



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

Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 9:30 AM

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## AGENDA

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### 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 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](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. **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** (9:45 a.m. – Time Approximate)

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the minutes

- b. Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and refer a professional services agreement for a fisheries study of Nicasio Creek to a future meeting of the Board of Directors for consideration of approval

- c. Volunteer Program Update

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive a staff update on the District's volunteer program

5. **Upcoming Meeting**

The next Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024.

6. **Adjournment** (10:30 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](http://marinwater.org).*

Posted: 10-11-2024





# NOTICE OF THE AMENDED AGENDA - WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 9:30 AM

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## MINUTES

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### 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 Monty Schmitt - 3 Glenaire Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901

### 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 Matt Samson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ranjiv Khush

Larry Russell

Jed Smith

Monty Schmitt (*left at 10:30 a.m.*)

Matt Samson

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Director Smith and seconded by Director Khush to adopt the agenda.

There were no public comments.

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

**3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters**

There were no public comments.

**4. Regular Items**

a. Dedication of Memorial Plaque in Honor of Roger E. Roberts

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the installation of a new bench along Azalea Hill Trail with a memorial plaque for Roger E. Roberts

Watershed Resources Director Shaun Horne presented a plaque honoring the late Roger E. Roberts. Afterwards, the Board provided comments.

A motion was made by Director Russell and seconded by Director Smith to approve the installation of a new bench with the memorial plaque.

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

There were two public comments.

b. Minutes of the Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors' Meeting on June 20, 2024

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the minutes

A motion was made by Director Khush and seconded by Director Smith to approve the minutes.

There were no public comments.

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

Vice Chair Schmitt announced that he would leave the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

c. 2024-2027 Forestry Services Contract

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and refer the proposed Forestry Services General Services Agreement (GSA) contract to a future regular meeting of the Board of Directors for award of the contract to the lowest qualified bidder

Watershed Resources Director Horne introduced Natural Resources Program Manager Carl Sanders, who presented this item.

Discussion followed.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Director Khush and seconded by both Vice Chair Schmitt to refer this item to the Board to consider for approval at a future meeting.

- d. Abundance Patterns of Landbirds on the District Lands

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive report

Watershed Resources Director Horne introduced Renee Cormier with Point Blue Conservation Science, who provided a report.

Discussion ensued.

There was one (1) public comment.

This was an information item. No formal action was taken.

- e. FY 2024 Annual BFFIP Vegetation Management Report

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive report

Watershed Resources Director Horne, Natural Resources Program Manager Sanders, and BFFIP Project Coordinator Loren Jenkins presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Schmitt left the meeting.

There were two (2) public comments.

This was an information item. No formal action was taken.

- f. Update on Lagunitas Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project Phase 1A Construction, and Review and Refer Contract MA-6356 with O'Connor Environmental Inc.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive update; and Review and refer MA-6356 with O'Connor Environmental Inc. for Lagunitas Creek sediment and streambed monitoring to support WR95-17 compliance and guide ongoing restoration planning in the amount of \$154,443

Watershed Resources Director Horne, Fisheries Program Manager Jonathan Koehler, and Natural Resources Technician Sterling Mays provided a presentation.

Discussion followed.

There was one (1) public comment.

A motion was made by Director Smith and seconded by Director Khush to refer this item to the Board to consider for approval at a future meeting.

5. Upcoming Meeting

The Board Secretary announced that the next Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was scheduled for October 17, 2024, 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 September 19, 2024, at 11:09 a.m.

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Board Secretary



# STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Type:** Watershed Committee/Board of Directors  
**Title:** Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study  
**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2024

*SH*  
*BH*

**TYPE OF ACTION:**                      Action                      Information                      X                      Review and Refer

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and refer a professional services agreement for a fisheries study of Nicasio Creek to a future meeting of the Board of Directors for consideration of approval

**SUMMARY:** The District prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a fisheries study of Nicasio Creek to support the Water Supply Roadmap. The RFP includes three tasks: 1) streamflow monitoring; 2) stream habitat surveys; and 3) biological surveys for salmonids and other special-status species. The RFP was distributed on September 25, 2024, and proposals are due on October 18, 2024. District Watershed staff will review all proposals received and make a recommend for approval at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. The study is expected to begin in November 2024 and to be completed by late summer 2025.

