

# MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

## Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: October 1, 2014

Present: Susan Stompe, chair; Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Bob Johnson, Doug Karpa, Jack Krystal, Kate Powers, Judy Teichman, Ann Thomas. Also Scott Alonso and a new staff person with Assemblyman Levine's office; Eric Steger, Marin County Public Works Assistant Director. Met 9 to 11.

**September 3, 2014 Meeting Notes.** Approved as corrected.

**Gross Field.** Eric Steger gave an overview of the long-running proposal to lengthen the runway at the county airfield by 1,100 feet on the north end. The work would also involve 240 foot runway safety zones on each end and extending the levees that protect the existing runway, which is below sea level. Eric said that the preliminary runway design would include wetland mitigation measures affecting the surrounding wetlands. He said there are currently 14 businesses at the airport for which the county receives one percent of profits. In conjunction with FAA modernizing their database Marin County is updating their information on the airport facility and have applied for a grant to do this. A merits hearing at the BOS on the application for an extension will be held in February.

Land Use attendees raised some questions and issues: 1) Bob asked if cost/benefit analysis had been done on the extension or if any growth-inducing impacts had been studied. Eric said the EIR/EIS looked at the issue in terms of changes in land use designations. 2) The North Marin Unit has recommended opposing the extension, also noting that sea level rise could put investment here at risk. 3) It was noted that as the extension would be higher than the existing runway that one or the other would have to be lowered or raised. 4) Randy suggested that if the existing levees are not sufficient to protect the current facility that putting money into providing for a larger facility should wait on taking measures to protect the existing runway. 5) It was noted that the levees will need to be raised to protect the new Hwy 101 routes.

**Recommendation.** It was recommended that MCL encourage consideration of a shorter extension to reduce impacts on wetlands, needed mitigation, and levee work.

**SB 743 Update.** This legislation was approved in a recent session and draft guidelines currently being drafted by the state's Office of Planning and Research raise concerns about how local jurisdictions will be able to address transportation issues during project environmental review. Nona said that the guidelines now being discussed, for which implementation is set for January 2016, have the commendable long-term goal of discouraging sprawl. They would do so, however, by eliminating the current Level of Service (LOS) calculations commonly used to evaluate traffic impacts of projects, one which is based on the stopped delay per vehicle at signalized intersections, with one based on vehicle miles traveled. In jurisdictions that have a general plan with traditional LOS standards, however, these would still have to be addressed in CEQA. She believes the response to this change would have to be to strengthen conditions of a project's approval including on issues such as noise and air quality.

**Recommendation.** M/S (Ann/Randy) and approved that Nona and Bob should prepare a letter to the OPR, copied to planning and transportation offices at Marin County, San Rafael and Novato, and to Assemblyman Levine, noting our concerns.

**Stream Conservation Area Ordinance/Work Program.** Progress on the ordinance remains at a standstill due to litigation, but the associated work program to assist streamside property owners is proceeding. To staff the work program the County funded a Stream Outreach Coordinator position through the Resource Conservation District. RCD recently completed their recruitment and filled the position with Sarah Phillips, who has a strong background in conservation and comes to Marin from San Luis Obispo. She will first be pursuing outreach to various agencies and groups along with developing an education program. County CDA also plans to update their SCA tool kit to reflect the current regulations (without the interim SCA ordinance) and the latest best management practices that homeowners can undertake near creeks

**Water Supply Project EIR.** Ann to prepare scoping comments on MMWD's proposed Watershed Supply Improvement Project which propose new facilities to approximately double storage capacity serving the Ross Valley and San Rafael service areas.

**Pt. Reyes National Seashore Ranch Management Planning.** Judy proposed that there should be a joint meeting of the MCL Land Use/Transportation, Parks and Open Space, Ag Land Use committees to hear reports from park service personnel regarding progress on the planning project and, notably, the pastoral zone tule elk issue. Those present agreed November 6 or November 12 would be best. Judy will contact park staff to see if these dates work for them.

**Easton Point.** Randy and Nona are working on a letter to go the Martha Company board members, based on a report that. TPL (Trust for Public Land), has an interest in participating in efforts to secure this site for open space, to express MCL's support that the acquisition efforts would go forward.

**Walk into History.** Nona plans the next walk on November 8 at Horse Hill in Mill Valley.

**Novato General Plan.** The staff working on the new General Plan have recommended removing or consolidating about 200 programs that are in the Environment Element of the current plan. The North Marin Unit is concerned that removing these programs could reduce the Plan's environmental protections,

**Agricultural Land Use Programs/Issues.** (Judy, Susan, Ann, Doug and Bob remained present). Judy reviewed a draft press release and other material for the October 19 program in Nicasio on natural fibers and dyes. She also raised the issue of having the MCL annual budget allow for funds to be used for public programs such as this, and this was referred to ODC or Ex Comm to consider. She and Sally are also planning the October 24 quarterly committee meeting in Point Reyes.

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