

From: [Fernando Agudelo-Silva](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: I ask you to maintain the wonderful teaching and outreach resources your district and your employees provide to College of Marin.
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 3:24:08 PM

Dear Marin Water District Board Members

Please maintain and increase your allocation of resources to better understand your watersheds. Specifically staff and resources to monitor the plants, lichens, animals at the MMW district Watershed.

I have taught at College of Marin for many years and thousands of our students have benefited from the services your watershed and employees provide to us, in particular allowing faculty and the College of Marin to conduct multiple learning activities in the areas you manage. I am one of the many faculty at College of Marin that use your watershed as a learning resource for our students. We plan field classes that we conduct at the watersheds assisted by your wonderful staff. Too many to individually mention but specifically Janet Klein, Andrea, Suzanne Whelan. What they have done is remarkable: they assist us to schedule field trips to the watershed, they coordinate with us the activities at the field trips and make field demonstrations. Also, the work we do with our students results in important data that you can use for the management of the watershed. For example, we have monitored vegetation in Mt. Tam for many years. The MMWD uses this data for vegetation management.

I believe that the outreach provided by your personnel contributes to a better support for your institution by the citizens of Marin County.

Just thinking I cannot take my students to do field practices at your watershed and not having the assistance of Suzanne Whelan and coworkers, deeply concerns me because my field classes depend on it to great extent.

I hope you maintain and increase the resources you allocated to you personnel involved in outreach, education within the framework o watershed management.
If you have questions please contact me.

Fernando Agudelo-Silva, Ph. D.
College of Marin Professor

From: [Honda Family](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Watershed field trips
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:35:39 PM

Dear MMWD Board,

I just want to express my gratitude for the wonderful watershed field trips all these years. My students have gained so much from them, an appreciation for and a sense of stewardship for our beautiful watershed. They now are very good at being water wise and they teach others to care.

I sincerely hope that these extremely valuable field trips and class visits will continue for many years to come.

Thank you,

Laura Honda

Fourth Grade Teacher

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rotman, Ethan@Wildlife](mailto:Rotman.Ethan@Wildlife)
To: [Board Comment](#); [Suzanne Whelan](#)
Subject: Working with MMWD
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:18:35 AM

Each year more than 2000 students in Marin County study fish habitats, the importance of watersheds, and how human actions impact these resources through a process of hatching trout in their classroom. The students spend several weeks learning about fish and what they need to survive, then set up an aquarium in their classroom which will house trout eggs. Students monitor and care for the fish for several weeks before releasing them into a lake. This amazing learning program is done with the help and support of MMWD, Golden Gate Trout Unlimited and coordinated and permitted through the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

MMWD plays a critical role in the support of this award-winning program. It has been my pleasure to work with Greg Andrews for the past 2 decades on this project. In more recent years, MMWD has stepped up their involvement through the volunteer staff, increased coordination of the fish release at Bon Tempe, and leadership with OneTAM and Watershed Stewards.

Marin County Office of Education is very supportive of this program as it provides excellent real world learning on the environment. We are only able to provide the high quality of programing and teacher support due to the outstanding work of MMWD staff.

Thank you for their past involvement and we look forward to many more good years ahead. If you have questions or need more information, please let me know and I am happy to help.

Ethan Rotman

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Classroom Aquarium Education Program and Fishing in the City Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Area
(415) 999-5924

Find us at:

[Trout in the Classroom website](#)

[Trout in the Classroom blog](#)

[Fishing in the City website](#)

From: [Olson Brown, Bob](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Field Trip Program
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:21:24 PM

I am writing this email to say how much I value the habitat restoration field trips my 3rd grade class has been a part of for I believe almost 7 years. This program has been a valuable opportunity for my students to learn the importance of environmental stewardship as well as learning about the watershed that provides drinking water for Marin County. Many of my students had never seen Phoenix Lake before this field trip and many have enjoyed the experience so much that they bring their parents to MMWD land on the weekends following our trips. Suzanne Whelan and her staff have done a fabulous job year after year getting kids excited about habitat restoration that many are disappointed when the day is done. These field trips have inspired me to look into school wide environmental clean up days and habitat restoration for all grades with families during the coming year when everything opens ups again. We look forward to many more years of partnerships in the environmental education of our students.

