ranger position and division, while working extensively on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed and supporting the security of the District's water distribution infrastructure. Ranger McConneloug played an active role in interpretive education and watershed stewardship on Mt. Tamalpais. He routinely led family-friendly educational hikes, including programs such as "Newts to Roots" at Lake Lagunitas, promoted responsible recreation through engagement at *Slow and Say Hello* outposts, shared the history and stories of the mountain with visitors, and enforced trail and watershed regulations. He is widely acknowledged by fellow Rangers as technically sophisticated, highly capable, and dependable in complex field operations. His peers recognize his strong command of equipment, procedures, and evolving technologies, as well as his ability to apply this expertise effectively in challenging watershed and Mt. Tamalpais environments. Ranger McConneloug is perhaps best known for developing the District's Bike Patrol Program and integrating E-Bikes into the Bike Patrol program to improve efficiency, response, and effectiveness of the Rangers.

Staff is requesting that the Board of Directors approve a Resolution acknowledging Ranger McConneloug's 20 years of services as a Marin Water Ranger.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** None.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Proposed Resolution

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	 Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager

**MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
**RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
RECOGNIZING RANGER JOHN McCONNELOUG FOR 20 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT  
AND ITS CUSTOMERS**

**WHEREAS**, on February 23, 2026, Ranger John McConneloug will retire from the Marin Municipal Water District and hang up his patrol belt after 20 years of service patrolling and serving the community of visitors on Mt. Tamalpais Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug has worked as a Ranger for over 25 years serving the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, Yosemite National Parks, Jefferson County Open Space District, Sequoia National Parks, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Marin County Parks and Open Space District, all before becoming a District Ranger in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug grew up in the Town of Fairfax at the base of Mt. Tamalpais, an upbringing that profoundly informed his understanding of the public's longstanding connection to the mountain and reinforced his appreciation for the importance of public access, responsible visitation, and stewardship of this significant natural resource; and

**WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug played an active role in interpretive education and watershed stewardship on Mt. Tamalpais. He routinely led family-friendly educational hikes, including programs such as "Newts to Roots" at Lake Lagunitas and promoted responsible recreation through engagement at *Slow and Say Hello* outposts; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been widely acknowledged by fellow Rangers as technically sophisticated, highly capable, and dependable in complex field operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug served as a District representative with Marin County Search and Rescue and, throughout his career, participated in numerous search and rescue operations on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed, including challenging after-hours and night responses involving lost or distressed visitors, coordinating closely with fellow Rangers, Marin County Sheriff's Office personnel, and Search and Rescue volunteers to ensure the safe recovery of individuals in difficult terrain; and

**WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug played a critical role in the District's forest and watershed restoration initiatives, including participating in prescribed burns, pile burning operations, and other fuel reduction activities, and consistently responded to wildfires on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed with professionalism and expertise, contributing to the protection of the District's natural resources, infrastructure, and the safety of the surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS, WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug played a key role in the development and advancement of the District's Bike Patrol Program, including the integration of Electric Mountain Bikes,

significantly enhancing Ranger mobility, operational efficiency, response capabilities, and overall effectiveness in serving and protecting District lands; and

**WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug has been recognized for his approachable and knowledgeable engagement with the public, as noted in a May 2018 article in *Singletracks* titled “Viewing Wildflowers by Mountain Bike: A Wheeled Wildflower Wander,” which highlighted his ability to share the history and natural features of Mt. Tamalpais, foster positive interactions with visitors, and, while a skilled and respectable rider himself, enforce District regulations with such efficiency that he could issue a citation faster than one could say “Birthplace of Mountain Biking”; and

**WHEREAS, WHEREAS**, Ranger McConneloug has dedicated over 20 years to connecting people of all ages to the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed, fostering an appreciation for its natural and cultural resources, and guiding visitors to enjoy the mountain responsibly so that their presence leaves a positive impact, inspiring current and future generations—including his own children—to act as conscientious stewards of this vital landscape and support the Marin Municipal Water District’s mission to protect the community’s source water.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Marin Municipal Water District hereby expresses its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Ranger John McConneloug for his more than 20 years of dedicated service, outstanding stewardship of the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed, leadership in public education, enforcement, search and rescue, and wildfire and prescribed fire management, and for inspiring future generations of Rangers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board extends its best wishes to Ranger McConneloug in his retirement, with hopes for continued health, happiness, and fulfillment in the years ahead.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 3rd day of February, 2026, by the following vote of the Board of Directors.

