

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Land Use, Transportation, Water, Agricultural Land Use: May 4, 2016, 9 to 11 AM

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; also Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Rick Fraites, Randy Greenberg, Bob Miller, Kate Powers, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson. Guest: Pat Eklund

April 6, 2016 Meeting Notes. OK as presented.

Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) and ABAG Status. Novato Mayor Pat Eklund reviewed her work as a rep with ABAG and the status of ABAG's PCA program and funding. She joined the ABAG regional planning agency in 1995 and in 2012 was elected to represent Marin on the executive committee. In that role she submits monthly reports to the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers. In 2014 the agency began discussing the next Plan Bay Area and at that time she urged Marin cities to agendize the PCA program as many Marin properties are on the PCA list suitable for funding. Applications for funding are due June 22.

She said that TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) in March adopted guidelines for Marin PCA projects which differ from ABAG's, notably including recreational and transportation projects as PCA candidates. She does not support this modification of the guidelines for Marin PCA funding and believes transportation should not drive land use, as she believes is a change that is underway.

She spoke about the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) efforts to subsume ABAG (Assn of Bay Area Governments). The ABAG has been the agency responsible for regional land use planning and under some scenarios under consideration this function could wind up with MTC. Currently both cities and counties have elected representation at ABAG, MTC has only county representation.

Transportation. *Highway 37.* The State Route 37 Policy Committee meets tomorrow (May 4) in Novato with an agenda that includes a presentation of the UC Davis Sea Level Rise Study and financing options, including privatization financing and toll roads. Member agencies include the Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Marin Transportation Authorities. Rick will attend and report back. _ Kate is approved as the environmental representative to the TAM Oversight Committee.

Noxious Weed Ordinance. The Ag Commissioner's office is working on a clear enforcement process.

Novato/Hamilton Sports Complex. Economic, needs, and traffic studies have been completed and the MCL North Marin Unit recommends that MCL send a letter to the City urging that a constraints analysis be done, as this seems to be the only way to affect the process. A formal application is still not filed.

Alto Tunnel. Proponents are vigorously demanding that the 2,200-foot-long tunnel between Corte Madera and Mill Valley be re-opened, at an estimated cost of about \$50 million. Private properties would have to be acquired and most of the ROW is on an easement for operating a railroad, raising the issue whether a bike/ped path is even a legal use.

Big Rock Ranch. The current proposal seems consistent with the original concept of a creative retreat, and does not require additional water, sewer or traffic demand.

The next meeting is June 1, 2016.

Notes: AT