

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: November 7, 2012

Present: David Schnapf, chair; Priscilla Bull, Joy Dahlgren, Liz Dale, Nona Dennis, Don Dickenson, Randy Greenberg, Jana Haehl, Bob Johnston, John and Karen Nygren, Susan Stompe, Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson. Met at MCL conference room, 9 to 11.

Agenda. Added Easton Point to Back Burner.

October 3, 2012 Meeting Notes: M/S (Jana/Karen) and approved as submitted.

Scenic Highway Designation/Lucas Valley Road. Joy and Liz, who live in Lucas Valley, asked that MCL join them in asking the BOS to approve the county nominating Lucas Valley Road for designation as a Scenic Highway through Caltrans' California Scenic Highway Program. There was a lengthy discussion of possible benefits of this designation, but committee members thought more information was needed and that it would be advisable to establish the nomination process and costs to the county would be before MCL supports the nomination.

Recommended Action. It was M/S (Karen/Jana) and approved to recommend that MCL write to the BOS requesting that the county explore the process that would be required to seek a Scenic Highway designation for Lucas Valley Road from Highway 101 to Nicasio Valley Road. This should include information on cost and time, pros and cons of the designation, and how it would differ from existing county protections for the roadway.

According to Caltrans information, to receive this scenic highway designation the county, the agency with jurisdiction, must do the following: **1.**Evaluate the route to determine if it meets current scenic highway criteria and to what extent, if any, development has intruded on the scenic views. **2.** Submit a Resolution of Intent package to the Department Transportation Advisory Committee (DTAC) through a Caltrans district office. **3.** Prepare and adopt a scenic corridor protection program including ordinances to preserve the scenic quality of the corridor, or document that such regulations already exist in local codes. Nona noted the designation would mean that roadway views would be part of the CEQA checklist for development along the road.

Hwy 101/Greenbrae Corridor Project. TAM (Transportation Authority of Marin) does not plan to prepare an EIR for this large roadway project, but intends to do a negative declaration, based on input received at workshops on the project. Committee expressed concern that TAM is not complying with CEQA requirements for analysis and disclosure of environmental impacts of proposed projects, that this laxity is ill-advised and it would be important to object strongly.

Recommended Action. It was M/S (Ann/Randy) and approved to recommend that MCL discuss with other interested parties, such as Marin Audubon, options for legal action that would compel TAM to comply with CEQA and prepare an EIR on the Highway 101/Greenbrae Corridor project, and that MCL be prepared to spend up to \$2,000 for this effort, with the understanding that the concerned groups would exhaust administrative remedies before taking legal action.

Local Coastal Plan. On November 13 the BOS will continue discussing remaining issues including biological resources. Nona is conferring with Barbara Salzman of Marin Audubon and Amy Trainer of West Marin's Environmental Action Committee on mutual concerns so that hopefully they can concur on recommendations for resolution. Issues include establishing clear buffer requirements for streams and wetlands, and sensitive terrestrial communities.

PG & E Remediation Site, San Rafael. San Rafael is now considering, and PG and E is willing to pay for, comprehensive cleanup of the 17-acre former PG and E site along 2nd near the Corporate Center so that it would be suitable for residential use. Don said that there are toxics in the soil now that preclude residential construction. The remediation would include removal of 35,000 cubic yards of toxic soil that would be hauled elsewhere, possibly to Kettleman City. About 42,000 cubic yards of clean fill would have to be brought in.

San Rafael Airport Sports Complex Legal Involvement. No recent action has been taken.

Port Sonoma/Carneros Project. MCL submitted a scoping letter, and there was a scoping hearing on November 1. The comment period on the project has been extended to the end of November. A group representing the coalition that appealed the project approval met with Supervisor Arnold, who represents the 5th district. Supervisor Arnold agreed that the County would write a letter to the Sonoma Board asking that the EIR process address some of the impacts that would affect Marin, and it was noted that 99 percent of the people who would be affected by this project live in Marin including in Novato's Black Point

Marin County Housing Element. The draft EIR for the revised housing element should be released by the end of November and a Planning Commission hearing is scheduled in December. The EIR is reviewing all 52 sites in the unincorporated area designated as potential housing sites and MCL will comment on individual sites as appropriate. A committee member suggested that perhaps there should be some comment on the infeasibility of the element leading to this housing actually being built.

Community Marin. The policy document is in final editing stages and the coalition group meets on November 16 to discuss final formatting before document is copied.

Marin County Regulatory Improvement Advisory Committee. Nona is serving on this 12-member citizens group appointed to study how the County's development process can become more efficient. They had their first meeting on October 31 and the committee was charged with four areas to study: the permit process, CEQA local guidelines, exemption process for projects consistent with the Countywide Plan, and fee structure.

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