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

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**Jed Smith**  
**President, Board of Directors**

**ATTEST:**

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**Terrie Gillen**  
**Board Secretary**



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** January 20, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes  
**From:** Terrie Gillen, Board Secretary  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:** X Action Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept the minutes of the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting on January 20, 2026

**SUMMARY:** The Board of Directors held their regular bi-monthly meeting on January 20, 2026. The minutes of that meeting are attached for your approval.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Draft January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

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



## NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM

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### MINUTES

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**LOCATIONS:**

**Open Session to start at or after 5:00 p.m.**

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

Director Jed Smith – 227 Summit Ave., Apt. e405, Brookline, MA 02446

**Closed Session to immediately follow Open Session**

Marin Water Mt. Tam Conference Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

**Public Participation:**

The public attended this meeting in-person or remotely using one of the following methods: on a computer or smart device, <https://marinwater.zoom.us/j/88134852296>, or by phone, 1-669-444-9171, using Webinar ID #: 881 3485 2296.

**AGENDA ITEMS:****1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Board President Jed Smith called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Ranjiv Khush

Diana Maier

Matt Samson

Larry Russell

Jed Smith

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

Director Maier made the motion to adopt the agenda. Director Khush seconded the motion.

There were no public comments.

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

Motion passed.

## 3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

There were no public comments.

## 4. Directors' and General Manager's Announcements

- Director Maier provided a legislative update on the Water Resources Development Act of 2024, including possible funding for the District's ARC Project.
- Director Khush commended Public Affairs and Communications Manager Adriane Mertens and her communications team for their work in promoting water efficiency awareness and programs.
- Director Samson acknowledged the good work and progression at the Jack Gibson tanks construction project on the Watershed.

## 5. Board Committee Reports

There were none.

## 6. Consent Items

- a. January 6, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept the minutes of the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting on January 6, 2026

- b. General Manager's Report December 2025

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Report

- c. Third Amendment to the At-Will Employment Agreement of Bennett Horenstein as the General Manager of the Marin Municipal Water District

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Third Amendment to the At-Will Employment Agreement of Bennett Horenstein as the General Manager of the Marin Municipal Water District extending the term of the Agreement for approximately three (3) additional months

Director Maier made the motion to adopt the Consent Calendar. Director Khush seconded the motion.

There were no public comments.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Regular Items

### a. Early Detection Rapid Response Contract

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a Professional Services Agreement with PCI Ecological to conduct Early Detection Rapid Response work along 80 miles of fire roads over a two-year period in an amount not to exceed \$195,439 and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement

Watershed Resources Director Shaun Horne presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

There were no public comments.

Director Samson made the motion to approve the agreement. Director Khush seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

### b. Approval of the One Tam 2026-2027 Work Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and approve the One Tam 2026-2027 Work Plan

Watershed Resources Director Horne also presented this item.

Discussion followed

Director Samson made the motion to approve the Work Plan. Director Maier seconded the motion.

There were no public comments.

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

Motion carried.

### c. 2026 Board of Directors Committee Assignments

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the appointment of the Marin Municipal Water District Directors to internal standing committees and to external regional committees as representatives of the District

Board President Smith presented this item and proposed the following list of committee assignments.