**DISCUSSION:** As part of the District’s ongoing Water Supply Roadmap actions, raising Nicasio Reservoir’s spillway was identified as a potential project to increase local water storage. Nicasio Creek flows from Nicasio Reservoir approximately one-mile through District-owned and private land before joining Lagunitas Creek. Currently, there are limited biological and hydrologic data available for this reach of Nicasio Creek. Therefore, additional studies are needed to support ongoing water supply planning, permitting, and environmental compliance. Specifically, the District seeks to better understand seasonal streamflow patterns and the presence/absence of aquatic species within this reach of Nicasio Creek.

The District prepared and distributed a RFP to three qualified consulting firms (Stillwater Sciences, Environmental Science Associates, and WRA Environmental Consultants). Proposals are required to include consultant staff qualifications and experience, a work schedule, and a detailed task-based budget. The RFP was distributed on September 25, 2024, and proposals are due on October 18, 2024. District staff will make a recommendation for approval of a professional services agreement at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting for consideration of approval.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.



**FISCAL IMPACT:** The cost of this study has not been determined. Proposals will include detailed task-based budgets. Total cost information will be presented at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.



# STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Type:** Watershed Committee/Board of Directors  
**Title:** Volunteer Program Update  
**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2024

**TYPE OF ACTION:**                      Action                      X                      Information                      Review and Refer

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive a staff update on the District’s volunteer program

**SUMMARY:** The Marin Municipal Water District (District) Volunteer Program strives to connect people to nature and their water source by offering hands-on stewardship activities on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed. By engaging volunteers and students, the District increases its capacity to improve trails, restore habitat, protect threatened wildlife, and monitor both the rare and invasive species across the landscape. Through their experiences, volunteers gain skills, become stewards, contribute to the health and safety of the watershed, and have fun while doing so.

Community volunteers and students are a major contributing force to the conservation and restoration of the watershed. Over the past 15 years the District has developed a variety of volunteer activities, created unique environmental education opportunities for schools, and engaging with stakeholders and partner organizations on citizen science programs and watershed user outreach efforts.

Staff will present a Volunteer Program update to highlight the accomplishments from the past fiscal year and review opportunities for future volunteer programming, which supports the advancement of the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP), the Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy, and the Watershed Recreation Management Feasibility Study.

**DISCUSSION:** Volunteers play a critical role in maintaining the scenic beauty and biological richness of the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed. From improving trails, restoring habitat, and protecting threatened flora and fauna, the District has developed a variety of volunteer opportunities designed to engage the community in natural resource stewardship. The volunteer program serves as an informational resource for engaged community members and stakeholders through educational and public outreach events, including trainings, outreach stations, guided hikes, and internship opportunities.

Environmental education increases people’s knowledge and awareness about the environment, develops the necessary skills to address shared challenges, fosters commitment to civic engagement and connects students to their local water source. The District’s Volunteer Program engages with

students ranging from pre-K through college in a variety of formats like in-classroom workshops, Watershed field trips, Library Story Times and internships. Additionally, through the District's collaboration with Trout Unlimited and California Department of Fish and Wildlife District staff is able to teach students about the salmonid life cycle and challenges associated with local fisheries through the Trout in the Classroom program; this year the District interacted with 51 classes. Additionally, two AmeriCorps members from the Watershed Steward's Program work with the District's Fisheries and Volunteer Program to improve the health and habitat of anadromous fish in Lagunitas Creek and help to support community stewardship programs for wildlife across the watershed.

During fiscal year 2024, 19 Frog Docents spoke with 844 visitors about foothill yellow-legged frogs and the importance of protecting their habitat near Carson Falls. Also, 16 Turtle Docents provided 86 hours toward monitoring native and introduced turtle populations in District reservoirs. The District's Volunteer Program also collaborates with One Tam to advance community science programs on Mt. Tamalpais and throughout the One Tam geographic area. Volunteers working on the Marin Wildlife Watch cataloged over 101,000 photos this year. The Tamalpais Bee Lab expands District monitoring efforts of wild bees; One Tam co-led three training events this year and four volunteers surveyed for 96 hours this spring at four different sites on the watershed.

