

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use, Transportation and Water Committee
June 7, 2017, 9:10 to 11 AM

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; also Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Bob Miller, Kate Powers, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson, Greg Zitney.
Guest: Henry Symons with Assemblyman Levine's office.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING. Minutes of May 3, 2017 OK as distributed.

AGENDA. OK with addition of reports on Weissman master plan and Alto Tunnel.

SEIR/2007 CWP POLICIES CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ON SALMONIDS. Committee prepared comments regarding the adequacy of the SEIR on the 2007 CWP cumulative impacts to salmonids in the San Geronimo Valley. Among comments/suggestions were the following:

- The SEIR is inadequate with regard to mitigations for which there is insufficient information to support findings of less than significant, particularly with regard to performance standards.
- The report may meet the needs of the Court despite this shortcoming. There is an ample description of impacts from historic activities and from CWP policies.
- The report seems conservative in its estimation of buildout. The development potential described is unrealistically high and includes some parcels which may be undevelopable.
- This is a program EIR and the subsequent SCA ordinance, which is the centerpiece of the proposed mitigations, will be subject to further environmental review.
- Performance standards would define the ultimate goals of the ordinance.
- Analysis of cumulative impacts should include all reaches where development could occur.

Ann will pull together the various comments into a draft comment letter. This is due June 15.

PROPOSED PARCEL TAX FOR WATERSHEDS. Committee reviewed the May 23, 2017 revision of a proposal for a county-wide parcel tax for watershed restoration Marin County, inspired by the wide voter approval of 2016's regional Measure AA. West Marin resident Jerry Meral, who drafted the proposal and potential projects, has asked for MCL's support. Placement of a tax measure on the county ballot must be authorized by the Board of Supervisors and indications are that the BoS is prioritizing other funding measures at this time.

Recommendation. The committee consensus is that the draft plan is still not ready to be evaluated for merits. Among comments: the proposal would give priority to projects that protect drinking water but County drinking water is largely the provenance of two water districts so this is not clear; without a finished product it is pre-mature to consider endorsement at this time.

WATER ISSUES. 1) About 30 or more members of the public attended the recent MMWD board meeting to protest approval of purchase of chemicals used to fluoridate the drinking water supply as required by the state. Various speakers expressed their opinion that fluoridated water damages the brain and kidneys, lowers IQ, increases risk of arthritis and bone fractures, is promoted by shadowy forces, and does not prevent tooth decay. Two dentists spoke in favor of fluoridation. This matter has not been considered by MCL to be an environmental issue, but is

taking up considerable staff and board time. The board approved the purchase. 2) Open time at water board meetings continue to attract biking advocates asking for increased access on the watershed. 3) The Flood Zone 9 board will vote June 12 on re-allocation of a \$15.3 million IRWM grant approved for a detention project at Phoenix Lake now deemed to have structural hurdles. Staff recommendation for alternate grant use is a dual project: removal of the fish ladder at the Ross post office, and removing the bottom and one side of the concrete channel between the Stadium Way Bridge (behind Kent School) and the downstream end of the channel. This would allow broadening the channel in this stretch with restoration to provide habitat benefits. 4) Wording for a ballot measure for flood control and climate adaptation improvements on Novato Creek is incomplete. North Marin Unit will review and make a recommendation to MCL.

TAM. The TAM is moving ahead to develop a possible expenditure plan for the funding measure they hope to place on the ballot in 2018.

AG COMMITTEE. The July 28 meeting may feature a slide presentation by Marilyn Geary on the history of ranching in West Marin and a discussion of general management plan lawsuit.

GNOSS FIELD AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTENSION. At an FAA sponsored meeting last month for airport users, pilots objected to the FAA's proposal that an extension of 300 feet was sufficient for field activity. Susan noted that it appears the need is not so much for a longer runway as a broader one. There is uncertainty about where mitigation for any extension could be located as the FAA has a policy of no wetland restoration within six miles of plane activity. Possibly something at Hamilton or Las Gallinas would be satisfactory.

NOVATO URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY ELECTION. The ordinance for the UGB has not yet been written and is due, along with CEQA review, by early August.

CORTE MADERA INN & POND. The Planning Commission seems poised to recommend approval of a project that fills the existing pond/historic bayland and replaces it with a new pond in one corner of the property about 40 percent the size of the original. M/S (Doug/Priscilla) to write a follow-up letter to reiterate MCL's position supporting retention of the existing pond.

DIPSEA RANCH (WEISSMAN MASTER PLAN). Committee continued discussion of this proposal for 14 new lots ranging in size from 13,112 s.f. to 27,314 s.f. on an 8.3 acre parcel on Panoramic Hwy which is part of the Redwood Creek watershed; the creek drains into Muir Woods. Nine lots would be developed with market rate units and four with affordable units. One single-family house is proposed on a separate 1.86 acre parcel. Nona said she found the hydrology report's analysis regarding restoring drainage into Redwood Creek thorough.

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