

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: December 1, 2010

Present: Marge Macris, Chair; Priscilla Bull, Dave Coury, Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Susan Stompe, Ann Thomas, Don Wilhelm. Met at MCL, 8 to 10 AM.

November 3, 2010 Meeting Notes: Approved as distributed.

Community Marin/CWP Issues: The Community Marin group meets next on December 17 to tackle chapters on Biological Resources, Agriculture, and version #13 of Parks and Open Space.

Housing Issues Forum. Marge and Nona have done groundwork preparing for a panel program on housing issues, including the state-mandated regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) “fair share” numbers. They have met with Joe Walsh from the LWV, Elaine Lyford of MEC and discussed possible speakers and venues. The event will most likely be scheduled mid-to-late February with MCL co-sponsoring with other groups.

SMART Change of Plan. (Don W) The SMART board’s recent decision to abbreviate the initial construction of the rail line to run from Santa Rosa to a terminus in northern San Rafael, rather than downtown San Rafael or Larkspur Landing as originally planned, has sparked a recrudescence of train financing and ridership issues. The Board of Supervisors on November 30 voted to ask SMART to postpone a vote to undertake bond obligations until there could be a financial analysis of the long-term viability of the project and information on the location of the terminating platform and implications of the revised project on ridership, feeder bus services and parking provisions. Priscilla suggested finding out what legal options exist for use of the sales tax and Marge suggested recommending that SMART look at other system design options. Nona will get a copy of the letter at issue to help decide what, if any, action MCL might consider.

Bay Plan Revision. The BCDC staff drafted changes to the Bay Plan, to address projected sea level rise, which were first presented in mid 2009 and been reviewed by the Commission and public at several hearings since then. A number of revisions to the original have been made. The Bay Plan amendments could affect land use plan along Marin’s bayshore so committee agreed that MCL should submit suitable comments in support of the upgrade to deal with rising waters. Nona will review.

Easton Point, Tiburon. An administrative draft of the draft EIR is being circulated for review.

Transportation. (Don W) TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin). 1) TAM is trying to organize a meeting of interested parties on the Narrows. 2) Amy Van Doren, Marin Transit Director of Operations, has raised concerns that redesigning the San Rafael transit center for a SMART station could affect the turning radius available for Marin Transit buses and affect the buses’ ability to use the center.

Meteorological Towers. (Nona) Nona was to meet later today with Amy Trainer of EAC and Barbara Salzman of Audubon to discuss strategy. Nona believes the project will be approved and hopes to get conditions of approval that would minimize wildlife impacts and provide some information useful for dealing with a future project application, e.g. weekly post-construction bird kill surveys based on Fish and Game protocols. She believes that Amy and Barbara will want to press for an initial study to be conducted.

Marin General Hospital Expansion Project. (Ann) This project appears to be on hold following several meetings with Kentfield community representatives in which the hospital heard a clear message that the proposals for a seven-story garage next to Bon Air Road, along 67,000 square feet of office space for which no parking is provided, would not fly. The hospital reps will make a presentation to the Larkspur City Council sometime in January.

Target. (Nona) As this project for a big box retail store at Shoreline Park heads for City Council action within a few days, Nona said that MCL, represented by Roger Roberts and/or Jean Starkweather, has commented on the application over the past two years. Nona noted the applicant has eliminated the second entrance to Shoreline but although the traffic is determined to be unmitigable, she believes the project is headed for Council approval based on overriding considerations. Committee members agreed that the public benefits claimed for the project do not justify overriding consideration and that Roger should speak strongly to that point.

Next meeting January 5, 2010

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