The District volunteer programs are advertised through social media channels and on third-party community engagement websites. The District Communications Department recently updated the volunteer pamphlets and monthly event flyers to help raise awareness about upcoming volunteer opportunities on the watershed. Details about District volunteer programs and events are updated on the District's website and shared through a monthly email notice that reaches 2,824 people. Additionally, the District has been working to deepen relationships with the community to advance trail stewardship offerings on the watershed in an effort to advance the Strategic Opportunities identified in the Watershed Recreation Management Feasibility Study.

The District's Volunteer Program directly supports implementation of BFFIP Management Actions through hundreds of hours of Volunteer efforts to remove invasive broom and fir each year. Complementing these efforts, the Volunteer Program in conjunction with Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) and One Tam staff, provide important public outreach materials and events related to the application of the Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy on the watershed, such as the use of prescribed fire in the Rock Spring area. Staff at the Tam Van engaged with 785 visitors while positioned at popular trailheads on Mt. Tamalpais, discussing District efforts toward improving watershed forest health. Two self-guided maps were created to help illustrate the forest health work, which is informed by the Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy. Forest health stewardship and community engagement initiatives are supported by GrizzlyCorps, an AmeriCorps program designed by UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment.

The District's Volunteer Program also supports implementation of numerous Stewardship Opportunities identified in the Recreation Management Feasibility Study. For fiscal year 2024, volunteers contributed 585 hours over the course of nine Saturdays through the District's Trail Stewardship program. The start of fiscal year 2025 has volunteers assisting District staff with trail maintenance directly related towards the anticipated launch of the Trail Sharing Pilot Program. While the Marin Superior Court has temporarily placed this Pilot program on hold, staff will continue hosting Monthly Volunteer Trail Days in support of ongoing watershed trail maintenance priorities.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. 2024 Volunteer and Outreach Pamphlet



## MORE OPPORTUNITIES

### One Tam – one mountain, one team

The One Tam partnership mobilizes the resources of Marin Water, the National Park Service, California State Parks, Marin County Parks and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to ensure a vibrant future for Mt. Tamalpais.

Our collective efforts are guided by science and powered by community stewardship. Through participating in hands-on service programs and research projects, volunteers of all ages help protect the long-term health of the mountain, deepen their connection to the watershed and cultivate a lifelong ethic of stewardship. Find out how you can support the One Tam collaborative at [onetam.org](http://onetam.org).

