

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE**  
**Land Use, Transportation and Water Committee**  
**April 5, 2017, 9:10 to 11 AM**

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; also Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Bob Miller, Pat Nelson, Kate Powers, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson, Greg Zitney. Guests: Henry Symons, Assemblyman Levine's office; Lorene Jackson, County Environmental Health.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING.** Minutes of March 1, 2017 OK as distributed.

**AGENDA.** OK.

**WOODACRE /SAN GERONIMO FLATS WASTEWATER RECYCLING PROJECT.**

Lorene Jackson, Marin County Environmental Health Services Project Manager, reviewed the history and current status of this draft project for which EIR scoping is due May 1. Background:

- 1997 – The San Geronimo Valley community plan identified shallow soils with low percolation rates and a high water table as a problem for septic systems in some areas.
- 2001 – Tomales Bay was tagged for a TMDL for high bacterial rate due to failing septic.
- 2007 – The Woodacre Flats Wastewater Group, a community group advocating for a new sewage treatment system, was formed. It remains active.
- 2010 – The San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan prepared, underscoring high priority repair needed for failing septic systems.
- 2011 – The *Woodacre Flats Wastewater Feasibility Study*, prepared for the county by Questa Engineering for an area comprised of about 150 parcels, mostly single-family residences, in a low-lying area known at the Woodacre Flats.
- 2017 - Subsequently the study area was expanded to include several other areas, including 350 parcels, and a number of alternatives for a community wastewater treatment. This is the subject of an expanded study entitled *Woodacre-San Geronimo Wastewater Recycling Study*, published in March 2017 and for which an EIR will be done.
- The final draft report includes seven alternatives, ranging from 176 to 420 connections, some in conjunction with a tertiary treatment plan, capacity of 44,000 to 60,000 gpd, at the golf course (providing a third of their summer usage), also having expanded storage ponds and/or leachfields. She said that residents of Forest Knolls, French Ranch, and other areas asked to be included in the project, which has led to the expanded feasibility study.

She reported bacterial studies at three sites, sampled four times in the past year at different times, indicated contaminants from human waste more prevalent than those from other species. Other comments in response to questions:

- System is designed for a 100-year flood; treated water overflow would not damage the creek.
- Growth limits could be established in an election required to set up a CSA for the tertiary treatment plant; suggestions have included permitting maximum of 500 s.f. over existing structure size, or basing a limit on median floor area of homes in the project area which could be about 2,500 s.f. cap (depends on where the boundaries of the area are).

- In establishing a community wastewater system in Marshall (about 50 parcels), about half of the funding was EPA grants with a \$25,000 assessment/parcel up front with 20 year payback.

Marin's Local Agency Management Plan (LAMP), under review by the county and which eventually must be approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, could affect the project. The LAMP, required by state board resolution 2012-0032, must describe county oversight procedures for onsite wastewater treatment systems. MCL will submit a letter for scoping the EIR. Project information is at:

<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/environmental-health-services/woodacre-san-geronimo-wastewater>

**TAM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.** M/S (Nona/Judy) and approved to recommend Kate be reappointed to TAM Citizen Oversight Committee. Kate noted TAM is conducting a survey to assess public interest in another vehicle tax. Also, Bay Area transportation officials are still considering a regional ballot measure to increase tolls on state-owned bridges as much as \$3. A host of Marin projects could get some funding from this.

**AG COMMITTEE.** The quarterly meeting will be at the end of July. Judy, Bob Miller, and Doug W had a "good meeting" with Supervisor Rodoni to discuss their efforts and related items.

**DIPSEA RANCH (WEISSMAN) MASTER PLAN.** This application to the county, incomplete at this time, proposes subdividing 8.3 acres on Panoramic Hwy into 13 single-family lots; there is already one residence on the property, and the application includes an adjacent 1.86 acre lot. Lots would range from 13,112 s.f. to 27,314 s.f. and access would be a new road off Panoramic.

**SOLAR ARRAY POLICIES/COUNTY DEV. CODE.** Nona suggested that Land Use and Climate Change committees each review the MCL policy and then compare notes.

**WATER ISSUES.** The water program on ocean acidification, on Thursday, March 23, was attended by about 20-25 persons and was very timely. Future programs are not yet planned. MMWD. A workshop and hearing on the proposed rate increase will be held April 11 and May 16. It is not clear that this is an issue on which MCL should comment. The draft EIR on the water district's vegetation management is not apt to be out for several months.

**NOVATO GENERAL PLAN/URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY ELECTION.** The city's is using 1996 maps which do not show all the creeks for the general plan update. A program is proposed to update the mapping. Staff is working with the Novato Sanitary District on zero waste disposal goals; the general plan set a 94 percent reuse goal, which may be high. Renewal of the urban growth boundary will be on the November 2017 city ballot and a campaign is projected to cost about \$15,000. Greenbelt Alliance, Marin Audubon and Sierra Club Marin Group are supporting this. A campaign committee will be formed soon.

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