

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE**  
**Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: November 6, 2013**

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; also Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Don Dickinson, Randy Greenberg, Jana Haehl, Bob Johnston, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson, Periann Wood. Met 8:30 to 10:30 AM at MCL offices.

**October 2, 2013 Meeting Notes.** Approved as distributed.

**Announcements.** 1) Marin Open Space Trust on Monday signed a contract with Gannet to purchase a 15 acre open space in Pacheco Valle for \$550,000. The property was on the market for \$2 million and zoned for commercial/industrial use. It includes three parcels – one a hillside parcel, a portion of Pacheco Creek, and backs up to Marin County Open Space lands.

**Agenda.** Added consideration of support for MOST acquisition and letter to Novato City Council and a Corps Public Notice regarding mitigation for wetland fill.

**Pacheco Valle. M/S (Ann/Priscilla) and approved to recommend that MCL write a letter to the Novato City Council recommending that they approve a resolution of intent for formation of a Mello-Roos district to acquire the Pacheco Valle open space now under contract to MOST.** There is a three-party escrow, including the County, and, assuming the Mello-Roos election in April is successful, the County would take title to the property.

**USACE/SMART Wetlands Fill and Mitigation.** The Corps will hold a public information meeting on November 14 regarding the rail district's application to discharge fill into jurisdictional waters as part of the rail line construction along 18 miles of existing track from Petaluma to San Rafael. The meeting will also discuss the purchase of the Mira Monte bayland site as mitigation for this project as well as for future projects that require compensation. Land Use members may attend in order to support this mitigation proposal.

**Weed Management Program.** MCL's support has been requested for a 10-year invasive weed management plan for Marin County agricultural lands, and allocation of \$75,000 from the County general fund for a first year pilot program. County Ag Commissioner Stacy Carlsen and UC Extension Farm Advisor David Lewis made the request, initially asking for a response by October 25, before the plan could be discussed by an issue committee or by the board so a letter was sent expressing limited support and listing several questions and concerns for which information had not been provided. Stacy and David responded with the requested information, and also moved the date by which they need expressions of support to the end of November. The funding is now scheduled for hearing at the Board of Supervisors' December 3 meeting.

The plan would establish a long-term collaboration of multiple partners to help Marin ranchers address noxious weed infestations through integrated pest management (IPM) techniques. Currently some ranchers are actively managing invasive weeds on their land but others are not. This project is proposed to build support in the agricultural community for a united effort.

Following discussion it was **M/S (Ann/Bob) and approved to recommend that MCL support the program as requested with a separate letter to Stacy and David, copied to the Board of Supervisors, expressing support for the initial funding, and requesting there be annual reports available to the public, including data on IPM measures used, and results of the year's work.**

**Road and Trail Management Plan Draft EIR.** Nona is working on extensive comments for the County Parks and Open Space Committee, which hears this project on November 19. She noted numerous problems with the Plan and the EIR, e.g. there is no mitigation monitoring and reporting plan proposed, She will suggest at least a substitute such as a table of conditions to be met. She and representatives of some other organizations concerned about the Plan and DEIR have met and identified a list of deficiencies to be addressed.

**Stream Conservation Ordinance.** Randy reported that the BoS have adopted the 29-month interim ordinance to be applied to the entire unincorporated area, which is what MCL supported. The interim ordinance will also include language proposed by MCL at the last minute to require a net benefit as a condition of a Tier 1 or 2 permit for incursion into the SCA. Adoption of the ordinance ends the moratorium on new construction in the San Geronimo Valley. If there is a legal challenge to the ordinance, within a specified time period allowed by law, the ordinance adoption will be voided, which would put creek habitat and protections at risk. The work program would, however, continue as it is not part of the adopted ordinance.

**Hwy 101 Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Project.** Jana reported that there may be interest by San Rafael officials in finding a way to make a 580 connection in San Rafael without the flyover that was part of an earlier plan. There is growing realization that the backup on 101 by vehicles headed for the East Bay was never going to be solved by the TAM/Caltrans proposed project but is dependent on changes to East SFD, the Richmond Bridge and 580 access points.

**Community Marin.** This group will meet on November 15.

**Martha Company/Easton Point.** Committee members viewed a video of the 110-acre Easton Point site along with contiguous open space parcels that the local citizens' group is trying to package for conservation purposes under the name of "Tiburon Ridge." The citizen group has approached several agencies that could assist with this in some fashion. The BoS declined to certify the Easton Point EIR and asked for more information on a number of issues including traffic and construction impacts and a rehearing is scheduled for December 3.

**Novato General Plan.** The City is now working of the North Redwood Blvd element and the Novato Economic Commission has adamantly nixed mixed use of buildings in this area.

**Marin County Regulatory Improvement Advisory Committee.** Nona said this committee finally has produced its administrative draft report. Their top priority areas for improvement all have to do with the permitting process.

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