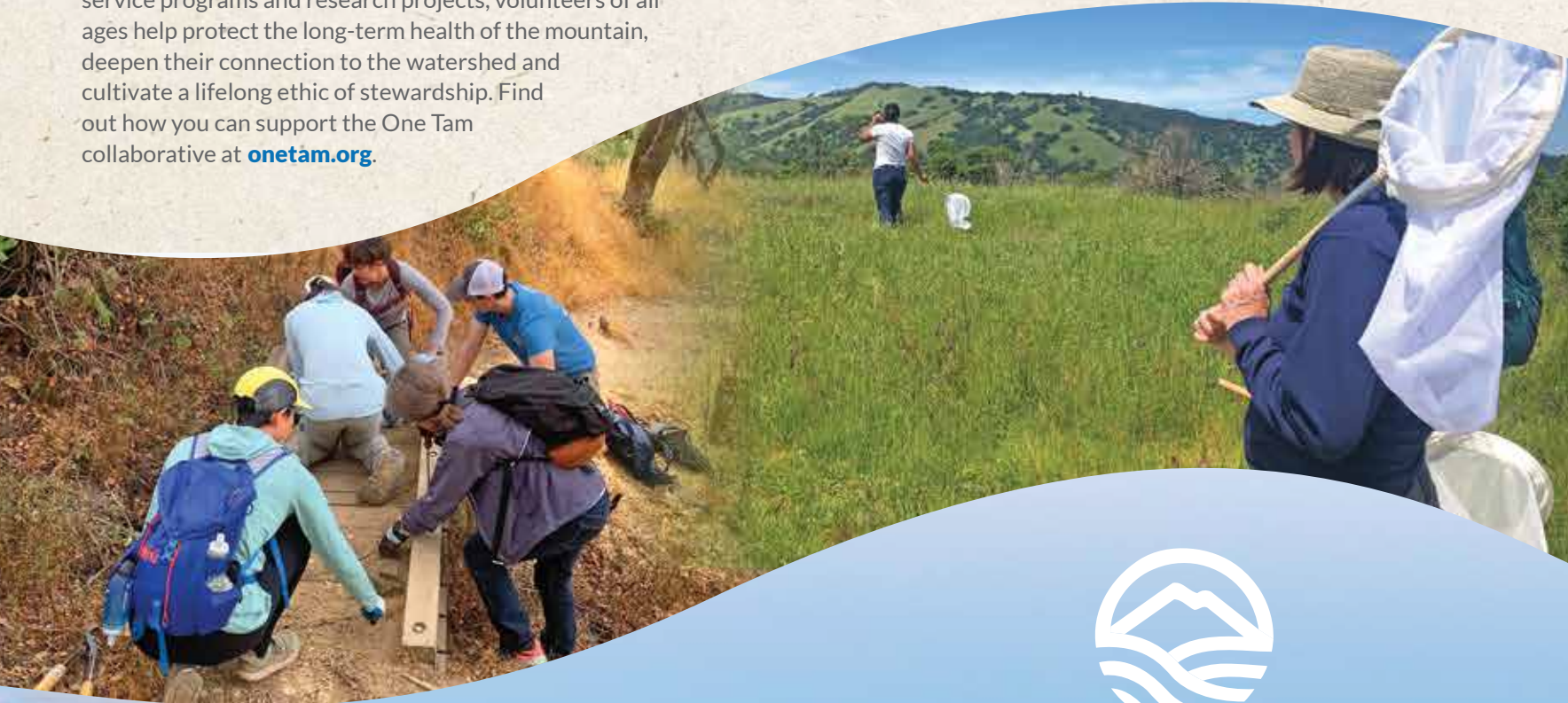
## GET IN TOUCH

### Volunteer Program

415.945.1128

[VolunteerProgram@marinwater.org](mailto:VolunteerProgram@marinwater.org)

[marinwater.org/Volunteer](http://marinwater.org/Volunteer)



**MARIN WATER**

**Mount Tamalpais Watershed  
Volunteer & Stewardship**

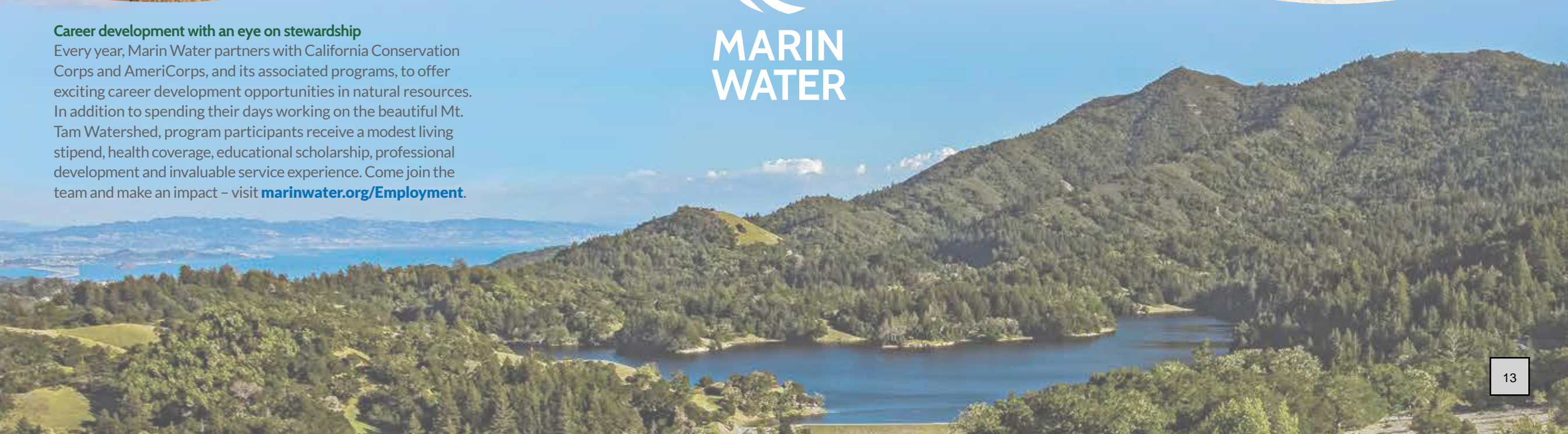
*Connecting our community to their  
local lands, local water*



