

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE**  
**Land Use, Transportation and Water Committee**  
**May 3, 2017, 9:10 to 11 AM**

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; also Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Bob Miller, Kate Powers, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson, Greg Zitney. Guest: Laurie Williams.

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING.** Minutes of April 5, 2017 OK as distributed.

**AGENDA.** OK with addition of report on Muir Woods/Frank Valley.

**NOVATO CREEK WATERSHED, FLOOD CONTROL & ADAPTATION OPTIONS.**

Marin County Public Works Senior Planner Laurie Williams described the Novato watershed and efforts underway to diminish flood risk and achieve habitat improvements. She noted: Flooding, and the prospect of increased flooding due to rising bay waters has led to an effort to look at the entire watershed in a wholistic manner.

The fact that there are 1,200 acres of publicly-owned baylands with which to work between Costco (Vintage Oaks) and Deer Island is a major help.’

Like the Ross Valley program the effort established stakeholder, policy, and technical committees and developed a set of possible alternatives to address flooding in conjunction with watershed improvement. A hydraulic study was the keystone element. Following study a slate of potential projects evolved that could be presented to voters in conjunction with a campaign for a funding measure in November 2017.

A major element of the work would be restoration of 100 acres of diked baylands to tidal marsh. The goal of the planning group is that 30% of revenue for the projects would come from a parcel tax for the Zone 1 Flood District. (This district includes the City of Novato plus some outlying areas)

**Recommendation.** M/S (Randy/Ann) and approved to recommend that MCL support a funding measure for the Novato watershed and flood control effort.

**Proposed Parcel Tax for Watershed.** Committee reviewed the proposal for what was described as a parcel tax for watershed restoration in West Marin (the project description is undergoing change and later versions changed this title). West Marin resident Jerry Meral has proposed this county-wide parcel tax, which would have to be authorized by the Board of Supervisors, and would be overseen by an advisory committee.

**Recommendation.** M/S (Greg/Randy) and approved that MCL not endorse the proposed “parcel tax” at this time.

**TAM.** CalTrans is developing a state-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan.

**AG COMMITTEE.** There is not program set yet for the quarterly meeting at the end of July. Judy said there are uncertain reports about the status of the ranch management plan lawsuit.

**LOCAL COASTAL PLAN.** The Plan will not be effective until the environmental hazards section is complete and possible changes are going to the Board of Supervisors for action before the revisions go to the Coastal Commission for final approval.

**GNOSS FIELD AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTENSION.** Local user groups have protested the FAA's recommendation that a proposed 1,100 foot extension of the Gness Field runway be reduced to 300 feet. There will be a meeting May 18 to further discuss this project. The BoS approved the EIR for this project but the EIS is not yet certified.

**SOLAR ARRAY POLICIES/COUNTY DEV. CODE.** Land Use and Climate chairs Susan and Doug have discussed whether or not MCL current policy needs updating. Doug said his group doesn't see a need to change the existing position paper. The issue that brought this to light is that there are two recent proposals in the Gness area for commercial solar installations though both of these may not complete the application process.

**NOVATO GENERAL PLAN/URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY ELECTION.** This general plan revision is still moving slowly. The EIR may be out by the end of the summer. The ordinance for the UGB has not yet been written.

**RICHARDSON BAY ANCHOR-OUTS.** Susan noted that there is renewed attention to this situation as the number of boats illegally settled in the Bay waters has greatly increased. Many are derelict boats and Sausalito has taken the lead in trying to improve the situation in their waters.

**MUIR WOODS/FRANK VALLEY/FLAP.** Nona reported work in proceeding to NEPA/CEQA review for this project which has raised some concerns in the affected community. There are five different alternatives proposed for 2.5 miles of road from the entry of Muir Woods to Muir Beach (approximately where the Pelican Inn is Located). The FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) could provide \$5 million toward work on the road. Nona is drafting a letter to the alternatives and to encourage widening the road sufficiently for safety reasons but not enough to encourage speeding, and to minimize creek impacts.

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