

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ALLIANCE OF COASTAL MARIN VILLAGES (“ACMV”) Summary of Garbage Concerns and Proposed Solutions

Several of the villages in coastal West Marin are significantly impacted by the additional garbage generated by tourists visiting their communities. Below is a synopsis of the problems and proposed solutions suggested by the affected villages. If a village is *not* listed below, it is because that village is not particularly affected in this regard.

Bolinas:

Problems: Most tourists visiting Bolinas come to spend the day at Bolinas Beach. Some leave their garbage on the beach (which later is collected and removed by locals, funded partially by local businesses and partially by the County) and others collect their garbage off the beach and take it to the trash or recycle bins at the beach entrances. On busy weekend days and holidays, the bins fill quickly, so tourists leave their garbage next to the bins (rather than take it home), creating an unsightly and unsanitary situation for the community and overburdening existing local services.

Proposed Solutions: Bolinas Beach is a County beach. Although the County has contributed to partially fund local efforts to clean-up the beach, the problem has escalated beyond the capacity of the community. Marin County’s Parks and Open Space District should take the lead on a solution: perhaps the cost of extra dumpsters at Mesa Park (which is where the overflow waste is taken by local services) could be included in the County’s contract with Recology?

Marshall

Problem: Tourists are using residents’ garbage cans and business dumpsters. Occasionally large items of trash are deposited on Marshall/Petaluma Rd. and in the roadway pullouts.

Proposed Solution: Caltrans should schedule roadside debris inspections and trash pick-ups more frequently.

Olema:

Problem: All garbage cans used by the public are owned by businesses which have assumed responsibility and cost for cleaning, servicing and emptying them, but some garbage cans are not paired with a recycling bin.

Proposed Solution: Business should be requested to add recycling bins in those locations.

Point Reyes Station:

Problems: Visitor-generated garbage/recyclables overwhelm the existing receptacles on most weekends and during the week in the summer and holiday seasons. Special events involving larger groups present their own challenges due to the higher levels of waste generated.

Proposed Solutions: Marin County should require the entities responsible for downtown garbage and recycling pickup to develop a coordinated plan for adequate and timely pickup, as well a plan to monitor the trash situation to prevent any overflows. Marin County also should require an increased number of scheduled downtown business district pickups as part of its negotiations with Recology over a new franchise agreement. All special event permits should include provisions for garbage pickup and recycling and compliance should be monitored by the issuing agency.

Proposed Long-Term Solutions: Marin County should develop a “reduce, reuse and recycle” education campaign with signage to be posted wherever people sit and consume food and beverages, and should reach out to business owners to discourage single use containers and encourage support for solving community trash issues. Marin County, CalTrans and PRNS (with input from the PRS Village Association) should install a comprehensive signage package for Point Reyes Station that would redirect visitors to the PRNS picnic area at the Bear Valley Visitor Center and inform visitors of other local services and facilities.