

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
FINAL Meeting Notes
June 23, 2016

The meeting was called to order at the Stompe home at 12:15. Present were Joyce Applen, Pam Drew, Kate Powers, Don Wilhelm, Carole Dillon-Knutson, Dorothy Thomas, Rick Fraites, Ralph Webb, Rosalie Webb, and Susan Stompe

Announcements: There will be an MCL Senior hike at Stafford Lake on July 13, Picnic on the Patio July 23

Notes of the May meeting were continued to the next meeting.

Novato General Plan: The City says the update of the General Plan should be available soon.

Plan Bay Area: Pam took the lead in explaining the 3 alternatives presented by MTC/ABAG in the information distributed at the June 4 workshop in Corte Madera. The alternatives are “Main Streets”, “Connected Neighborhoods”, and “Big Cities”. Since MTC has subsumed ABAG planning staff all the numbers were MTC numbers. For Novato the household projections are: Base year, 20,200; no project, 22,500; main streets, 21,800; connected neighborhoods, 21,600; big cities, 20,900. The job growth projected for Novato shows: base year, 26,400; no project, 34,000; main streets, 33,900; connected neighborhoods, 33,700; big cities, 33,800. The forecasts are for significant growth in jobs and population by 2040. The alternative scenarios are ways to allocated these projections throughout the Bay Area counties. The other element of the scenarios is the adequacy to reduce greenhouse gas. The Novato City Council will be addressing the alternatives.

Urban Growth Boundary: The Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) that was adopted by ballot in 1997 and expires next year. The city did a White Paper on it and the Council directed staff to include retaining the UGB in the Update of the General Plan. Discussion centered on whether to leave it in the General Plan, or to circulate petitions and put it on the ballot so that it could only be changed (with few exceptions) by a vote of the community. A motion was made, but not seconded when consideration of the cost of a ballot measure and the work of collecting the signatures, etc. Direction was given to find out from Bob Brown the kind of protections that could be built in to the UGB that would make it more difficult to change the UGB than just 3 votes of the city council any Tuesday night.

Redwood Landfill: Susan reported attending an informational meeting the night before on the proposal by Redwood Landfill to build a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for construction, demolition and inert debris materials. It was a very small, quick meeting. There was no opposition. The MRF was part of the revised plan for the landfill that has been held up from being implemented by a lawsuit. The gas to energy facility is under construction. Carole Dillon-Knutson, who is on the Novato Sanitary District board, said that the Landfill will not do a food waste facility. Kate pointed out that the Central Marin Waste treatment facility is working with Marin Sanitary Service to take commercial food waste and convert it to energy. Carole said NSD could not do that, but would like Redwood to do it. A question came up about what is used for daily cover.

Proposals pending in the Novato area: The Niebuhrs with property off Atherton Avenue have revised their plan to reduce the number of trees to be removed. Rosalie will check it out. Susan circulated one of the layout plans for the assisted living facility at Quest Church on South Novato Blvd.

Status reports: Don brought up the San Rafael hub issues and the 101/580 connector need. No solutions in sight. Rick said the NMWD will be installing electronic water meters. Dorothy asked about the volumes of dirt being hauled at the “Novato Canal” site where there is a temporary vehicle storage. Susan will check with the county about what is going on.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30

The next meeting will be July 28 at Wilhelms