

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE –minutes
Land Use, Transportation, and Water Committee: September 5, 2018, 1 to 3 PM

Present: Ann Thomas, interim chair; Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Rick Fraites, Sally Gale, Randy Greenberg, Wendi Kallins, Bob Miller, Linda Novy, Dan Segedin, Judy Teichman. Guest: Nancy Binzen.

AUGUST MINUTES. Minutes of August 1, 2018. M/S (Sally/Rick) and approved as distributed.

AGENDA. Comment on AB 2975 was removed from the agenda as the Governor has signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers bill. Consideration of a position on HR. 6687 was added under Action Items.

HANNA RANCH MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS. Rick reported for the North Marin Unit the Unit's particular concern centers on the proposed 26-pump gas station as part of the development. The station would be situated in proximity to two ponds, including the Beverly Ehreth Ecological Pond, raising concerns about the potential for tank seepage and other materials entering the wetlands.

Recommendation. M/S (Rick/Sally) and approved to recommend that MCL oppose the gas station proposed in the revised Hanna Ranch Master Plan.

HR 6687. Congressman Huffman, along with Representative Bishop of Utah have proposed this bill to direct Interior to manage the Pt Reyes National Seashore consistent with maintaining working dairies and ranches on the agricultural property at the Seashore as part of their mandate. Sally, chair of MCL's Agricultural Land Use Committee, outlined the bill.

Nona objected to LU support of the bill at this time as it continues to undergo amendment. Sally stated that amendments were apt to continue but would not change the bill's intent, and it was noted that groups opposed to agricultural uses at the Seashore have already begun outreach to oppose the measure. She said she believed that clarification of the ranchers' position would be a positive step for the Park. Randy noted that the bill seemed to allocate all responsibility for Tule Elk control to the Park Service. Judy said that the elk herd numbers must be managed whether or not there are ranches at the Seashore and it was generally noted that Tule Elk management will be an ongoing problem.

Congressman Huffman has offered to meet with MCL on Friday morning (9/7) regarding the bill, and this meeting was arranged. All board members, along with other interested parties, will be invited.

Recommendation. M/S (Judy/Wendi) and approved to recommend that, based on existing MCL agricultural policy, MCL supports HR 6687 in principal, pursuant to additional information that will be provided by co-sponsor Jared Huffman at a meeting Friday morning. Outreach to media and the public should not occur until after additional details are provided by Congressman Huffman.

REPORTS AND OTHER COUNTYWIDE ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES (TAM). Don reported that there continues to be no resolution on the future relocation of the transit center.

MEASURE A. The extension of the transportation tax will be on the MCL September board agenda

SAN ANSELMO FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECT FEIR & MERITS. Consistent with the MCL board's July conditional approval of certification of the FEIR and project approval, the MCL executive committee reviewed final information regarding the EIR and confirmed the July action. The project FEIR and merits will be considered at the BoS on September 18 and MCL will submit a letter.

2007 MARIN COUNTYWIDE PLAN SUPPLEMENTAL EIR WITH A FOCUS ON POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO SALMONIDS IN SAN GERONIMO VALLEY
The FSEIR was released, with a comment period that has passed, and PC review was set for September 25 [Note: following the Land Use meeting the comment period was extended to October 8 and the planned September 26 PC meeting will be rescheduled.] MCL submitted scoping, has not commented on the final EIR, but should comment on merits when it goes to BoS for final action.

COMMUNITY MARIN. This group resumes meetings on September 11, after a summer break.

SAN GERONIMO GOLF COURSE. The purchase continues stalled due to the court's ruling that environmental review should have been conducted because outreach and grant material suggested projects. The county has appealed this ruling and TPL retained Shute Mihaly law firm to represent them. Nona noted that MCL board member Greg Zitney reviewed the legal action and concluded the county's action merits a CEQA process. In the meantime the Supervisors are getting overwhelmed, she said, by opponents of the acquisition effort - golfing advocates, but also others.

Wendi and Nancy Blitzen read a statement being circulated the in Valley by a group they ae with called the Ecoshed Regeneration Alliance, in support of acquisition of the property. Linda noted that MCL was preparing a message for its own members suggesting a format for supporting the acquisition.

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE. The next quarterly workshop will be October 26. Sally reported that the planners are considering several presentations including the following: a report on status of HR 6687, stressors affecting dairies, problems that have occurred with commercial bee operations.

GENERAL PLAN UPDATES. Nothing new regarding Novato and San Rafael general plan updates.

SAN RAFAEL AIRPORT/COUNTY MOU. Susan and Kate have been monitoring the land swap between the county and the private airport to resolve maintenance of the levees surrounding the airport, and planning for restoration of a portion of the land. The MOU was redrafted and the BoS meeting on the revised draft MOU is now set for September 18. Following county approval it goes to State Lands.

EASTON POINT. Randy gave a report on court activities regarding TRUST, the trails support group which is the plaintiff in a prescriptive use case asserting there are four trails on the property that are public trails. She attended the first hearing the previous day.

Notes: AT