

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
July 19, 2012

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Ed Mainland, Roger Roberts, Susan Stompe, Chris Yalonis

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Roger reported that he had attended a Climate Adaptation Meeting on July 16th at the Marin Link Offices in Northgate. This is an ad hoc group of about 20 persons concerned about adaptation planning in Marin to Climate Change. The usual BIG issues of such things as Food Security, Levee requirements for Sea Level Rise , and Weather Changes were discussed. The group concluded that one local measure that could be addressed is supporting analysis of Neighborhood Vulnerability which should be integrated into General Plans and Community Development Planning. This group will be having another meeting in the next month or so.
- 2) EPA's issuance of National Standards to limit carbon pollution from new coal and gas power plants was noted.
- 3) Roger also reported a meeting he had with Tom Flynn on June 11th who is working on the establishment of a public-private partnership entity to promote Energy Efficiency Programs in residential and commercial buildings. He has met with MEA and others regarding this concept.
- 4) Nona reported on a recent North Bay Watershed Meeting where a PRBO model was presented that will forecast where future marsh areas will be located under different scenarios of sea level rise in San Francisco Bay. This can be integrated into long term adaptation planning .

ACTION ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS & INFORMATION UPDATES:

1) CAC Issue Responsibilities: The Committee reviewed and concurred in an Outline of CAC Responsibilities which will be submitted to the Executive Committee and included in the MCL Board Manual.

2) HR 3242 – Save Our Climate Act Legislation to establish a Carbon Tax on Fossil Fuels. This arose from a request from member Bob Brown for MCL to support this proposed piece of federal legislation. An active discussion ensued. CAC members present expressed support, in principle, for legislation that would reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, including a possible Carbon Tax approach, but had concerns over the following issues associated with this Bill.

* It was felt that the proposed initial tax of \$10/ton of CO₂ produced by combustion of Taxable Fossil Fuels and including a like amount as an annual

escalation factor, was an insufficient price signal to have any significant impact, and, therefore, would be an ineffective measure.

* Rather than have a Consumer Dividend Payment, it was felt that it would be far better to use the proceeds of a Carbon Tax to invest in projects and programs that would have a significant direct impact on reducing Greenhouse gases. There is nothing in this legislation that would allocate funds for this purpose.

* H.R.3242 states that eligible individuals for such Consumer dividends would be any individual with a TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number) which includes both individual and corporate persons some of which will be producers and importers of taxable fossil fuels . A bill justification is that Individual Consumer Dividends would help shield households from the impact of rising energy costs. While that may be a worth considering, the committee felt that using a TIN to identify who would be eligible for such dividends was inappropriate

* The committee also noted that fixing a tax rate by statute is a bad idea, because adjusting that tax rate would require further legislation which would be problematic.

Roger will inform Bob Brown of these concerns of the CAC regarding the proposed Save Our Climate Act.

3) Status of Single Use Carry Out Bag Ordinances and Legislation. There has not been any change in the posture of local jurisdictions with respect to establishing such Ordinances. For example, in Novato, Susan and Roger are still having trouble identifying a sponsoring Council member, and San Anselmo is awaiting the outcome of the Lawsuit filed against the County's Ordinance. However , it was noted that there are 2 bills presently before the California State Legislature : AB 298 (Brownley) which would ban Plastic Bags statewide, and SB 568 (Lowenthal) which would Phaseout Polystyrene Foam Takeout Containers.. There are now 49 Cities and Counties in California with adopted Plastic Bag Bans /Ordinances. Californians Against Waste (CAW) has sent out an appeal for letters of support of these 2 Bills.

4) Climate Action Plans and Climate Adaptation Plans (CAPs) in Marin.

San Rafael, Ross, Larkspur, Tiburon, Belvedere, San Anselmo and the County have CAPs. Novato has a draft CAP, and Corte Madera, Sausalito and Fairfax have yet to address putting a CAP together. In this connection it appears that a barrier to proceeding with CAPs is the cost associated with doing a Baseline City/Town -wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study and Inventory. Also, in some cases the CAPs simply sit on the shelf without the local jurisdiction actively pursuing identified and specific objectives because of a lack of staff resources. Local governments under the Air Resources Board Scoping Plan are expected under AB 32 to achieve a 15% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2020 but there is no legal mandate to achieve that result. Special Districts, apparently, have no requirements at all. Committee members agreed after some discussion that MCL should encourage Marin Cities and Towns that do not have CAPs to establish and adopt them .

5) An update on AB 32 and CARB's Cap and Trade System, and what is happening with MEA/MCE were postponed to the next CAC meeting when Michelle Passero and Bob Spofford who are following these issues are present.

6) The next CAC Meeting, normally scheduled for Thursday evening, September 20th, may have to be rescheduled to October (Roger will be out of town from September 6th through September 26th) unless another member of the CAC wishes to establish the agenda, lead, and hold the meeting. Roger will notify the CAC what will be the plan, in this regard, before leaving on Sept. 6th.

The CAC Meeting adjourned at 9 o'clock