

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Minutes
Land Use, Transportation, and Water Committee
July 5, 2017, 9 to 11:10 AM

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; also Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Rick Fraitcs, Bob Miller, Kate Powers, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING. Minutes of June 7, 2017 OK as distributed.

AGENDA. OK with addition of reports on Alto Tunnel and Easton Point.

GREEN BRIDGE, PT REYES STATION/DEIS. Judy summarized issues regarding the CalTrans proposal to replace the old bridge over Papermill Creek, the draft EIS prepared for the project, and a June 29 community meeting at which residents expressed concerns and offered suggestions. The bridge is 152 feet long, the main entry to the town, and the proposed construction would have creek habitat and visual impacts. Judy's assessment is that the bridge needs to be replaced or repaired but that Caltrans' competent and well-meaning team had produced a cookie-cutter model not necessarily right for the West Marin community, and that there are better alternatives. Kate will contact Assemblyman Levine's office to see if he could assist with getting Caltrans to reconsider aspects of their plan.

WATER ISSUES. 1) A number of projects await the conclusion of environmental review. These include: *MMWD's vegetation management plan*, the DEIR expected late summer/early fall; *San Geronimo Valley SEIR on CWP/salmonid impacts*, comments submitted on draft; *Woodacre Flats/San Geronimo Wastewater Feasibility Study/EIR*, comments submitted but status uncertain with land use changes pending in the area; *Corps of Engineers Corte Madera Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project*, a project being done in conjunction with the Marin County and Ross Valley programs, NEPA/CEQA currently underway with draft expected this fall. 2) The Flood Zone 9 (Ross Valley) advisory board recommended re-allocation of \$15.6 million in state grant money, originally approved for modifying the Phoenix Lake reservoir to also serve as a detention basin, to instead fund alternative flood control/restoration efforts. These include removal of the fish ladder in Ross and partial or total removal of the concrete channel in Ross, and/or the stretch between the Stadium Way Bridge and concrete channel's end in Kentfield

TRANSPORTATION/TAM. 1) The TAM (Transportation Agency of Marin) has formed an expenditure planning committee to prepare for a ballot measure to renew the current Measure A in 2018. The TAM is preparing a list of projects that could potentially be funded if the renewal effort is successful, and is assembling support for the campaign to come. They have hired a consultant to shepherd the project and completed a voter survey, to be released at the July TAM board meeting. 2) The draft EIR on the SFD rehabilitation project, for SFD between Hwy 101 and the Ross town line, is expected to be complete in November 2017.

COMMUNITY MARIN. Representatives for the participating groups have set a monthly meeting schedule in which sections will be addressed one by one. The July meeting, the third one, will concern parks and open space, for which Nona is the facilitator.

AG COMMITTEE. Judy reported. 1) The quarterly July 28 meeting will include: a slide presentation on *Marin Ranch History: the Swiss-Italian Connection* by Marilyn Geary, a report on ranch conservation practices by PRNS ecologist Dylan Voeller, and a report by RCD Director Nancy Scolari on ranch conservation projects on Marin ranches. 2) Affordable housing is a growing need in West Marin. The several existing projects, such as the conversion of the surplus Coast Guard site to affordable housing, are a drop in the bucket. Also, low cost housing that is constructed in this area is not necessarily occupied by people working in West Marin.

SILVEIRA SETTLEMENT. Don updated the committee on the County's recent settlement with the Silveira family, to enable significant protections for the 340-acre diked ranch property east of 101 north of San Rafael. The deal that was reached prohibits development of the property for at least 10 years in exchange for the County waiving \$2.6 million in unpaid property taxes and related penalties and interest that had accumulated when the ranch site was removed from its Williamson Act contract. The site was taken out of the Williamson Act when the 1973 Countywide Plan designated the lands for substantial urban development, thus increasing the value of the land for tax purposes. The 2007 CWP reduced development potential but the tax burden created earlier remained in effect. Current zoning on the site allows up to 70 units.

NOVATO URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY ELECTION. City officials have added language to the proposed ballot measure that was not in the 1997 measure, and which would allow exceptions that Susan believes would weaken the regulatory purpose of the measure. The wording is still in flux and environmental review is not yet underway.

NOVATO FLOOD CONTROL & WATERSHED MEASURE. The flood control/climate adaptation funding measure for Novato Creek appears headed for the November ballot, pending final approval August 1 by County Supervisors. The 18-year parcel tax would fund a number of projects to diminish flood risk, achieve habitat improvements, and provide some adaptation for sea level rise.

The Land Use Committee expressed unanimous approval for MCL's eventual support for the ballot measure if the final wording of the measure essentially conforms to the draft working text released this morning by the City of Novato, and which was reviewed at the committee meeting.

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