**Standing Committees:**

Finance & Administration Committee: Chair Diana Maier Vice Chair Jed Smith

Planning Committee: Chair Larry Russell Vice Chair Ranjiv Khush

Watershed Committee: Chair Matt Samson Vice Chair Diana Maier

**Other Assignments:**

Lagunitas Creek Technical Advisory Committee

Representative: Matt Samson

Alternate: Jed Smith

Marin Water-North Marin Water Collaboration Ad Hoc Committee

Representatives: Larry Russell and Diana Maier

North Bay Watershed Association

Representative: Matt Samson

Alternate: Larry Russell

North Bay Water Reuse Authority

Representative: Larry Russell

Alternate: Ranjiv Khush

One Tam

Representative: Jed Smith

Alternate: Ranjiv Khush

Sonoma County Water Agency Water Advisory Committee

Representative: Ranjiv Khush

Alternate: Jed Smith

Tomales Bay Foundation

Representative: Diana Maier

Alternate: Matt Samson

There were no Board or public comments.

Director Khush made the motion to approve the 2026 Board Committee Assignments. Director Samson seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

## 8. Future Board and Committee Meetings and Upcoming Agenda Items

### a. Upcoming Meetings

The board president and secretary listed some of the meetings coming up in January.

There were no Board or public comments.

## 9. Announcement of Closed Session Item(s); Public Comments on Closed Session Item(s)

Board President Smith announced the Closed Session item.

There were no public comments.

The Board convened to Closed Session and went to the Mt. Tam Conference Room.

### a. Conference with Labor Negotiators

*(California Government Code §54957.6)*

**Agency Designated Representatives:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager

**Employee Organizations:** Service Employees International Union, Local 1021; Unrepresented Employees

The Board adjourned the closed session and left the Mt. Tam Conference Room. They, except Board President Smith, went back to the Board Room.

## 10. Reconvene to Open Session; Closed Session Report Out

Board Vice President Larry Russell reconvened the Open Session.

He reported that the Closed Session adjourned at 6:07 p.m. and no reportable action was taken at the closed session.

## 11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Board of Directors' meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

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Board Secretary



# STAFF REPORT

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<b>Meeting Type:</b>	Board of Directors
<b>Title:</b>	Professional Services Agreement for Insurance Brokerage & Risk Management Services
<b>From:</b>	Bret Uppendahl, Finance Director
<b>Through:</b>	Ben Horenstein, General Manager
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	February 3, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**  Action       Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a Professional Services Agreement for Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services with Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC for fiscal years 2026/27 through 2028/29 and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract

**SUMMARY:** Staff presented this item at the January 22, 2026, Finance and Administration Committee meeting. The District's current insurance brokerage agreement with Alliant Insurance Services, Inc expires in fiscal year 2025/26. On October 27, 2025, the District issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services. The RFP closed on November 21, 2025, and two proposals were received. Staff recommends the District select Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services for a three-year professional services agreement.

**DISCUSSION:** The District entered into an agreement for insurance brokerage services with Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. on April 19, 2019. The initial agreement was for three years from 2019/20 through 2021/22. Subsequent amendments extended the agreement through 2025/26. Prior to fiscal year 2019/20 the District received insurance brokerage services from Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC.

The RFP issued in October 2025 was posted publicly and sent directly to five insurance brokerage firms. Interviews were conducted with the two responding firms and an internal selection panel gave the highest score to Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC, with the primary areas of distinction being the approach to the scope of services and the proposed fees. The total brokerage fee proposed by Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC is \$55,000 in FY 2026/27, increasing by four to six percent per year throughout the remaining years of the proposal. The total proposed brokerage fee for the three-year period is \$173,137.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The FY 2026/27 through FY 2028/29 cost of \$173,137 represents an 18% reduction to the current brokerage fee of \$70,000 per year. Funding for the brokerage fee is included in the FY 2026/27 budget and will be included in the FY 2027/28 and FY 2028/29 budget request.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Finance		
	Bret Uppendahl Finance Director	Ben Horenstein General Manager



