

## Marin Conservation League

### North Marin Unit

Meeting Notes

November 13, 2014

The meeting was called to order at the Applen home. Present were: Gail Wilhelm, Don Wilhelm, Joyce Applen, Frank U'Ren, Pat U'Ren, Carole Dillon-Knutson, and Susan Stompe

**Announcements:** MCL Holiday party will be Dec. 12 at the office near Northgate.

**Notes of the October meeting** were approved as distributed

**Gross Field:** Susan reported that the Aviation Commission provided their report to the Board of Supervisors on Nov. 4. The Land Use/Transportation Committee did not support the recommendation from this group to oppose the project. Susan's comments were limited to a reminder that some of the Board members had urged consideration of a shorter extension when they certified the FEIR in February.

**Novato General Plan:** Liz Dunn sent 4 pages of staff comments regarding the issues we raised about the Environment Chapter changes recommended by staff. 1. We urged better stream/creek definition and therefor compliance with policies. Staff supports better definition which would exclude human-made ditches that are not jurisdictional wetlands. **The group feels that human-made ditches are often creeks that have been relocated, but serve the original function of passage of water, wildlife habitat and riparian vegetation.**(Such as on the site of Atherton Ranch). 2. We recommended adding streams/creeks to Map EN1 which now only shows the main stems of Novato, Warner, Pacheco and Ignacio creeks. Staff supports periodic updates of Map EN 1 based on best available data and the county Marin Map, but not including ephemeral drainages unless designated jurisdictional waterways. **The group felt it important to create a creek baseline asap.** 3. We urged the Baylands Corridor be extended. Staff questioned whether that would increase protection beyond the Baylands Overlay District and just what properties it would affect. **We need to provide more complete information.** 4. We had concern that programs and policies are being deleted because they call for applying CEQA. Staff feels it unnecessary to be directed to comply with state or federal law. The group was firm that CEQA includes an initial study or environmental assessment, which is needed for any raw land or major repurposing. 5. We were concerned that flood control language is being moved to Safety Element. Staff feels that policies related to public works, is more safety related than environment. The group recommends putting it in both, since the environment should not be overlooked in public works. 6. The General Plan (GP) does not mention tree replacement ratios. Staff says that is not appropriate in the GP since it is in the Zoning Code. **We need to check other cities for tree replacement policies.** 7. We supported retention of program 41.2 which references working with the county to acquire and maintain open space of local importance since Measure A was passed and MOST is active. Staff says Measure A is going mostly for maintenance and acquisition is not going to happen. **The group would like to see it retained because there is continuing potential.** 8. We support retention of non-residential development fees for Park & Rec. Staff feels a nexus study would be costly and commercial impact fees are already very high. The group continues to support facilities in commercial areas like trails at BMK Industrial Park, benches at Pacheco Pond, potential connector trails to new NNRB development and Mt. Burdell. 9. Staff agrees that non-residential development should include on-site open space for employees. 10. We recommended retaining the Greenways in the GP. Staff agrees, but not to apply to NRB.

**Buck Center housing:** Rick attended the Design Review Committee meeting at which the project was reviewed. He did not think the units were very attractive, but felt DR members made only minimal tweeks.

**Indian Valley College:** Discussion about increasing the viability of IVC is back on the table. It was felt that curriculum needs to be improved in order to attract attendance.

**Novato Square Shopping Center:** A representative of the property will attend the January meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:00

The next meeting will be the **HOLIDAY POTLUCK** on Thursday, December 18 at Stompe's at 6 p.m.