

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: January 4, 2012
Final

Present: Gail Wilhelm, chair; Alan Bortel, Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Jana Haehl, David Schnapf, Susan Stompe, Ann Thomas, Don Wilhelm. Met at MCL, 9 to 10:45 AM.

December 7, 2011 Meeting Notes: Deferred.

Announcements. The Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) Marin County public meeting on the Bay Plan will be January 17, by reservation only, and is already full. Nona made a reservation. Committee members expressed concern that these public meetings would only be open to persons who reserved seats in advance; the organizers have said it is due to the limited seating. Committee agreed to submit a letter regarding the selection of a meeting site for this Bay Plan meeting that would not accommodate all members of the public who wished to attend. Don W to draft.

Local Coastal Plan (LCP). Nona and Susan continue to attend Planning Commission hearings on the LCP, which are nearly completed. Future meetings are planned as follows: January 9 for carryover items on the agriculture, community development, energy and development code issues; January 23 on carryover issues from natural systems and other issues; February 13 to consider adoption of draft LCP and recommendation to the BOS. Final action on the LCP by the BOS should take place this summer.

Gross Field EIR/EIS. A scoping letter was submitted by MCL focused on the following specific issues:

- A. Identify potentially new aircraft capable of using the longer runway
- B. Examination of alternative airports
- C. Consider an alternative of just adding larger RSA's (Runway Safety Areas)
- D. Examine fuel efficiency of existing and projected aircraft
- E. Greenhouse gas emissions current and projected
- F. Impact of sea level rise
- G. A new noise analysis is needed and enforceable mitigation proposed
- H. Clear mitigation for loss of wetlands at the CWP level of 2:1

Don W and Susan are working on comments and among shortcomings they identified in the EIS are the following: 1) Appendix shows only the needs of existing aircraft on runway lengths for various conditions. Letters from current tenants show that they would get larger aircraft if the runway is 4,400 feet. 2) Only two of the airports presented as alternatives – Napa & Santa Rosa - have larger runways and they are too far away to be viable alternatives. An alternative with larger RSA's was not considered. 3) Fuel efficiency and fuel fallout were not examined. In general, the rationale was that these planes are flying anyway 4) Sea level rise was not addressed although 100-year flood levels were addressed. Since the impacted area of the preferred alternative (Alt. B) was 13 acres, it was not considered a significant impact being less than 1% of the flood plain. 5) Mitigation proposed for loss of wetlands is only 1:1 replacement although the CWP standard is 2:1. 6) Habitat values were not evaluated for the habitat lost or values gained at mitigation areas.

650 San Pedro Road This should be coming up for a hearing at the BOS soon. PC recommendation was for denial based on factors such as wetlands on site, moderate slope, wooded hillside, transition area to state park, too many units proposed for site. Staff position seems to be that it would be better to allow the 12 units rather than risk having lots developed individually.

Port Sonoma/Carneros Ranch. The coalition group addressing this has hired legal counsel, who contends that there are flaws in the negative declaration, and the appeal is scheduled to be heard by the Sonoma county BOS on January 24. The coalition remains a little short of funds to retain technical experts in areas such as air quality and biological resources. The coalition reps have also met with BCDC, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), and Regional Water Quality Control Board. It was observed that unfortunately the agencies tend to only look at their own jurisdiction and not the whole picture. BCDC could be the most helpful although their jurisdiction is limited on the Petaluma River. The ACE sees no conflict with the LTMS strategy. All the agencies seem to think there will not be dredge material of suitable quality available over the coming 20 years; if the hard rock mine at Island Mountain the Eel River canyon is opened, however, this could generate a large amount of fill.

Land Use Committee members noted that dumping fill on prime restorable bayland habitat was inconsistent with MCL goals in support of restoring historic baylands.

Community Marin Update. The group working on this policy document has asked constituent groups to complete review of all the chapters by March and MCL is scheduling board review at January and February board meetings. Chapters are being allocated to issue committees for input prior to board review and most the chapters will be on the agenda for review by the Land Use Committee at its February meeting.

Hanna Ranch Floating Easement. The Novato City Council gave away the floating easement from Hwy 37 to Rowland Blvd.

Next meeting February 1, 2012.

Notes: AT