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** Bay Area Ridge Trail Dedication – Mt Tamalpais Watershed East  
**From:** Shaun Horn, Watershed Resources Director  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** February 03, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**  Action  Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Bay Area Ridge Trail dedication resolution for 11.26 miles of fire road on the Mt. Tam Watershed

**SUMMARY:** The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council has requested that the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors designate several road segments along the east side of the Mt. Tamalpais watershed that currently represent gaps in the Bay Area Ridge Trail route. These segments on District lands include Pine Mountain/San Geronimo Ridge (3.01 miles), Fairfax–Bolinas Road (0.42 miles), Liberty Gulch Road (1.94 miles), Bullfrog Road (0.39 miles), Rock Springs–Lagunitas Road to Alpine Lake (4.56 miles), and East Ridgecrest Boulevard (0.22 miles), for a total of approximately 11 miles (Attachment 1).

All segments are existing fire roads that currently allow biking, hiking, and equestrian use. As a result, no change in use is required to proceed with dedication of these segments as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

**DISCUSSION:** The Bay Area Ridge Trail's mission is to plan, promote, and sustain a connected hiking, cycling, and equestrian trail along the ridgelines surrounding San Francisco Bay—linking people, parks, and open space for present and future generations. Over the past three decades, approximately 400 miles of trail and roadway have been designated as part of the Ridge Trail system throughout the Bay Area. The District has partnered with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council since the organization's incorporation in 1989. In September 2005 the Board approved dedication of road segments along the San Geronimo Ridge Road and Peters' Dam access road, totaling a distance of about 5 miles to become a part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. That action established an important precedent for recognizing existing District roadways as components of the Ridge Trail where such designation is compatible with District land management objectives.

The current request builds upon that prior Board action by proposing designation of an additional 11.26 miles of existing District fire roads along the east side of the Mt. Tamalpais watershed that currently serve as gaps in the Ridge Trail route. All proposed segments already allow hiking, biking, and

equestrian use, and no change in use designation is required. Dedication of these segments would formally recognize their role within the regional Ridge Trail system and further advance the vision of a continuous 500-mile trail encircling the San Francisco Bay Area.

The proposed Ridge Trail segments on District lands would continue to be managed by Watershed Management staff in accordance with District land management policies, watershed regulations, and the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Road and Trail Plan. Following approval, the designated routes would appear on maps distributed by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and be identified in the field by small Ridge Trail markers affixed to existing signposts at locations coordinated with District staff.

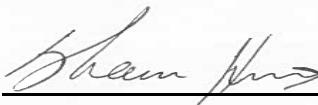
Approval of the designation request would reaffirm the District's long-standing partnership with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and its continued support of regional trail connectivity while maintaining existing watershed management practices.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** The proposed action is limited to designation of existing fire roads as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. No construction, physical improvements, or changes to existing use are proposed, and the designation does not result in any change to current management or access. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment and thus the proposed action is not subject to review under CEQA.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Proposed Resolution with Attachment of the Map of District Watershed Road Segments for Dedication

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	 Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager

**MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT DESIGNATING ROAD SEGMENTS ALONG THE EASTERN SIDE OF MT. TAMALPAIS WATERSHED**

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is a grassroots organization of active volunteers, incorporated in 1989, dedicated to the creation of a 500-mile trail system connecting 75 parks, watershed lands and open space areas through-out the nine county San Francisco Bay Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council serves as a model for the nation, because of the collaboration between private land owners and public resource management agencies in a major metropolitan region in developing an environmentally sound trail system of this magnitude for the public's benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's volunteers and members represent an alliance of hikers, equestrians and bicyclists, working cooperatively to accomplish the goals of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is also a partnership of local, regional, state and federal park and land management agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, an 11 mile road segment including Pine Mountain/San Geronimo Ridge (3.01 miles), Fairfax–Bolinas Road (0.42 miles), Liberty Gulch (1.94 miles), Bullfrog Road (0.39 miles), Rock Springs–Lagunitas Road to Alpine Lake (4.56 miles), and East Ridgecrest Boulevard (0.22 miles), shown in Attachment A attached hereto, is appropriate for designation as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Marin Municipal Water District hereby designates the 11 mile road segment including Pine Mountain/San Geronimo Ridge (3.01 miles), Fairfax–Bolinas Road (0.42 miles), Liberty Gulch (1.94 miles), Bullfrog Road (0.39 miles), Rock Springs–Lagunitas Road to Alpine Lake (4.56 miles), and East Ridgecrest Boulevard (0.22 miles), as set forth in Attachment A, as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 3rd day of February, 2026, by the following vote of the Board of Directors.

