

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: October 5, 2011
Accepted and Approved Nov. 2, 2011

Present: Gail Wilhelm, chair; Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Jana Haehl, Karen Nygren (by speaker phone), David Schnapf, Susan Stompe, Ann Thomas, Don Wilhelm. Met at MCL, 9 to 11:15 AM.

August 3, 2011 and September 7, 2011 Meeting Notes: OK as submitted.

SMART. Members reviewed the September 27 special meeting notes and PowerPoint and other information including from MCL documents prepared in 2008. Gail outlined various actions that the committee could consider recommending to the board and two were agreed to.

M/S (Jana/Priscilla) to recommend that MCL reaffirm its long-standing position opposing SMART for all reasons previous stated, which still apply, including failure to reduce congestion on Highway 101, limited impact on greenhouse gas reduction, diversion of funds from other transportation programs, funding shortfall and environmental degradation.

M/C/P (Jana/Ann) to recommend that MCL support the position that voters should have an opportunity to vote on what is a new SMART project materially different from the one voted on in Measure Q. The changes include, but are not limited to, a rail line almost one half the length of what was stated in Measure Q, reduced ridership projections, delayed start date, elimination of stations, lack of shuttle buses, reduced schedule, alteration of quiet zones, increased funding shortfall and reduction in projected environmental benefits.

David noted that he is urging the SMART board to take steps to structure any bond sale such that taxpayers do not lose money in the event that there is a modification of the sales tax

Alto Robles. The next hearing will be in November.

Local Coastal Plan. The county's planning staff has recommended extending the hearing schedule on this. Nona noted that MCL's main issue area will be the natural resources section which she believes has been watered down from its current form. Agricultural issues will be addressed at the upcoming PC meeting and include intergenerational housing, housing density and size limits, process by which housing units are counted. Our concern is retaining agricultural uses on these lands.

Community Marin. Priscilla reported that the group is completing the "areas of potential change" section and will then work on the strategic action plan and making final revisions.

County Development Code. A Stream Conservation Area ordinance has not been approved but went back to staff after the San Geronimo Valley controversy and will be worked on after the staff completes the LCP. Tree protection issues are in the code amendment that goes to the BOS on October 11. These are likely to be adopted in November.

America's Cup. Comments on the EIR and EA have been submitted.

San Rafael Airport Facility. Nona and Jean Starkweather continue to monitor this proposal for a large sports facility on the site of the airport in northern San Rafael. The final EIR has addressed many issues that were raised, Nona said, and the next step will be to address the merits of the project. The proposed use does not appear to be entirely consistent with language agreed to in the density transfer with Embassy Suites that earmarked the site for commercial recreation.

Tiburon Library. Nona will attend a meeting this evening on this expansion project and some issues remain unsettled. For example, the building proposed could block ridgeline views.

Port Sonoma Dredge Spoils/Carneros Ranch. More information is needed on the Sonoma County Sierra Club's appeal to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors of a decision by their zoning board to approve the permit for this dredging and fill operation. The appeal has not been calendared. However the Land Use Committee last month approved a letter in support of the appeal.

Skywalker Ranch. The supplemental EIR will be out in November.

Hanna Ranch. The final EIR came out on October 4. The North Marin Unit will discuss this prior to the City Council's consideration of the EIR next week.

BCDC Plan Amendment. Nona sent a letter she wrote regarding proposed amendments to the Bay Plan. She asked for a number of changes and said that with the changes she proposed that MCL would support the amendments.

Golden Gate Seminary. An active community group that is concerned about the proposed housing redevelopment at the seminary has asked Supervisor Sears to convene a public workshop on this plan, but this will be done at a later date. The Planning Commission will have a workshop to give staff direction in early 2012.

Next meeting November 2, 2011

Notes: AT