

Marin Conservation League

North Marin Unit

Final Meeting Notes

July 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order at the home of Susan Stompe . Attending were Bernie Meyers, Edith Piltch, Pat U'Ren, Frank U'Ren, Don Wilhelm, Dorothy Thomas, and Susan Stompe.

Announcements: MCL Picnic on the Porch is on Sat., July 30
Walk into History – Tomales Bay State Park – 9:30 to 1, Sat., August 27

Minutes: The notes of the June 16 meeting were approved as distributed.

Agenda: Two items were added to the agenda. #4 f. will be about Areas of Potential Change for Community Marin. #5 a. will include discussion of the SMART repeal efforts.

Novato Creek Watershed planning – The county has embarked on a study of the Novato Creek Watershed. Rick is on the Community Advisory Committee and Susan is on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). They will be looking at the current function of the watershed and ways to reduce siltation, improve water quality, improve fish habitat. Hopefully some recommendations will be out before the General Plan is completed.

Hanna Ranch Draft EIR: Susan reviewed the discussion at the Planning Commission on Monday and brought up issues in the MCL letter on the adequacy of the DEIR. Most of the people in the audience at the PC meeting were there to urge that housing be included in the site plan, especially affordable housing. There is an alternative in the EIR to have the same square footage as the proposed plan (136,500 sq. ft.) but have 60 units of housing and some office uses, which one Commissioner criticized as unrealistic, urging adding housing to the proposed plan. A Commissioner felt the city should not sell or relinquish its floating easement through the site in case it became feasible to build an access at Hwy 37 in 30 or 50 years. Staff said the Final EIR should be back in October. **There was a motion to include an alternative that consists of the hotel, restaurants and housing. M/S/C Thomas/Piltch**

NCRA : Bernie confirmed that NCRA and NWP got all their necessary approvals in June and there are now 3 freight trains per week rolling through Novato. He said there are 2 clients, the feed store in Petaluma and Standard Structures in Windsor.

Areas of Potential Change: At the request of the Community Marin group, the areas of potential change in North Marin were reviewed. The recommendations are included as an addendum to these meeting notes.

Transportation issues: Don reviewed the current SMART financial situation and community activities related to repeal of the sales tax funding SMART. A lawsuit has been filed by the group involved with the repeal effort. The consensus was that MCL should continue to monitor the financial status of SMART and continue to encourage transparency in their deliberations and financial disclosure. It was suggested that MCL invite Mike Arnold to attend a Land Use/Transportation committee meeting to answer questions about the SMART and TAM issues.

Rosalie Webb offered to host the next meeting on August 17.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20.

Notes by S. Stompe

