

Building Resilient Communities Initiative

Fall 2026 Newsletter



Welcome! Our Fall 2026 issue covers updates and insights about our strategic investments in climate resilience in Marin County. Read on to learn more!

The Building Resilient Communities initiative holds a vision that all of Marin – especially our disproportionately impacted communities – are healthy, livable and resilient to long-term climate impacts. The initiative supports collaborative partnerships to develop broader project pipelines and to secure the funding sources needed to advance them. We provide tailored grant support for projects in Marin County that demonstrate collaboration, equity and scalable potential in sea level rise and flooding, wildfire, and clean-energy resilience. We also support targeted

advocacy when addressing an identified challenge to climate resilience that requires a policy change.

What We're Doing

Coastal Quest Findings Inform County Planning

Last year, the Building Resilient Communities initiative engaged [Coastal Quest](#) to assess the potential for more collaborative approaches to increase climate resilience across Marin. More recently, the County of Marin completed a governance study led by AECOM on how local jurisdictions could collaborate on sea level rise. Though focused on one hazard, its findings largely align with Coastal Quest's broader assessment. County Executive Office staff included the Coastal Quest report in their July [presentation \(see Policy Agenda item 10.a\)](#) to the Board of Supervisors. We were encouraged to see strong public support for the County's leadership on sea level rise, and by the recognition of the urgent need to act now.



Canal Alliance and City of San Rafael staff survey flooding in the Canal neighborhood from king tides in 2024. Photo credit: Paige Green

Announcing Sea Level Rise

Grant Recipients

We recently selected six projects for 12-month grants of \$125,000 – \$250,000 to advance flood protection, restore natural shorelines, and help communities adapt to sea level rise. Grant recipients will complete activities that position their projects for future public funding. We prioritized projects that address urgent risks, benefit vulnerable communities and habitats, and align with Climate Bond funding criteria. We look forward to seeing these projects progress over the coming year!

Project descriptions



The City of San Rafael will create plans to reduce flood risk along San Rafael's vulnerable southeast shoreline bayfront levee, which currently protects over 11,000 residents in the Canal neighborhood, businesses, and key infrastructure.



Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

will advance plans to restore the Bothin Marsh Open Space Preserve to protect vulnerable wetlands, reduce flooding risk, improve water filtration, and improve trail access.

[Read More](#)



Greater Farallones Association will complete the final design phase of the Bolinas Lagoon South End restoration project. Habitat restoration will protect the marsh from sea level rise, and invasive species removal will reduce wildfire risk in the surrounding area.



Marin
Audubon
Society

Marin Audubon Society will complete final plans for the Tiscornia Marsh restoration in San Rafael. The project will help keep bay waters from inundating the Canal and will improve a popular shoreline path.



Richardson Bay Regional Agency will monitor and evaluate ongoing eelgrass restoration activities in Richardson Bay for sea level rise adaptation.

[Read More](#)



The Town of Corte Madera will advance planning for the Marina Village flood berm and restoration project. The flood berm is highly vulnerable, putting hundreds of homes, affordable multi-family housing, businesses, and transportation routes at risk.

[Read More](#)



Coastal Quest simultaneously launched a Marin-focused technical assistance program for projects that align with open Climate Bond funding opportunities. The above six sea level rise projects will receive this no-cost, customized assistance to help them compete for larger public investments.

In addition, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, City of Novato, and Canal Alliance will receive assistance with public funding proposals addressing wildfire, extreme heat and sea level rise risks.

Where We're Headed



Marin has already seen more extreme weather and fire activity in 2026 than in recent years.

We're approaching the peak of what historically has been considered "fire season," while simultaneously facing a high chance of a [Super El Niño](#) this winter. We are coordinating with our County partners as they double down on [preparedness](#) by providing targeted support via Coastal Quest for highly vulnerable communities.

Coastal Quest is also identifying potential public funding sources for long-term flood mitigation projects, including disaster recovery funding if major flooding occurs this winter. By planning ahead, we can help ensure investments strengthen resilience to future climate conditions, not just repair what was damaged.

We are also helping Marin communities take a multi-hazard, multi-jurisdictional approach to resilience. This fall, Coastal Quest will create a public, searchable directory of climate and environmental initiatives across Marin — an idea that surfaced often in last year's stakeholder interviews. The resource will help close data gaps, improve coordination, and identify unmet needs and funding opportunities.

Join Us!

October 29, 2026 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Are you a project manager seeking public funding for flood mitigation, stormwater management, or watershed resilience? If so, join us on **October 29** for an interactive online workshop by Coastal Quest to help local projects be more competitive for upcoming, relevant Proposition 4 funding opportunities.

[Register here](#) by **October 23**.

Grantee Partner Spotlight:

Ecological Workforce Initiative



Ecological restoration that spurs an inclusive economy and benefits workers and their

families? It's happening here in Marin, and beyond!

The Ecological Workforce Initiative uplifts the role of skilled laborers and equipment operators who make ecological restoration possible. MCF has funded the [Ecological Workforce Initiative](#) since 2022, when it piloted its signature bilingual worker training curriculum in partnership with Conservation Corps North Bay. It has now trained over 400 workers in Marin, Sonoma, Napa and San Mateo counties – some of whom have since worked on Bolinas Wye and Greenwood Beach restoration projects in Marin.

Alongside these on-the-ground outcomes, the Ecological Workforce Initiative also works at the state level to help attract public workforce development funding and public-private partnership and investment in ecological restoration and climate resilience projects.



EWI-trained Conservation Corps North Bay crews assist on a living shoreline project at Greenwood Beach in Tiburon. Photo Credit: Eric Buenrostro

Interested in learning more? Check out the Ecological Workforce Initiative's [2026 Report – Ecology Equals Economy](#) and its recent [economic analysis](#) of current and planned ecological restoration projects in Marin County!

What Inspires Us

Here are a few things we've been reading and listening to lately:



California Forward and Insurance for Good have teamed up to produce reports like [Paying for Preparedness: Why California Needs Sustained Investment in Climate Resilience](#), and the new "California Dreamshot" [podcast](#). Check out the episode, ["Is the Future Insurable?"](#)



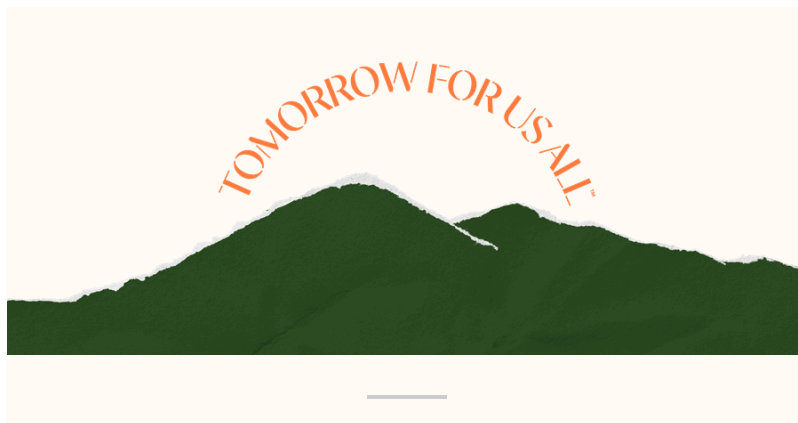
A new report from The Pew Charitable Trusts: [What Is a Resilience Plan—and Why Are More Governments Adopting Them?](#)



New research and a [report](#) by Potential Energy Coalition on what works – and what doesn't – when talking about clean energy to people outside the "climate bubble."

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