

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use, Transportation, and Water Committee
November 1, 2017, 9 to 11:30 AM

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Wendi Kallins, Bob Miller, Kate Powers, Jean Severinghaus, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.1) A Trash Summit, to help develop a citizen volunteer corps to clean up trash from community streets and grounds, will be held November 1, 1 to 4 PM. Event is sponsored by MCSTOPPP, local watershed groups, and other organizations.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING. Minutes of October 4, 2017 OK as presented.

AGENDA. Added discussion of San Rafael Airport and proposed MOU with County regarding a swap of land leases at the airport at Gallinas Creek headwaters.

WATER UPDATES. 1) The October 27 Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council meeting reviewed a report on design alternatives for the Lagoon's North End Wetland Enhancement and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Project. This project aims to reduce roadway flooding, enhance habitat, and prepare the Lagoon for future sea level rise. 2) Various environmental reports for the MMWD vegetation management plan, Corte Madera Creek COE project, and proposed San Geronimo Valley wastewater treatment system are not yet ready for further public review.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES. Kate reported nothing new from the TAM. 2) Ann noted that the Draft EIR for the Sir Francis Drake Blvd rehabilitation project, from Hwy 101 to the Ross town line, is now out and identified significant impacts related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, public services, and traffic and circulation. The report states that these can be reduced to less-than-significant with mitigation measures identified in the EIR. Major concerns in the community are the proposed restriping of SFD from two lanes to three lanes eastbound from El Portal Drive to Highway 101, and adding a second westbound-to-southbound left turn lane on SFD at College Avenue (eliminating several parking spaces to do so).

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE. About 40 people attended the October 27 quarterly Agricultural Land Use meeting at the Farm Bureau, an excellent turnout. David L, Sally, and Greg Z will conduct public workshops on November 3 and 10 regarding how the public can comment on Ag Amendment Alternatives for the PRNS ranch management plan. David led a working group session of several board members on October 26 to prepare a draft MCL comment letter on the alternatives process.

LOCAL COASTAL PLAN. There continues to be a disagreement between the County and the Coastal Commission regarding a few items such as what constitutes grading. It appears that work on amending the Countywide Plan is being held up until the LCP is completed.

COMMUNITY MARIN. Working group members representing the seven involved groups completed the draft of the Parks and Open Space section, and possibly also the Housing chapter. The P & OS section will go on MCL's P & OS Committee agenda in December and to the board's January meeting. Housing should be reviewed at December's Land Use meeting.

EASTON POINT/MARTHA. Martha Company and County officials have met in private to discuss open issues and remain in disagreement. Martha is unhappy with the County's certification of the EIR and approval of the master plan with conditions that relocate some building sites to an area lower on the property, though not approving a precise development plan. A federal court date is set for January 11, 2018 to review Martha complaints.

SAN GERONIMO VALLEY GOLF COURSE ACQUISITION. Wendi Kallins spoke in support of the County purchasing the golf course, but said that she does not want the County to seek purchase funds until after there is a plan for future use of the site. She said that she is concerned that a grant of money to purchase the property could entail conditions such as use of the site as open space. She listed a number of other uses that she believes would be suitable.

NOVATO MEASURES D AND E. Measure E, the parcel tax to fund flood control measures including baylands restoration, has drawn negative advertising from opposition. The campaign for Measure D, regarding continuation of the urban growth boundary, seems to be going well.

LAWSON'S LANDING/COASTAL COMMISSION. Susan reported that a leach field location has been proposed in a site which intrudes on red-legged frog habitat. The establishment of a leach field was a condition of approval for the Lawson's Landing development.

NORTH/SOUTH MULTI-USE PATH/CORTE MADERA. MCL has not commented on the most recent plans for this path along the SMART ROW in area at end of Industrial Way

SAN RAFAEL/COUNTY PROPOSED MOU. A draft MOU has been drawn up to approve the exchange of County lands within the levees surrounding the airport (including the levees themselves), down to the point of mean lower low water on the Creekside of the levees with airport lands in the bed and bank of the existing Gallinas Creek channel located below the line of mean lower low water and all the lands to the south and east of the creek centerline. Susan and Pam Reaves met with Supervisor Connolly to discuss this, and he said it was to clear up issues over who was responsible for the levees maintenance – the airport would be responsible for all levee maintenance, and that some of the land would be restored to natural condition. The state is still working on defining ownership of the lands involved and the MOU cannot be finalized until the ownership is established.

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