

**Marin Conservation League**  
**North Marin Unit**  
Meeting Notes  
February 13, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Wilhelm home. Present were: Frank U'Ren , Pat U'Ren, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Pam Drew, Joyce Applen, Rick Fraites, Bernie Meyers, Bob Burke, Callita Moore and Susan Stompe

**Announcements:** Novato City Council will initiate discussion on a single use bag ordinance on Feb. 25. There will be an MCL walk at Cypress Grove on Tomales Bay on March 1.

**Notes** of the January meeting were postponed because a section was left out.

**Hamilton:** The city completed the acquisition of the acreage around Marin Valley mobile home park. It appears that that the open space acreage can be set aside to free up some buildings for reuse on the former base. The buildings are held by Dept. of Interior, Parks, and can be developed once parklike property is preserved. The sports facility does not have a plan submitted to the city. Pam suggested that since to site for the sports facility is in what should be a Baylands corridor, the neighbors could say, "not in my baylands".

**Downtown Bus Stop:** Susan passed around the proposed design that was reviewed by Design Review. It moves the passenger platform to the center of the island to make it safer for transferring passengers. There will also be improvements crossing Redwood Blvd. The plan met with some skepticism.

**Gross Field:** The Board of Supervisors certified the FEIR on Tuesday, but a couple of supervisors confirmed that approving the EIR did not mean the plan had to be adopted at the runway length studied. The next step will be some wetland studies and the hearing on the merits of the plan. It is anticipated that this will not happen before summer. There has been no announcement that the Final EIS is out. The North Marin Unit should send a recommendation to the MCL Land Use Committee. It was felt that the economics of the plan should be analyzed – perhaps in the EIS – and check out the county budget for the Field. The minimum requirement from FAA and the FAA guidelines for safety. Check how many hot days there are a year. Have bird strikes been a problem? Bob Burke said the budget was always difficult to piece together when he was on the Aviation Commission.

**Transportation issues:** Don questioned whether Regional Measure 2 funds were going to be used in the Larkspur/San Quentin area or to expand ferry service in the North Bay. Skip Berg wants to sell Port Sonoma, so it doesn't seem probable for ferry service. Jared Huffman is trying to find a place that the earmark for Port Sonoma can be redirected.

Pam reported a TAM grant has been approved for \$75,000 for a study of transit needs, getting input from targeted groups--low income, seniors, minorities, disabled, and youth. Novato has accepted the grant although Novato does not qualify as a community of concern like Marin City and the Canal District of San Rafael. The study will document stated needs of low income and other protected populations but the Lifeline funds which may become available are competitive and require matching funds that Novato is unlikely to be able to supply

**Water District issues:** Rick said the Sonoma County Water Agency has a voluntary 20% reduction in water use, but will probably change it to mandatory, since it is not likely we will make up the seasonal deficit in rainfall. NMWD is working on an equitable plan that will not penalize people who have been conserving water.

**MOST progress:** Joyce reported that there is an April election in Pacheco Valle to fund the acquisition. They are also working on Sky Ranch in San Anselmo.

Rick, Pat and Joyce agreed to help on Clean & Green Day, April 26.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10

The next meeting will be at noon on April 21 at U'Rens