

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting October 11, 2012

FINAL MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Nona Dennis, Chair; Greg Zitney, Susan Stompe, Larry Minikes, John Natt, Robert Eichstaedt, Tom Boss, Jill Templeton, and Jean Starkweather; Laura Wais and Constanza Perry (Marin Horse Council).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) China Camp State Park Celebration, October 13, 11 – 4:30; 2) MMWD's Draft Vegetation Management Plan is the topic for MCL Water and Watershed Committee mtg. on October 25, 4:30 – 6:30, at the QLD MCL Office at 1623A Fifth Ave., San Rafael. Janet Klein and Mike Swezy will outline the main elements of the Plan. 3) Marin County Parks Road and Trail Management Plan public meeting, October 29, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Wellness Center, San Rafael.

MINUTES for September 13, 2012 – Approved

ACTION ITEMS: None

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 1) China Camp State Park: Ernie Stanton updated the Committee in an e-mail: Nothing new to report other than late last week we received final approval to install VenTek Pay Stations; State Park maintenance will be starting work shortly on preparing installation (one at each restroom in Village parking lots, one near Miwok Meadows entrance, and one at Shoreline Trailhead by Campground Kiosk).
- 2) Mt. Tamalpais State Park: Larry Minikes reported on a "Tamathon" held on October 6 to raise funds. At \$100 per entry, walkers, bikers, and equestrians were invited to participate. Although participants were few, TCC made \$11,000 from the event, \$10,000 received from a privately-held "Mt. Tam Trust". Another \$70,000 will be made available from that trust to install an ADA-compliant cabin at West Point. Funds from this trust can only be used for physical improvements. TCC is moving ahead with the centennial event – "Mt. Tam Jam" – scheduled for June 22, 2013 in the Mountain Theater. Larry explained that TCC has signed an MOU with State Parks that allows the Mt. Tam Jam to be a yearly event. Because this is specifically for the purpose of raising funds for Mt. Tam State Park, it will not set a precedent for any other similar events.
- 3) Parks, Open Space and Agricultural Preservation – Ballot Measure A. The campaign for Measure A is in motion, and volunteers continue to be needed to raise funds, distribute leaflets at meeting places, markets, etc., put up signs, get endorsements, and mount phone banks. Funds are too limited for more than two mailers. Campaign signs can be picked up from the storage area at the Democratic Central committee headquarters, 1650 3rd St. (former furniture store).

- 4) Bills' Trail, Samuel P. Taylor State Park. The FEIR for Change in Use of Bills' Trail was issued in September. The committee discussion concerned how MCL should respond to the FEIR. ¹ Laura Wais and Costanza Perry, Marin Horse council, submitted a letter offering to help MCL repeal the decision to allow bikes on Bill's Trail. Various concerns were expressed about the project: The topography is steep and the trail has unsafe sight-lines; the conversion will change the quiet, wooded character of Devil's Gulch; the trail will require greater maintenance with increased volume of user traffic; main issue is bike speed down-hill – "pinch points" may impede speed for a while but will soon become obstacles to overcome; if and when the project is constructed, we should monitor the use and effectiveness of "pinch points" and other mitigations. Because basic incompatibility of user groups on narrow trails won't change and education doesn't work by itself – only effective peer pressure within the biking community, plus enforcement, is likely to change behaviors and make it possible to design trails for safe shared use.

We generally agreed that it would be difficult to mount an effective case against the adequacy of the FEIR – costly and probably not "winnable." It was moved, seconded and the motion carried to respond to the FEIR, identify mitigation measures (and other requirements, per State Park trail design protocols), and take no other specific action at this time. Marin District and Marin Sector park superintendents need to be apprised of our concerns.

- 5) Manzanita Fire Road dedication Susan reported that the event was attended by 50 - 60 people, weather was good, and views are great.
- 6) The City Council hearing on San Rafael Airport Recreational Facility has not been re-scheduled.
- 7) A large multi-part recreational complex is being considered at Hamilton Village, near the former Landfill 26. Susan Stompe reported that no application has been filed with the City of Novato.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 8 , 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. MCL new office location: 175 N. Redwood Drive, San Rafael, Suite 135.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00
Minutes by Nona Dennis

¹ Unknown to the committee at this time was the fact that State Parks had approved the project and filed a Notice of Determination on September 26 with the State CEQA Clearinghouse. This action starts a 30-day statute of limitations for filing a court challenge to the Final EIR, i.e., in this case until October 25, after which the adequacy of the EIR can no longer be challenged. We learned of these actions on October 18.