

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Final Meeting Notes
September 17, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Thomas home. Present were: Bernie Meyer, Pat Eklund, Ralph Webb, Rosalie Webb, Rick Fraites, Dorothy Thomas, Gail Wilhelm, Don Wilhelm, Susan Stompe and guests, Delyn Ries and Elizabeth Dunn

Announcements: The Novato City Council will have a **Quiet Zone** workshop on Tues., Sept. 23, Coastal Cleanup is Sat., Sept. 20. MCL is sponsoring the Novato work on Scottsdale Pond and Novato Creek. Hamilton Forum about sale of base hospital 7 p.m. 9/17. North Redwood design 9/22 at 7 p.m.

Notes of the August meeting were approved with one amendment.

Elizabeth Dunn, Planning Manager for Novato Community Development Department, reviewed the format for the spread sheet and significance of the colors of the Policy and Program evaluation for the Environment Chapter of the General Plan. In answer to questions developed by some members who read the document, Liz said that when the status of a policy or program says it is applied only to “new development” it means the whole lot is a new project, and policy or program does not apply to a remodel or addition to an existing dwelling. These policies and programs should apply to all projects that could encroach on waterways, creeks and streams. The review group also recommended that creeks should be defined in the General Plan. The EN Map1 identifies only the major tributaries in the Novato valley and there are other significant creeks. A Bayland Overlay Zone was included in the 1997 General Plan. Since then the county has adopted a Bayland Corridor which the group recommended including with this update. Liz said that the policies and programs that are proposed for deletion because the issue is handled through CEQA review, will be reviewed whether an EIR is done or not. All projects go through the checklist and these issues will be on the checklists. Moving all Flood Control environmental concerns to the Safety Element would diminish its environmental significance, since developers look at the Environment element for environmental protections. The group encouraged that Policy 14 be strengthened to include current and future tidal action. There will be a Climate Action Plan White Paper. The group requested that a ratio be included in Policy 26 for replacement of trees to be removed through development. Liz said that is in the zoning code. She said that Hillside and Ridgeline protections will be the subject of a White Paper. Program 41.4 should include county Measure A Funds and MOST as potential funding sources. The group recommended that Program 44.2 should be retained so the city coordinates with other entities when possible. Program 44.6 should be kept and include Industrial and Office designations for impact fees and amenities. Program 45.1 should include mixed use and office/Industrial uses. Greenways in Policy 48 should include North Redwood corridor. Program 50.4 should include Office and Industrial uses to connect to trails. The Bay Trail should be retained until the Hamilton segment is connected at both ends to other parts of the Bay Trail. Policy 51 should include more interpretive signage at the Hamilton Bay Trail.

Novato General Plan: White Papers will be coming out periodically. North Redwood will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on Monday 9/22 and by the City Council on 9/23. Rick questioned whether there will be any space left for GGBHD buses and NMWD if the city plans development east of the railroad.

Gross Field: The runway project will not be heard by the Board of Supervisors until February

SMART: Don reported that the City Council will have a workshop on Quiet Zones on 9/23. He researched whether there is money available from the NCRA lawsuit. NCRA does not feel QZ are necessary. NCRA may have funds after selling a piece of property. Pat said the Council will probably not address it until next year.

Black Point Community Plan will be at the county Planning Commission in November. The community has had discussions on house size, recreation, circulation, emergency evacuation and commercial uses.

IPM – An ordinance was approved by the City Council 9/16.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00

The next meeting will be at noon on Thursday, October 23 at Webb's.