Greetings Friends and Supporters,

Protecting our local watershed through advocacy, engagement and education is at the forefront of EAC’s mission this spring. It has been a windy and wet winter in Northern California this year and while concerns over drought are reduced, the winter storms highlight coastal vulnerabilities as we face the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise in our communities.

This winter our communities faced rising and overflowing creeks, storm surges and waves creating high tides, which closed coastal public access, roadways, schools and public services; and wind gusts that downed trees, destroyed property, and caused widespread power outages. More than ever our work to protect and sustain the unique lands, waters and biodiversity of West Marin is needed to ensure long lasting protections for our invaluable coastal resources as we face the challenges of climate change.

Donors, like you, are critical to ensuring our work on these matters continues and thrives. Please make a special tax-deductible gift of $50 or more to support our waters advocacy work.

Today, because of our member support we are able to focus our waters advocacy programs on:

- Reviewing and supporting national and local laws to address and strengthen long-lasting protections for marine, coastal, and freshwater resources;
- Advocating for improvements in agricultural and aquaculture best management practices to improve water quality;
- Opposing offshore oil and gas expansion to protect our shorelines and communities;
- Reducing marine debris by advocating for local regulations to ban single-use plastics;
- Empowering local youth through our No Straw, Please Campaign and West Marin Wild field trips in Marin County Parks, and young adults through our internship and Russell Ridge Education Fund scholarship programs;
- Training community scientists to monitor marine protected areas off Marin County’s coast;
- Engaging with our community on annual stewardship activities to keep our waters and roadsides clean from trash and debris through our Litter Bugs Me Roadside Clean Up & California Coastal Clean Up events; and
- Partnering with local stakeholders to monitor fisheries, aquaculture, and marine protected areas, and launch our Waters Advisory Committee to help expand our scope and knowledge.

EAC’s prior key water successes include advocating for the conservation of the Giacomini Wetlands, supporting the creation of Drakes Estero Marine Wilderness, banning the use of jet skis on Tomales Bay, preventing the city of Santa Rosa from discharging sewage into Americano Estero, securing recognition for Tomales Bay as an international wetland of importance or Ramsar site, successfully stopping development in environmentally sensitive habitat on the Tomales Dunes, and most recently working to protect key eelgrass habitat in areas of aquaculture development.

It’s a lot of work, but our team of three fearless female advocates are all over it! To ensure that we can meet these challenges, we need your help. Please use the envelope enclosed and make your tax-deductible gift today.

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As someone who lives, works or visits West Marin you know the value of Tomales Bay, Drakes Estero, Bolinas Lagoon, and the surrounding Pacific Ocean, which provide irreplaceable coastal habitats that support substantial plant life, and invertebrate, bird, fish, and marine mammal populations. But as we move into 2019, we need to address threats to the places we love, including proposed rollbacks of key environmental protections (like the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts), pressures and impacts of urban and agricultural development, offshore oil drilling, federal planning shortcuts to favor industry, and climate change and sea level rise.

Our coastal communities are uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as studies show the California coast will be severely impacted. Combining sea level rise with events like we experienced this winter, it is more important than ever to remain vigilant on this issue. A 2019 USGS study indicates that all sea level rise estimates to date are likely too low, as they did not take extreme storm events into account. Patrick Barnard of USGS recently said “It’s not just sea level rise that we need to consider when assessing the impacts of climate change, but it is also the combination of sea level rise with storms and every daily high tide we experience along the coast.”

It is critical that local environmental groups are part of the conversation to safeguard our coastal resources amongst competing priorities. You can count on EAC to be an integral part of this dialogue to create a legacy of environmental protection for Marin’s future.

This year our waters work will focus on climate change areas, including:

**Planning and Adaptation:** We are working to shore up local planning efforts that seek to create green infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise, storm surges, and higher tides that also are protective of our beaches, biodiversity, coast, and wetlands. We will remain actively engaged in the hazards planning for the Marin County Local Coastal Program amendments, and participate in stakeholder groups for adaptation planning for rising sea levels.

**Greenhouse Gas Reduction:** We are supporting and advocating for legislative action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through draw down initiatives and preventing offshore oil and gas development off our coastlines, including being part of a local working group on carbon sequestration.

But we can’t do this alone, please provide a tax-deductible gift today for our work, and stay engaged with our programs and advocacy online, or by joining us for an event.

One must remember the conservation adage, “all of our gains are temporary, all of our losses are permanent.” Protection of West Marin’s sensitive coastal resources from unfettered development and use requires constant vigilance and tenacity. This is what EAC does, and you can make a difference today by making a tax-deductible donation in honor of our commitment to protecting and sustaining West Marin’s unique resources.

Thank you for your support!

In gratitude,

Morgan Patton | Executive Director