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

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**Jed Smith**  
**President, Board of Directors**

**ATTEST:**

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**Terrie Gillen**  
**Board Secretary**

**Attachment:** Attachment A – Map of District Watershed Road Segments for Dedication

Attachment A

Section 8. Item #a.





# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project Update  
**From:** Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2026


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**TYPE OF ITEM:** Action  Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive an update on the Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project

**SUMMARY:** The ARC Project team has completed early-phase activities and continues to advance towards key project milestones supporting the preliminary design and environmental review process. Staff will provide an update on project activities to date including coordination with regional agencies, and upcoming project milestones.

**DISCUSSION:** As part of the District's ongoing Water Supply Roadmap actions, the ARC Project was identified as the preferred alternative. In spring 2025, the Board approved an agreement with Carollo Engineers to provide engineering design services as well as an agreement with Panorama Environmental to conduct environmental review and analysis of the proposed project. Following the Board's approval of those contracts, the ARC project team has pursued key early project activities summarized below.

**Design & Property Acquisition**

- Completed phase 1 field work including aerial surveys and geotechnical investigations of the proposed alignment along San Marin Drive and Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Road to support preliminary design development
- Evaluated a shortlist of pump station sites, selected a preferred site to locate Pump Station A and finalized the purchase agreement with extended escrow for the site near interconnection with North Marin Aqueduct.
- Staff is working with North Marin Water District to assess the availability and suitability of a potential Pump Station B site located near Stafford Lake.
- The project team continues to gather available utility information to support development of the design and Basis of Design Report (BODR)

**Environmental Review and Stakeholder Engagement**

- Established coordination meeting with local partner agencies including City of Novato, North Marin Water District, Novato Sanitary, County of Marin DPW and County of Marin Park Service to provide ongoing and centralized communication as the project progresses
- In addition, the team is continuing outreach with individual stakeholders on select topics
- Started baseline biological and cultural resource surveys, including performing field surveys by project team at potential pump station sites

Over the next month, the project team will focus on completing the Basis of Design Report (BODR) and preliminary design, formally initiating the CEQA scoping process and issuing the Notice of Preparation (NOP), and maintaining regular coordination with stakeholders as the project continues to progress.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** Capital Program Update  
**From:** Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:** Action  Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive a staff update on Fiscal Year 2026 second quarter Capital Improvement Program

**SUMMARY:** Staff has been working on various capital projects identified in the District's adopted FY26 Budget since the last Capital Program Update to the Board on October 7, 2025. Staff continue to work diligently on the variety of capital projects identified in the adopted budget, which includes tank, pump station, treatment plant and pipeline projects as well as unplanned capital projects. To ensure continued capital project delivery, staff have hired on-call consultants and will continue to use this strategy to keep up with the capital program. It's important to note that the District has been experiencing challenges filling newly created positions as well as some recent staff departures within engineering, which is beginning to strain existing resources. Larger complex capital projects, such as the District's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software update, have experienced some challenges causing adjustments to the project timeline for completion.

