

**Marin Conservation League**  
**North Marin Unit**  
Final Meeting Notes

October 4, 2012

The meeting was called to order at the Stompe home. Present were: Joyce Applen, Dorothy Thomas, Don Wilhelm, Bernie Meyers, Pat Eklund, Pat U'Ren, Frank U'Ren and Susan Stompe.

Announcements included: The celebration of the Manzanita Fire Road Open Space is Friday at 10 a.m., the MCL office move should be completed by next week, although some meetings will still be taking place at the old office in October. The Holiday party at MCL's new office is on Dec. 14

The notes of the August 8th meeting were approved as distributed.

**Projects and Issues around Novato:**

**Measure A** - MCL's support of the measure to preserve family farms in west Marin and for parks and open space was reviewed. Bumperstickers were passed out but only one sign was taken since almost everyone lived on a dead end street or a cul-de-saq.

**Potential Solar Farm Policy** – The Climate Action Committee will be discussing developing a policy for MCL on solar farm locations. NMU members said they would like to have input.

**Millworks survey:** The project has not advanced. Susan and Gail need to get back on it and send it out before the holidays.

**Port Sonoma/Carneros Ranch:** Sonoma County is not planning to have a scoping meeting. David Schnapf has drafted a letter of issues to send to Sonoma.

**Novato revised processing to reduce staff time:** There will be a hearing at the City Council on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m. about the revised tree ordinance requirements and other code amendments. The current staff recommendation is to leave the requirements for permits to cut trees as it has been, but standardizing the requirements by having commercial areas the same a residential. Exceptions are eucalyptus, acacia, Monterey pine and Bishop pine.

**General Plan revision** – Pat U and Frank attended the Planning Commission workshop on the Housing Element the previous Monday. The Draft Housing Element was not available until the next day. They felt the meeting was worthless without addressing the element. Pat said it was to provide background to Commissioners who had not been previously involved.

The Planning Commission will be responsible for the General Plan revision. North Redwood Blvd. will be a major issue. Pat E. advised that the City has hired someone to oversee Economic development. Some other issues the Council will be looking at soon include changing their policy on retail uses only allowed on Grant Avenue (on Oct. 23). There is negotiation going on with SMART about exchanging properties in Novato. Novato owns the Atherton site and SMART owns the downtown station

**Transportation issues:** Don reported that he has pretty much taken the summer off.

**NCRA:** Bernie reported that he wrote an Op-Ed and submitted it to the IJ and other newspaper along the railroad right-of-way.

**MOST:** Joyce reported that there are no current projects.

**Novato Square Shopping Center:** Susan said she has heard from other residents near the The Square who would be interested in participating in a meeting. She requested to be informed if anyone hears of a meeting.

Pat E.said that Alhambra economic development corp.was a possible model to use.

Other: Pat E.gave an update on ABAG issues. The meeting scheduled for earlier that day had been cancelled due to health issues of the lead staff person. There will be a pilot program on PCA's (Priority Conservation Areas)

Susan requested Pat E. to be watchful that no funding designated for PCA's go to road projects, as requested by at least one county. She said there will be another round on PDAs (Priority Development Areas) although there are 166 identified already. There may be a minimum of 100 acres for the next round. ABAG is considering an affordable housing trust fund. They are also considering a housing fee for all commercial development.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 8 at the U'Ren home.

Notes by SS