

Bolinas Marine Lab Coalition Fact Sheet

Thank you for your interest in the College of Marin Bolinas Marine Lab/Field Station. The Field Station is located at an off-campus location, 72 Wharf Road, Bolinas, CA 94924, and has been closed since 2005. Recently, the College began reconsideration of whether to repair and reopen it for use by faculty and students. The College also owns the dock located nearby.

On December 5, 2017 (and most recently updated on September 7, 2018), the Faculty of the Life & Earth Sciences Department of the College of Marin prepared a detailed Recommendation asking the College to use Measure B or other funds to make the Field Station, a historically significant asset to the College's programs, a functional and dynamic teaching and learning facility. You may access the Recommendation here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ra62Gd4F1iXlhfGyvrEUThwYh5O1Xc5qmLLV0hc6Wvs/edit?usp=sharing>

Please read in particular the many letters of support attached to it.

The Faculty believes that use of the Field Station is necessary for students to gain skills essential for successful transfer to four-year colleges and to acquire internships and jobs, while the lack of field lab experience puts the same students at a severe disadvantage. Crucial experience gained at a field lab cannot be acquired at the Kentfield campus. Access to the Field Station allows learning objectives to be fulfilled in a relevant, non-abstract way that outperforms classroom-based learning. Ownership of the Field Station guarantees priority and access for COM students and allows for consistent course planning and the development of long-term datasets for student use. The Faculty believes that the Field Station should be specifically redesigned to allow for study of the adjacent internationally-recognized, rich habitat and parklands belonging to federal, state and local governments. The Field Station's unique location gives rise to powerful opportunities to work in the field and to collaborate with the Bolinas Community and local, state and federal government entities, scientific and conservation-focused non-profit organizations, and other groups. These chances for relationship-building will lead to internship and job opportunities in very competitive fields. In a time when science is under attack, it is important that the College protect and utilize this asset.

The Field Station has historically been, and can be again, an enrollment-enhancing jewel in the crown of the College of Marin. Only one other California community college (Mendocino College) owns a similar asset. The former lifesaving station can continue in that role, albeit in a more modern way. The College of Marin already has a well established and respected Natural History program. The success of students in that program is almost entirely due to a handful of dedicated teachers. A phased renovation of the Field Station property, beginning with the lab portion, into a state-of-the-art facility is necessary to support the Faculty. The dock, given its importance to the Bolinas Community and the program, should also be maintained under the first phase. The comprehensive nature of the Recommendation demonstrates the Faculty's sincere strivings on the College's behalf.

The College is currently investigating what it would take to reopen the Field Station. The Marin Independent Journal has recommended that the College do that investigation, in an editorial that you can access here:

<https://bayareane.ws/2rwOZtP> The Marin IJ's latest reporting on the Field Station can be accessed at

<https://www.marinij.com/2018/09/13/college-of-marins-field-lab-of-dreams-in-bolinas-moves-ahead/>,

<https://bayareane.ws/2lpLaBc> and <https://bayareane.ws/2l4gR3K>. The Point Reyes Light has also written about the Field Station at <https://bit.ly/2PqJBmR> and <https://bit.ly/2jQLbAg>.

The Bolinas Marine Lab Coalition is a diverse group of more than 40 COM faculty, students, former students, scientists, educators, government officials and private citizens formed in November 2017 to assist and support the Faculty in pursuing the goal of reopening the Field Station. To be placed on the Coalition's mailing list, please send an email to bolinasmarinelabcoalition@gmail.com.