

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use, Transportation and Water Committee
Minutes

January 4, 2017, 9:10 to 11:10 AM

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; also Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Rick Fraites, Doug Karpa, David Lewis, Bob Miller, Kate Powers, Jill Templeton, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson, Greg Zitney. Guests: Ora Hatheway, rancher Albert Strauss

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING. Minutes of December 7, 2016 OK with one edit.

AGENDA. Doug Karpa added reports on Sierra Club lawsuits and creeks.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CODE/SLAUGHTER AMENDMENTS. David reviewed the current process to update the County Development Code with regard to animal slaughter facilities. Proposed changes to the Code are currently undergoing review by the Planning Commission and will come before the BoS in February or March. He noted: 1) There are three types of facility: a permanent structure, a mobile facility (fully-equipped tractor trailer, with federal inspector), and small-scale on-site operations for poultry. 2) The Development Code currently includes slaughter facilities in its definitions, but not as a land use; staff has recommended correcting this omission as there is a growing interest, and economic viability, in local small on-farm facilities, particularly for poultry. 3) There are now about 15 poultry producers in the county, largely organic producers and up from three operations in 2008. It is a relatively affordable option for entry level agricultural practitioners. 4) Currently, locally raised animals must be trucked to the Turlock/Modesto area for harvest. Larger animals go to Marin Sun in Petaluma and this practice will likely continue. 5) The PC has advised not pursuing provisions to permit large, "brick and mortar" facilities at this time but favors creating a path for small-scale on-farm poultry harvesting and mobile slaughter units. 6) The regional water board reviews "brick and mortar," small-scale and mobile slaughter facilities for water quality and waste management compliance.

Recommendation. M/S/P (Ann/Doug K) that MCL supports Marin County Development Code amendments to permit mobile and small-scale animal slaughter facilities in specific agriculturally-zoned districts, consistent with environmental and food safety provisions and MCL policies.

TOMALES BAY DUNN RANCH PROPOSAL. Dairyman Albert Strauss outlined his proposal for reuse of the Dunn Ranch property as a pilot project for a working agricultural operation in which MALT partners with PRNS/GGNRA to oversee/monitor leases to working farmers. This would be a new governance model in Marin County, and is based on the model pioneered by Ohio's Cuyahoga Valley National Park's "Countryside Initiative".

The 52-acre Marshall ranch was purchased by the NPS in 1992 with provision for the Dunn's agricultural right-of-use for 25 years, ending in 2017. There are two proposals for its future use. Along with the working ranch proposal, ACR proposes adding the property to its Cypress Grove complex. An ACR speaker will attend the Land Use February meeting to describe their proposal.

TAM/TRANSPORTATION ISSUES. 1) TAM is having a transportation innovation workshop on February 24. 2) San Rafael has hired former Supervisor Kinsey as a consultant to advise the City on how to address Bettini transit center conflicting uses when SMART trains begin displacing some current bus uses. 3)

Scoping for the SFD Blvd project EIR is Tuesday, January 10 with comments due on the 17th. This project is intended to repair pavement and improve vehicle flow, and transit, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation on the roadway between Hwy 101 and the Ross town limits. Project cost, \$13 to \$19 million, will be covered with proceeds from the county's 2004 Measure A transportation sales tax measure.

WATER ISSUES/MMWD. The major project in the month ahead is scoping comments for the MMWD EIR for the district's draft vegetation management plan (Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan or BFFIP). Comments are due February 3. MCL land use, parks & open space committees, and invasive plants working group will collaborate to prepare comments. The draft BFFIP does not consider any use of herbicides so we may ask for an alternative that does this.

AG LAND USE QUARTERLY MEETING. The committee will meet Friday, January 27, 10 AM at the Marin County Farm Bureau. Guest speaker will be Department of Fish and Wildlife Elk and Antelope Coordinator Joe Hobbs speaking about management of Tule Elk in California.

NOVATO GENERAL PLAN/NORTH MARIN UNIT. Work on the general plan update is moving slowly. Members of MCL's North Marin Unit will meet on January 5 with Greenbelt Alliance representatives to discuss working on renewal of the city's urban growth boundary.

HIGHWAY 37. A January meeting of the State Route 37 Policy Committee has been cancelled; the next meeting is February 2 at Mare Island.

COMMUNITY MARIN ACTION COMMITTEE. MCL and other environmental groups that participated in preparing *Community Marin 2013*, have been invited to reconvene to update the policy document. The document was first prepared in 1992 in preparation for the County's update of their countywide plan and it represented views of the major environmental groups on general plan issues. As the county prepares to begin its next amendment of the CWP in 2017, it is timely for groups to update the CM document. This amendment is expected to focus on climate change, especially sea level rise; creeks and waterways will also be a major topic in preparation for eventual preparation of a Stream Conservation Area ordinance.

SPAWN LAWSUIT/SIERRA CLUB PROPOSAL. Doug reported that the supplemental EIR for the 2007 CWP, to study cumulative impacts of development in the San Geronimo Valley, is still not out and SPAWN filed for an injunction. Marin Branch Sierra Club is trying to organize a coalition of groups – HOAs, environmental, etc – to jointly work on stream protection policies and lobby for their inclusion in the CWP.

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