

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE**  
**Land Use, Transportation, and Water Committee**  
**December 6, 2017, 9 to 11 AM**

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; Nancy Benjamin, Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Cheryl Longinotti, Bob Miller, Kate Powers, Pam Reaves (arr: 10:10), Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson, Greg Zitney. Also, Henry Symons from Assemblyman Levine's office.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING.** Minutes of November 1, 2017 OK as edited (Greg was not present and on p. 2 it is Lawson's Landing, not Larson's).

**AGENDA.** Added discussions of San Rafael General Plan Update and Transit Center.

**WATER UPDATES.** 1) Starting work on an SCA ordinance likely a year or two away. In the meantime CWP policies will still be germane for projects undergoing design review. Jack Liebster has been assigned to work on the SCA but he is still busy with the Local Coastal Plan. 2) The Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program is moving toward approval of a first phase project to expand floodwater capacity at Allen Park in Ross, remove the fish ladder impeding flow, and construct flood walls up to three feet high in Granton Park. The project will use IRWM funds initially earmarked for the Phoenix Lake dam expansion, but diverted when the dam project proved infeasible. 3) The MMWD DEIR on its Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Plan (BFFIP), due out by now, seems to be indefinitely deferred.

**TRANSPORTATION ISSUES.** Kate reported. 1) The TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) board was expected to approve their Vision Plan for future transit work. MCL supported inclusion of greenhouse gas reduction as an integral part of the plan. 2) TAM's Expenditure Advisory Committee, having considered the possibility of going to the ballot with ¾ cent transportation tax to replace the ½ cent tax that will sunset in about six years, is recommending seeking a continuation of the ½ cent tax, likely on the 2018 ballot. 3) With regard to the SB 1 12-cent gas tax and Regional Measure 3 bridge toll increases (the bridge toll goes to voters next year), TAM has earmarked the Marin-Sonoma Narrows, the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Andersen multi-use pathway, and design work on E. Blithedale as priority projects for new revenue. 4) The DEIR on the SFD Blvd Rehabilitation project is out. There appears to be some community concern about the proposed projects.

**AGRICULTURAL LAND USE.** The next quarterly meeting will be January 26 and the agenda is likely to include discussion of remaining LCP issues.

**SAN GERONIMO VALLEY GOLF COURSE ACQUISITION.** Ann reviewed next steps: a final vote on the purchase will be taken by the BOS at their December 12 meeting. Persons opposing the sale are expected to be present so representatives for MCL may attend to support the purchase. Following that the County will issue RFPs for an interim golf course manager and a facilitator for the planning process for use of the property.

**COMMUNITY MARIN.** The draft Housing chapter was discussed and a small group will refine suggestions for MCL comments – to go to the board in January. The Parks and Open Space Committee will review the chapter on that topic. The next section to be reviewed by the representatives drafting the update to the 2013 policy document will be on agriculture.

**SAN RAFAEL/COUNTY PROPOSED MOU.** The committee continued discussion of the proposed MOU to approve exchange of County lands within the levees surrounding the airport (including the levees themselves), with airport lands in the bed and bank of the existing Gallinas Creek channel, and outlined major points for a comment letter. A group including Pat Nelson, Susan, Kate, and Pam have attended meetings with Supervisor Connolly and comments are due on December 11. Among points to mention in a letter: 1) Clarification of the ownership of the lands will be helpful; e.g. among ownership issues, a number of private docks along Vendola Drive the airport claims are on airport property. 2) Raising the levee would be consistent with the county's sea level rise planning but the arrangement between the parties should require that building or extending levees would not intrude into the marsh or compromise plans for restoration of the Gallinas marsh. 3) The project should comply with the ACE's Section 404 and other regulatory requirements, especially protection of Ridgeway Rail habitat 4) Annual public reporting to the BOS should be included.

**NOVATO AND SAN RAFAEL GENERAL PLANS.** The Novato General Plan is still incomplete and no scoping for environmental review has been held. Kate and Pam are members of the San Rafael General Plan 2040 21-member steering committee and Bob has been named as an alternate. Meetings will begin in early 2018. Vision planning for the city's downtown, including relocation of the transit center, will be an important part of the General Plan process. The bridge district board and the City have signed an MOU detailing how they will work together to select a new location for the Bettini Center, which is now used by for bus operations but with the planned extension of rail service to Larkspur Landing needs to include rail., At least three sites are under consideration for the new center.

**EASTON POINT/MARTHA.** The BOS has certified the EIR but that does not mean the site will be developed as envisioned by applicants. The BOS approved a master plan conditional on relocating three building sites, and denied the precise development plan.

**SEMINARY PROJECT/STRAWBERRY.** This is also on the December 12 BOS agenda. The Planning Commission denied the extension of the Master Plan and, therefore, denied an EIR be prepared. The property owner has appealed to the BOS.

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