

DRAFT  
MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
Parks & Open Space Committee Meeting  
September 9, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Tom Boss, Chris Bramham (MCOSD Staff), Nona Dennis, Angelo Douvos, Robert Eichstaedt, Susan Stompe, Jean Starkweather.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) California Clean-Up Day on September 25<sup>th</sup>: MCL is working on 3 locations in the County, including Scottsdale Marsh, in Novato, Mahon Creek in San Rafael, and The Sausalito waterfront. 2) The GGNRA Fall Calendar of Events was circulated. 3) The Mira Monte Marsh Acquisition Fund-Raiser Event on Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at the site.

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES for August 12, 2010: The Draft POSC Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2010 were accepted and approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

1) Status Report on the "680 Trail":- Chris Bramham, Project Manager for the MCOSD confirmed that the Environmental Consultants for the "680 Trail, LSA Associates, were preparing a response to comments by MCL and others on the Initial Study & Negative Declaration (ISND) and that the response to comments should be completed by the end of September. They will be circulated to all parties including the permitting agencies involved at that time to be followed in mid-October with a Public Workshop to develop both a consensus on alignment and appropriate mitigations. This is being done pursuant to Section 15074.1 SUBSTITUTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES IN A PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION of the CEQA Guidelines. Subsequently, the proposed "680 Trail" project and the ISND would be taken before the MCOSD Board of Directors for approval. Chris shared a detailed map of the proposed project, and answered questions from Committee members on the project rationale, design, alternative alignment options studied, and proposed mitigations.

2) The POSC was brought up to date on the planning for the State Parks Funding Ballot Measure - Proposition 21 election campaign. The California State Parks Foundation is supplying Campaign materials that will be delivered to MCL Offices on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Committee discussed in some depth the ways and means of how the Campaign should be pursued by MCL and others to support the passage of Prop. 21.

MCL members have already been urged to vote for Prop 21 in the September – October Newsletter.

3) Roger reported on the fact that the California State Parks is holding only 2 Public Scoping Hearings across the state for a Change of Trail Use Program EIR. Nona will attend the scoping hearing at the Candlestick Park Recreation Area on September 25<sup>th</sup>. MCL is concerned that this Program EIR may potentially be used as a cover for making unjustified Categorical Exemption decisions on specific Trail Use Changes, which is why it is important that we participate in this 2d Public Scoping Hearing.

4) Nona reported on the results of the Mt. Tamalpais State Park East Peak Design Charette on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Several different designs for enhancing the East Peak area and addressing ADA Compliance issues were presented for discussion. None was selected for adoption at this time, but MCL will need to track this project planning process in the future.

5) The Committee was brought up to date on the status of the Smith Ranch Pond Restoration Project which will have to be pursued in several stages. A updated biological assessment has found that an endangered Western Pond Turtle is resident in the pond along with a threatened sparrow which nests in the surrounding willows. The City of San Rafael will be the lead agency for this project. Derek and Roger are going to kayak onto the pond to do an updated bottom profile map plus calculate water evaporation rates in relation to water level measurements over time to help determine whether or not the pond is supplied with groundwater in addition to winter stormwater.

6) Robert Eichstaedt reported on his research into the RTP (Recreational Trails Program) that is part of federal transportation legislation. It was his conclusion that there was little benefit to MCL joining in the Coalition for Recreational Trails sponsored by American Trails in support of RTP. It is not a major source of funding for trail and greenway systems in Marin, although it may well be a program of interest to TAM (The Transportation Authority of Marin).

The POSC Meeting adjourned at 5:20PM.