--

Bob Olson Brown
St. Patricks School

From: [Nelson, Erik](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Comment for June 18 MMWD board meeting - Ecology Lab
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:25:21 PM

(This comment is related to agenda item X, the Volunteer Program Annual Review, submitted by Suzanne Whelan. I understand you'll read it aloud during the meeting. Thank you.)

Dear Marin Municipal Water District:

My name is Erik Nelson, and I teach biology majors at Dominican University. Every year, I teach Ecology Laboratory, and my students participate in the forest succession project that is part of the MMWD's Volunteer Outreach program. First, my students collect data during a field trip, recording the abundance of key plants in the MMWD watershed. The following week, they analyze their data in class, and test hypotheses related to species abundance.

My students learn to recognize and name some plants, and they learn methods for collecting ecological data. And when I say "learn", they really learn! No in-class work can compare to the hands-on experience that students get from working with Suzanne Whelan and her crew. Your citizen science program is making my students into better citizens.

At the end of the semester, I survey my students to rank all the Ecology Lab activities. First, students gave the MMWD field trip high scores for educational value; and second, students voted to KEEP the MMWD field trip... more than any other field trip on my syllabus!

Sincerely,
Erik Nelson

From: [Priscilla Bull](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: June 18, 2020, Item 3, Vegetation Management Update
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:37:05 PM

I thank the Watershed Staff for this informative update.

Table 1: If possible, include a map of the areas where Broom and other priority weeds have been treated . A map would assist the public to compare current conditions with the invasive vegetation mapping in the FEIR.

From: [Warren](#)
To: [Board Comment](#)
Subject: Public comments: Green infrastructure in MMWD
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:17:37 PM
Attachments: [MMWD three minute.06.18.2020.docx](#)

Dear Watershed Board:

Please find attached comments, also pasted below for today's meeting:

Public comment for 06/18/2020 MMWD Watershed Committee Meeting

Contacts: Warren Karlenzig, Common Current 415.518.7575 warren@commoncurrent.com
Drew Norwood, Sherwood Design Engineers dnorton@sherwoodengineers.com

How Can MMWD plan, deploy and maintain Green Infrastructure effectively?

Sherwood Design Engineers, based in San Francisco, and Common Current, based in San Anselmo, would like to address critically important issues to MMWD, its customers and Marin County. These firms have worked with water agencies, municipalities and recreation areas creating science and policy-based design as part of successful plans that have delivered a wide range of cost-effective projects. For MMWD they have identified numerous high-priority areas to recommend green infrastructure improvements to roads, parking lots and public areas.

A Watershed Scale Green Infrastructure Plan would identify additional high-potential sites and would help MMWD prioritize the scoping of critical green infrastructure improvements with design benefitting water quality, species protection, reservoir water volume and infrastructure capital management, including road and parking lot lifespan and maintenance. This plan would benefit the district by providing a framework for short and long-term capital improvement projects that align with MMWD's sustainability and fiscal responsibility goals:

1. Protecting drinking water and wildlife habitat on MMWD watersheds from pavement pollutant and sediment run-off using green and natural infrastructure design and engineering.
2. Prioritizing future projects using a Risk/Benefit analysis of recommended green infrastructure design schematics, based on observed run-off flows and other GIS, climate and site resource data. The Lake Lagunitas Picnic Area and the Bon Tempe parking lot areas would be of highest priority, due to direct impacts to upper Lagunitas Creek, and Bon Tempe Reservoir.
3. Adding new operational and maintenance standards for green infrastructure to the MMWD Road and Trail Master Plan.

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure (GI) is an ideal practice for a water agency that owns and manages its watersheds:

- It reduces pollutant loads and sedimentation in reservoirs, lakes, rivers, creeks by filtering and storing excessive run-off from pavement and other surfaces.
- GI helps recharge surface hydrology and aquifers, providing increased water storage volume, and preserving critical ecosystems and sensitive species habitat.
- GI can reduce erosive wear, damage and destruction of hard infrastructure.
- It directly addresses climate change risks such as drought and infrastructure damage from extreme precipitation events.

Sherwood would like to submit a proposal for a Watershed Scale Green Infrastructure Plan

to MMWD for consideration. We welcome questions, comments or observations the MMWD Watershed Committee may have at this time.

Thank you,

Warren

Warren Karlenzig, President, Common Current
(415) 518-7575 warren@commoncurrent.com