

**Marin Conservation League  
Climate Action Committee  
Meeting Notes, January 26, 2011, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

**Attendees:**

Michelle Passero, Nona Dennis, Joe Bunker, Roger Roberts, Ed Mainland, Bruce Fullerton, Tim Rosenfeld, Bob Spofford, Jon Elam

**Announcements:**

Upcoming events -

January 27: Sierra Club Bay Chapter book signing event with Al Weinrub author of “Community Power” publication in Berkeley

February 3: Nixon Peabody/Feed-in Tariff Coalition (now “CLEAN”) discussion on feed in tariff and related issues at Embarcadero One, San Francisco

February 9: World Affairs Council, Mark Hertsgaard speaking event, \$15

February 17: Peter Asmus speaking re: wind power as distributed generation, Orrick Building, 405 Howard Street, San Francisco

Other –

CA GHG cap and trade program: On December 16, 2010, CA Air Resources Board adopted greenhouse cap and trade program covering 20% of California’s 2020 GHG reduction target. Over course of 2011, ARB will continue to refine regulations prior to January, 2012, when regulations will be in effect.

SB 375/Sustainable Communities Strategy: ABAG and MTC are in the process of developing a vision for the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Bay Area pursuant to Senate Bill 375, which establishes GHG reduction target for the area (7% reduction by 2020 and 15% reduction by 2035). This draft vision scenario should be released in March. ABAG will conduct outreach for feedback from the counties following the release in March.

**Discussion and Action Items:**

Renewable energy/energy efficiency –

- MET Tower update: The issue regarding adequacy of CEQA process is currently being appealed before Coastal Commission by Audubon and EAC. The last appeal to County Supervisors resulted in a decision that the process for approving temporary towers was adequate. MCL was involved in the initial appeal before Planning Commission, but MCL is not involved in subsequent appeals.
  - **Action: Nona will keep CAC posted on developments**
  
- MEA: Effort continues to move ahead with MEA currently in active process of energy procurement. Supervisor Charles McGlashan is in the process of trying to identify non-controversial sites in advance for rooftop solar (e.g., Civic Center and rooftops in canal area). The feed-in tariff is still experimental at this point and issue was raised about feed-in tariff favoring landfill gas to energy over solar. MEA still needs support as it works to gain new members. On a related note, Huffman may introduce feed-in tariff bill this year.
  - **Action: Ed should keep CAC up to date on status of Huffman bill so MCL can determine whether it will provide support**
  - **Action: Bob and Tim to continue to provide update on MEA and whether MCL should take any actions to provide support or shape energy procurement**
  
- MCL positions on renewable energy and energy efficiency: Following the discussion of the MET towers, the CAC had a lengthy discussion on the intersection of climate, energy and land use policy (and projects) and the tensions that can occur between traditional positions that MCL has taken with respect to land use and pressing considerations regarding climate change. The discussion also highlighted the need to maintain a clear process regarding how MCL should address these issues internally between the newly formed CAC and the Land Use Committee and how to examine the environmental tradeoffs that can occur.
  - **Action: Tim, Ed and Bob will meet/collaborate within next three months (before next CAC meeting) to develop background information and propose potential MCL policy positions on these topics (renewable energy and energy efficiency), identify where MCL may face tradeoffs/conflicts in positions (e.g., between policies and projects) and recommend how MCL should consider the potential tradeoffs between policies and projects when they occur; CAC can review and consider these proposals at April meeting and determine next steps**
  
- BERST/green building: Several cities have yet to adopt BERST as part of their building standards, including Tiburon, Mill Valley, Fairfax, and Sausalito (County, San Anselmo and Novato have adopted). Tim, Bruce and Roger continue to promote adoption of

BERST standards in these cities. Mill valley is likely the next city to consider the standard for adoption.

- **Action: Tim and Bruce to engage Mill Valley in the adoption of BERST and will keep CAC informed on any action MCL may need to take.**

Carbon sequestration –

- Marin Carbon Project: Project in West Marin continues to be implemented and is yielding some interesting data on increased soil carbon sequestration with the application of compost. Tamalpais Community Service District intends to provide compost to this project. Additional research is still pending to consider and estimate life cycle emissions associated with the project (e.g., hauling of compost and emissions from compost itself). Marin Carbon project could be potential topic for MCL Business breakfast.
  - **Action: Michelle and Jon will continue monitoring and reporting on project.**

General -

- Community Marin: Community Marin paper continues to be updated and includes chapter on energy and transportation and potentially climate. The CAC discussed whether they should provide any feedback from a climate perspective, but it appears that the document is far along in the editing process. Both Marge and Nona and deeply involved in the process.
  - **Action: Michelle will check in with Marge on status of document and timing of input.**
- Plastic Bag Ordinance: Marin County supervisors adopted plastic bag ordinance, but it is being challenged on CEQA grounds. About 40 businesses in Marin County would be affected by the new ordinance. Cities within the county will also need to adopt the standard for it to be effective across the entire county.
  - **Action: Roger will keep the CAC updated on any news regarding the implementation and adoption of the ordinance by cities.**
- Public education/outreach: The CAC discussed briefly the need and opportunity to educate MCL members and public about climate change (policy and science) and what actions can be taken locally to help address it and adapt to the unavoidable impacts. MCL could reserve a section in the newsletter or do a series on climate change. Business breakfasts could also focus on different aspects of this issue (i.e., Marin Carbon Project).

Information/measurement stick on sea level rise could be included as part of the new path construction in Tam Junction.

- **Action: Michelle will talk to Nona about potential stories for the newsletter and/or newsletter section dedicated to climate issues**
- **Michelle and Jon will discuss further the potential for an educational site on sea level rise at Tam Junction.**
- **Action: Bruce to consider Marin Carbon Project or other climate related topics for Business breakfasts.**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm**