



RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Town of Tiburon

Report Title: *Sea Level Rise: The Water is Upon Us. We Cannot Run - We Cannot Hide*

Report Date: May 31, 2024

Response By: Town of Tiburon

Alice Fredericks
Mayor

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Holli Thier
Vice Mayor

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Isaac Nikfar
Councilmember

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Jack Ryan
Councilmember

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Jon Welner
Councilmember

FINDINGS

- We disagree partly or wholly agree with Findings numbered: **F1, F2, F3, F4 and F6**
- We agree with Findings numbered: **F5**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered **R1, R2, and R3** require further analysis.

Greg Chanis
Town Manager

Date: August 21, 2024

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 4



Office of the Town Manager

Town of Tiburon

August 21, 2024

The Honorable James T. Chou
Presiding Judge of the Marin County
Superior Court
Post Office Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Pat Shepard, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Alice Fredericks
Mayor

Holli Thier
Vice Mayor

Isaac Nikfar
Councilmember

Jack Ryan
Councilmember

Jon Welner
Councilmember

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report

Water is Upon Us We Cannot Run – We Cannot Hide

Greg Chanis
Town Manager

Dear Honorable Judge Chou and Foreperson Shepard:

This letter explains in detail the Town of Tiburon’s response to the Civil Grand Jury Report dated May 31, 2024 (*Water is Upon Us We Cannot Run – We Cannot Hide*). The Report invites the Town to respond to Findings F1-F6, and Recommendation R1-R3.

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

F1. A comprehensive countywide agency is necessary to effectively address the impacts of sea level rise in Marin County.

Response- The Town of Tiburon partially disagrees with this Finding.

The Town is unable to fully agree or disagree with this finding. Staff notes the County of Marin engaged consulting firm AECOM in March 2024 to develop a ‘Marin County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Organizational Structure and Decision-Making Process’, with the work expected to be completed in December 2025. The Town has and will continue to support this effort. Once this work is complete, there will be more information available to fully analyze the potential role of a countywide agency in addressing sea level rise. This analysis should include determining whether an existing agency could provide adequate oversight and that funding methods for a proposed agency are thoroughly vetted.



F2. To be effective, a countywide agency created to address sea level rise in Marin County should include the County of Marin, all cities and towns, and appropriate special districts in Marin County as funding participants.

Response- The Town of Tiburon partially disagrees with this Finding.

The Town is unable to fully agree or disagree with this Finding as there is not enough information currently available for the Town to support the creation of a countywide agency to address sea level rise.

F3. The complete failure to create and implement effective countywide sea level rise adaptation projects in Marin County will result in significant damage and losses to commercial and residential properties as well as infrastructure, both public and private.

Response - The Town of Tiburon partially disagrees with this Finding.

While the Town of Tiburon agrees that the implementation of effective sea level rise adaptation projects is necessary to avoid damages and losses to commercial and residential properties, as well as infrastructure (both public and private), it is unclear whether a new countywide agency is the best approach to progress this work.

F4. The 2034 deadline imposed by Sections 30985-30985.8 of the California Public Resources Code for each California county to submit its official sea level rise mitigation plan is “too little too late” for Marin County, and delaying action until then will expose coastal and Bay areas to unnecessary flooding risks, financial and other losses.

Response - The Town of Tiburon disagrees with this Finding.

The Town of Tiburon is committed to ensuring that mitigation strategies identified in the Climate Action Plan and the General Plan can be implemented to protect residents, property, and community well-being. The Town has taken local action to mitigate the adverse effects of sea level rise and is currently working on projects focused on shoreline resilience. The Town also intends to meet the requirements of SB 272, which requires local governments in the coastal zone and/or San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission jurisdictional area to develop a regional shoreline adaptation plan.

F5. Under-represented populations reside in areas that are severely vulnerable to sea level rise because they are in low-lying ground.

Response - The Town of Tiburon agrees with this Finding.

Alice Fredericks
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Vice Mayor

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Greg Chanis
Town Manager



F6. Sea level rise plans to be developed by a countywide entity should include adaptation strategies that directly apply to under-represented communities in low-lying areas with great exposure to sea level rise, such as the Canal District, areas of Novato, and Marin City, among others.

Response - The Town of Tiburon partially disagrees with this Finding.

The Town is unable to fully agree or disagree with this Finding as it presumes the existence of a countywide entity that does not currently exist. The Town does agree that sea level rise mitigation plans developed by any entity with jurisdiction over underrepresented communities in low-lying areas should include adaptation strategies that directly apply to those areas

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

R1. The Board of Supervisors, in collaboration with Marin County cities, towns, Bel Marin Keys Community Services District and Marin Water should create a comprehensive countywide agency with authority to plan and implement adaptation efforts addressing the impacts of sea level rise in Marin County.

Response - Recommendation requires further analysis. As noted in the Town’s response to Finding 1, the Town of Tiburon is participating in the effort being led by the County of Marin to develop a ‘Marin County Sea Level Rise Adaptation Organizational Structure and Decision-Making Process’. At the conclusion of this effort, all Marin County entities will be better positioned to determine whether a new countywide agency is the most appropriate path for developing and implementing adaptation plans.

R2. The Board of Supervisors should actively enlist the participation and support of state and federal legislators toward the creation and funding of this comprehensive countywide agency.

Response - Recommendation requires further analysis. As noted in the Town’s response to Recommendation 1, Marin County entities have not determined whether a countywide agency is the best approach for the development of adaptation plans. However, if such an agency were to exist, the Town would certainly encourage the agency to seek funding from a variety of sources, including State and Federal funds.

R3. The Board of Supervisors should require the newly created countywide entity to create plans that recognize and address sea level rise exposure and the specific risks to the populations in the Canal District, Marin City, specific areas in Novato, and all low-lying geographic regions where lower income populations reside. The plan should identify and address the risks impacting those populations, which include:

- (a) risks of becoming stranded due to inaccessible roads;***
- (b) lack of transportation if evacuations are called;***
- (c) mold that may grow inside their homes;***
- (d) exposure to infectious diseases due to contaminated standing water;***

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Town Manager



- (e) need to relocate temporarily or permanently as a result of floods; and*
- (f) other community-specific risks identified in regional assessments.*

Response - Recommendation requires further analysis. As noted in the Town's response to Recommendation 1, Marin County entities have not determined whether a countywide agency is the best approach for the development of adaptation plans. However, if such an agency were to exist, the Town would expect any adaptation plans developed would address the risks noted in Recommendation 3.

Sincerely,

Greg Chanis, Town Manager
Town of Tiburon

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Mayor
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Vice Mayor
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