

Marin Conservation League

North Marin Unit

Draft Meeting Notes

October 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order at the home of Pat & Frank U'Ren. Attending were Joyce Applen, Edith Piltch, Pat U'Ren, Frank U'Ren, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm and Susan Stompe.

Announcements: The next Business Breakfast is on Nov. 4 at Garbarino's Marin Recycling and Resource Recovery Center, there is a workshop on SMART bond funding on Nov. 6. The next meeting on Housing in Novato will be Oct. 26. An MCL workshop on CEQA on Nov. 11, call MCL for information.

Minutes: The notes of the Sept. 16 meeting were approved as distributed.

Housing Element: The Community Marin section on Housing was distributed to Unit members prior to the meeting. There was intense discussion about recent meetings, community concerns and wording of the recommendations in the Housing document. After an hour of discussion without any specific revised recommendations, it was decided that a subcommittee of Gail, Joyce and Susan would work on bringing some specific wording back to the group.

North Marin Water District scoping: Susan read from the notice sent out by the water district the project being reviewed. The aqueduct bringing water to Novato from the Sonoma County Water Agency will need to be moved by CalTrans during the Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) expansion. The NMWD proposes changing the pipe size from 30" to 42" so the water does not need to be pumped. Moving the pipe was addressed in the MSN EIS, so this EIS will address the .8 mile that CalTrans does not have to move the pipe, where NMWD will put in a parallel pipe. Issues to address include the growth inducing impacts, identifying what volume of water would again require pumping, identifying the smallest diameter pipe to get the contracted volume of water to flow by gravity, and habitat loss

Hanna Ranch: Don, Gail and Susan heard a presentation by the developer of Hanna Ranch on the most recent plan. A copy of the plan was passed around. They propose a hotel on the hill, a free standing restaurant on the hill, another restaurant midway up the hill on the north side, and a couple retail/office mixed use buildings on the east side of the pond. They emphasized that CalTrans will not allow a southern access because of the cost to build the needed interchange. They anticipate the EIR will be out in November or December.

Transportation issues: Don reported that a joint meeting of NCRA and SMART revealed that NCRA insurance is much higher with SMART using the track. They want SMART to help pay the costs. Santa Rosa received funds for bike trails, but not enough for the project. SMART is filling the shortfall. Don said that some SMART board members and staff are going to Japan to test ride trails built by the preferred manufacturer. They cannot, however, negotiate any of the contract.

MOST: Joyce reported that there is an agreement for a parcel at the MV Seminary, but not yet signed.

Redwood Landfill: A judge has declared that the Marin BOS must hear an appeal of the RLI EIS.

The next meeting will be at the Wilhelm's on November 11.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