**DISCUSSION:** Staff have been diligently working on various capital projects identified in the District's adopted budget for FY26 ranging from treatment plant to pipeline projects. To help execute some of the more complicated work, the District has hired consulting firms for design assistance on pump station, tank, treatment plant and dam projects. Many projects identified in the current budget cycle span a two-year period due to the size and timing of the projects. Some of those projects currently underway in construction include large, highly visible pipeline projects such as the Canal, Marin City and Sleepy Hollow Pipeline Replacement Projects. Staff will also be advertising the Bolinas Road Pipeline Replacement Project in February 2026, that will replace approximately 4,400 feet of cast iron pipe installed in 1921 (105 year old) on Bolinas Road in the Town of Fairfax.

The District is also currently finishing the third year of construction on the Gibson Tank Project in preparation of the tank foundation and vertical construction scheduled for August 2026 (year four). Once completed in 2029, the Gibson Tanks will provide seismically resilient water storage with increased capacity to the Ross Valley Area which is approximately 23% of the District's service area.

Staff will be advertising the Scenic Avenue Tank Replacement Project in February and looking to award the contract in March 2026. This will replace one of the four remaining redwood tanks in our system with a bolted steel tank. Staff are also expecting to advertise the Hind Tanks Replacement Project in March 2026, that will replace two of the four remaining redwood tanks in the system with steel tanks improving seismic resiliency to the system. Staff will be working on the design to replace the last remaining redwood storage tank by 2028.

The District also awarded the Kastania Pump Station Phase 2 project, which is now in construction and the procurement of equipment by the contractor is underway. The improvements will provide reliable pumping from Kastania while anticipating larger pump station needs to meet the capacity of the Atmospheric River Capture Project. Staff will also be advertising the Tocaloma Pump Station project in February 2026, which has an estimated engineering cost of \$12.8 million dollars. This complex project will span a two year construction window, the first year of which involves the procurement of electrical equipment before demolition and construction begins.

On occasion, staff have had to reprioritize projects in order to work on unplanned capital projects such as the Fairfax Manor Pump Station Replacement Project. Staff continue to work on the unplanned Fairfax Manor Pump Station Project to replace the damaged pump station that occurred as a result of an unfortunate paving accident in May 2024. Staff are still working through complicated issues which have caused this project to take longer than expected. Staff will be bringing an item to the Board related to this project in the coming month.

While the capital program continues to move forward, it is important to mention some challenges that the District has been experiencing with engineering staff. On October 1, 2024, the Board approved two new engineering positions and following Board approval, staff opened recruitment for those positions. Active recruitment has been ongoing since then with multiple interviews resulting in hiring one new engineer. While the recruitment was ongoing, the District lost one engineer to another bay area water agency, resulting in a net zero gain of staff and loss of experience. Engineering staff have been able to manage the capital work until now, but with the loss of a tenured engineer, addition of a new engineer and the upcoming capital work, it will be necessary to hire a consultant team to assist with select capital projects, while the District continues its efforts to recruit new engineers and develop staff.

SAP is the current Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software that the District currently utilizes, and it's reaching the end of useful life and will need to be replaced. Staff have been actively working on this complex upgrade and modernization effort over the past year in preparation for switching over to the new software in a phased manner. As the project has been progressing, challenges have been identified in the implementation phase of this work that has caused the schedule to shift hence increasing the duration of this project. It is important to mention that large and complex projects such as the ERP project may encounter challenges during implementation, which may cause project timelines to move while solutions are developed to address the issues.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not Applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

This schedule lists upcoming board and committee meetings as well as upcoming agenda items for the next month, which may include Board interest in adding future meeting items. The schedule is tentative and subject to change pending final publication and posting of each meeting agenda.

<b>Internal Meetings</b>		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Key Item(s)</b>
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 9:30 a.m.	Planning Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors	Bolinas Ave. Pipeline Replacement Project, Pump Station Fire Hardening Project
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026 5:00 p.m.	Board of Directors' Regular Bi- Monthly Meeting with Closed Session to follow	Board Compensation and Board Handbook Policy Revisions
Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026 9:30 a.m.	Finance and Administration Committee Meeting	

<b>External Meetings</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 9:30 a.m.	North Bay Watershed Association Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026 3:00 p.m.	Tomales Bay Foundation Meeting