

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Meeting Notes
August 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order at the U'Ren home at 12:15. Present were: Rick Fraithe, Bill Long, Edith Piltch, Joyce Applen, Hank Barner, Frank U'Ren, Pat U'Ren, and Susan Stompe.

Announcements: Business & Environment breakfast on August 28 at McInnis featuring Congressman Jared Huffman, opening of the Bike Park at Stafford Lake Park on Sat. Aug. 22, Tour of IVC with President Coon on Sat. at 9 a.m., Coastal CleanUp will be on Sat., Sept. 19 meeting at Scottsdale Gazebo at 9 a.m.

Notes of the July meeting were approved as distributed

Pacheco Valle Open Space management issue: Bill reviewed the history of how the 15 acres at the entrance to the Pacheco Valle became part of county Open Space. MOST (Marin Open Space Trust) had worked with the community to acquire the parcel to prevent development. They decided to form a Mello-Roos District and tax themselves to acquire the parcel (at the negotiated bargain basement price) with the intent of turning it over to the county. MOST helped with the acquisition process and transfer to the county. MCL sent a letter to the Novato City Council November 2013 encouraging setting the Mello-Roos election to protect the habitat values of the site. Over 90% voted in favor. Now the county is managing the parcel according to their policies and the neighborhood is unhappy it is not completely mowed. Supervisor Arnold and both the county Fire Chief and Novato Fire Chief jointly sent a letter to the community saying the county mowing policy of 10' along the roadway is a safe and adequate for this parcel, which is mostly grasses. Letters-to-the-editor and the county are critical to object to changing county policy to allow for complete mowing. **M/S/C (Joyce/Rick) That the North Marin Unit recommend a LTE from MCL to support the Open Space policy of mowing 10 feet along the street since MCL supported the acquisition, in part, to preserve the habitat value of the site.** It was suggested that adding a fence along street facing and curb cuts could prevent anyone driving a vehicle onto the site. One member who could not attend the meeting called to say she supports the mowing and that it looks awful. Other policies in support from Community Marin are #2.6 & #2.11

Blackpoint Community Plan: Hank said the Black Point advisory committee to update the Black Point Community plan is meeting tonight. They will continue to work on clarifying the differences between the advisory committee and the staff recommendations.

Novato General Plan: There have been no notices of any progress on the plan. Staff is working on pulling together the GP elements for the EIR process. A White Paper on the Downtown Specific Plan will be reviewed by the City Council September 1.

Transit Center: Marin Transit approved the design this week. It will be before the City Council on August 26.

Development proposals pending in Novato: There is a community meeting planned by the developer of a townhouse project at Hamilton to discuss what has been done and their plans to remediate toxics on the site they plan to build. The meeting is scheduled for Aug. 26 at 6:30 at Hamilton. Rick said there is a rumor Google may use the Fireman's Fund site.

MOST: Joyce announced that escrow closed on the purchase of Sky Ranch, but remediation needs to be done.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50

The next meeting will be at the Stompe house on Wednesday, September 23.