

Marin Conservation League
North Marin Unit
Meeting Notes

June 14, 2012

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

Announcements included: One Bay Area scoping meeting in Marin June 27 at 1:30, MCL Picnic on the Porch July 28 at noon, TAM meeting on June 28 display on Marin Sonoma Narrows at 6 p.m.; Edith wanted people to know Denise Athas voted to keep Novato with MCE.

The notes of the May 10 meeting were approved as distributed.

Projects and Issues around Novato:

General Plan: The new process has not yet begun the public process. The Planning Dept. will be making the revision in-house, so efforts are being made to free up their time by streamlining other procedures, including CEQA. This needs to be closely monitored. Gail reported that the GP NMU subcommittee has not met yet. They are still trying to find copies of the current General Plan, which is supposed to be the basis of the update. There was discussion of the One Bay Area Sustainable Communities Strategy going on and projections for housing and jobs. It was decided to do a survey of the Millworks residents to determine where they work and how they get there. Gail offered to write the survey. Susan will inform the city. The building management will also be consulted. The premise of the One Bay Area plan is that high density housing on a transit route in an urbanized area reduces traffic and VMT(vehicle miles traveled).

Binford Road: MCL received a notice of an application for a “temporary use permit” for an open air storage yard on the property, which has an approved county plan to build large storage buildings on both sides of the Novato Canal (formerly Black John Slough). It would require some grading, a drainage ditch, a chain link fence and “repurposed” gravel. It was recommended to send the county a letter questioning what “temporary” means, to require approval of the neighboring property owner to receive the stormwater overflow and how to assure the gravel is clean.

Port Sonoma/Carneros Ranch: Sonoma County is negotiating a contract with URS to do the EIR.

Transportation issues: Don reported that the TAM meetings have been heavily focused on the One Bay Area plan and process. He also expressed frustration that the Narrows project is moving along but information has not been available. He tried to set up a meeting with staff, but was not able to get cooperation. There will be a public display of the final plans on Thursday, June 28 at 6 P.M. at the Board of Supervisors meeting room.

MOST: Joyce reported that they continue to track the Pacheco Valle parcel as well as other possible projects around the county.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be on July 18 at the Applen home.

Notes by SS