

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Final Meeting Notes
January 16, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Applen home. Present were: Frank U'Ren , Pat U'Ren, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Joyce Applen, Dorothy Thomas, Susan Stompe and guest Sue Potter.

Announcements included: Gness Field FEIR at BOS Feb. 11, county Road and Trails Management Plan EIR is out, Novato will be considering a poly bag ordinance in Feb.

The notes of the November 21 meeting were approved with the elimination of the % reduction of budget.

Projects and Issues around Novato:

Pacheco Valle: The city council approved having an election in April that would enable the community to acquire the property at the entrance to the valley. MOST has been working with the neighborhood, the seller and the county to bring all the pieces together. The neighborhood is well organized and motivated to accomplish the acquisition which they have been working on for many years. Support for it is strong according to a survey. There are 780 voters and over 90 volunteers. Joyce is on the MOST board. She said it would be helpful if MCL encouraged people to call friends who live in Pacheco Valle to encourage their vote.

North Redwood Blvd: The Council is cancelling the moratorium so projects can be accepted by the city.

Members questioned lifting the moratorium without having better direction for the development to go. Those who have followed the process said that big box is not out although the surveys seemed to go that way. Mixed use would only be with office and commercial, no housing. Landscaping is embraced throughout. The Council did not look at the future of brick and mortar retail and “lifestyle” shopping. Gail commented that she felt there is demand for niches – like small scale furniture and appliances for small homes and apartments. Gail offered to draft a letter on the potential for a market.

General Plan update: The Housing element was approved by the state, including a density of 20 – 23 units per acre for affordable housing as the default density (rather than 30 u/a previously required)

Redwood Landfill: The composting facility was approved by the state and the permit granted.

Mission Inn: The old motel has been demolished. No plans have been filed with the city.

Gness Field Final EIR: There will be a hearing on Feb. 11 at the Board of Supervisors.

Transportation issues: The downtown bus stop/transfer facility will be coming back for city review on Feb. 5. Don said he would be interested in attending the Carma training for smart phone carpooling.

Other: Pat brought up that the substance abuse treatment villa on Simmons Lane appears to be expanding. There are story poles on the hill behind the facility

The next meeting will be at noon at Wilhelms on Feb. 13

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Notes by SS