

Marin Conservation League  
Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting  
October 8, 2009  
Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Mary Feller, Delos Putz, Roger Roberts, Alison Seaman, and Susan Stompe

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Reminder of the November 3d workshop of MCOSD meeting at 1:30PM at the Friends of Marin Meeting Room at the Civic Center regarding Trails Issues.

POSC MEETING MINUTES: The POSC Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2009 were accepted and approved with one minor correction for a spelling error.

ACTION ITEMS: None placed on the Agenda, but the POSC Committee did take action on support for California State Parks.

This was a result of the discussion of the California State Parks budgetary problems arising from the financial crisis facing the California State budget. Currently, the California State Parks System depends upon the General Fund of the state for its annual budget. The Governor's Office has proposed significant reductions of the State Parks Budget that could lead to reduced capacity to deliver its services and may result in closure for many State Parks.

It was moved by Susan Stompe and seconded by Jean Starkweather that the POSC Committee recommend to the MCL Board that the Marin Conservation League formally endorse the establishment of separate and dedicated funding for the California State Parks System which may be accomplished through either legislation or a Statewide Initiative. The motion after further discussion was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1) MCL Support for State Parks : See Action Item above. In addition, the Committee discussed the possibility of assisting State Parks in Marin through mobilization of Member Volunteers to help with maintenance and other informational/visitation type programs. Roger will contact State Parks on what and how MCL can best provide this additional support and assistance. Susan and Roger reported on the September 22d California Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife Public Hearing held by Chairman Jared Huffman at Fort Baker. Panelists on the State Perspective, the Opportunities for Public Partnerships and the Role of private Partners and Non-Profits spoke as well as members of the Public. Nona asked that Roger and Susan prepare a written summary of the meeting for the record and the next MCL Newsletter.

- 2) Current Status on the Bill's Trail Conversion to Multi – Use by State Parks, and MCOSD Policies in this regard. Nona reported that she has not heard from California State Parks on what they plan to do at this point with respect to Bill's Trail. The Committee continues to take the position that there should be no conversion of single track hiking and riding trails to multi-use without proper CEQA review whether they are located in the State Parks or within the the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD). In this regard, it was pointed out that the Marin Countywide Plan has specific policies that seek to ensure user safety through proper trail design, informational programs, and improving code compliance.
- 3) Status of the San Rafael (Smith Ranch) Airport Sports Complex Project: Mary Feller reported that we are still waiting for the FEIR to be completed. The owner-applicant is still attempting to obtain a land swap through the County and the State Lands Commission to expand operations at the airport.
- 4) Status of MMWD and MCOSD Vegetation Management Plans. Alison Seaman is still following this issue. No date for the MCOSD Workshop in January has been scheduled yet. Roger reported that in response to its budgetary shortfall the MMWD Board has postponed doing the Environmental Impact Report on its Vegetation Management Plan for the time being.
- 5) Angel Island Founders Grove Restoration Project Update: Nona reported on the final event planning for the October 17<sup>th</sup> celebration . MCL is sending out mail invitations to all members as well as e-mail reminders on the event. The local press is also be notified.

The POSC Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.