**MARIN  
WATER**

### Career development with an eye on stewardship

Every year, Marin Water partners with California Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps, and its associated programs, to offer exciting career development opportunities in natural resources. In addition to spending their days working on the beautiful Mt. Tam Watershed, program participants receive a modest living stipend, health coverage, educational scholarship, professional development and invaluable service experience. Come join the team and make an impact – visit [marinwater.org/Employment](http://marinwater.org/Employment).





Marin Water is all about connecting people to nature and their water source – the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed. Mt. Tam is home to more than 1,000 types of plants, over 300 species of lichen and 400 kinds of animals, including 80 rare, threatened and endangered species. Join us to help to preserve these watershed lands, maintain water quality, protect biodiversity and care for our shared natural resources.

Volunteer opportunities for a range of interests...

RESTORE SENSITIVE HABITAT



Habitat Restoration

Learn about Marin’s unique plant and animal life while helping to remove invasive weeds and plant natives to restore sensitive habitat. These restoration events typically take place one or two times a month throughout the rainy season, while the ground is soft.



Frog Docents

Take meaningful action to protect the foothill yellow-legged frogs, a species of special concern only found in isolated ranges in California. Encourage visitors to practice good behavior by showing them the frogs near their breeding habitat. Once you have completed the March training, shadow a seasoned docent or staff member and then venture on your own through spring.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Watershed Ambassadors

Marin Water collaborates with One Tam and partners like Slow & Say Hello to share updates and lead activities about programs and events. Staff and volunteer ambassadors are stationed at various locations on and off the mountain to serve and engage our community. Watershed Ambassadors receive public outreach training, which includes communication strategies, developing outreach goals, utilizing the Tam Van and resources on timely topics.



Library Story Time

Find us at various Marin libraries for nature-related storybook readings and other activities and to learn more about the flora and fauna of the Mt. Tam Watershed.

Naturalist Hikes

Explore the watershed’s unique biodiversity and water resources by accompanying staff and seasoned docents for guided naturalist hikes and outings.



BE A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST



Tamalpais Bee Lab

Help us gain a better understanding of native bees so we can protect the pollinators and the public lands that support them. Volunteering for a One Tam bee survey generally involves visiting a designated site, searching for bees or nests and documenting with high quality photographs and other data.

Turtle Observers

Monitor and record behavior of native western pond turtles, a vulnerable species and California’s only freshwater turtle. Once you complete the February training, you have the choice to visit several locations at any time you want during the spring to participate.

Marin Wildlife Watch

Gain animal identification skills and get glimpses into the daily lives of wildlife you wouldn’t otherwise see. One Tam partner agencies are using motion-activated cameras to study mammals on public lands around Mt. Tamalpais. After training, volunteers work from home to catalog the images.

STEWARD TRAILS

Trail Crew

Roll up your sleeves to maintain and improve Mt. Tam’s trail network and enhance natural habitat. Help us install and repair bridges, fences and stairs; improve drainage, erosion control and tread; and cut back vegetation along trails.

Litter Abatement

Get some fresh air while helping to keep the watershed clean. Sign up for a 20-minute orientation to remove trash from high-use areas along waterways and trails. After completing orientation, you may hunt for litter on your own schedule.



Ready to get involved?

Sign up to receive our monthly volunteer opportunities update, view the event calendar and register to participate in our volunteer activities at [marinwater.org/Volunteer](http://marinwater.org/Volunteer).

