

Marin Conservation League

North Marin Unit

Draft Meeting Notes

November 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order at the home of Gail and Don Wilhelm. Attending were Joyce Applen, Bernie Meyers, Edith Piltch, Pat U'Ren, Frank U'Ren, Don Wilhelm, Gail Wilhelm, Dorothy Thomas and Susan Stompe.

Announcements: The next meeting of the "City Manager's Housing Working Group" is Nov. 17 at 6:30; the MCL Holiday party will be at the MCL office on Dec. 3; the North Marin Unit Holiday Potluck is on Dec. 9 at 6 at the Stompes. Don & Gail recommended seeing "Inside Job" at the Rafael theater. Bernie announced a meeting of NCRA on Dec. 8 at the County Civic Center.

Minutes: The notes of the Sept. 16 meeting were approved as amended to add Joyce in the 6th paragraph, of people from the unit who attended the presentation on the Hanna Ranch.

Housing Element: The subcommittee did not meet to make recommendations to the Community Marin Housing chapter. Susan told of the meeting with Susan Adams the week before when Susan Adams described meetings she has convened in the county to get some consensus on what needs to be changed about housing allocations. She will probably be President of ABAG 2011-2012.

North Marin Water District scoping: Susan circulated the letter MCL sent to NMWD for the pipeline scoping. She attended the scoping meeting. Renee Silveira was the only other member of the public.

North Coast Rail Authority: Bernie said the track may now be ready for freight trains at Class 3 (40 mph or less) from Schellville to Windsor. Before the freight trains can run, an application to the FRA (Federal Rail Authority) is needed as well as FRA clearance. NWP is the freight operator. The FRA has requested NCRA, NWP and SMART sign the application. SMART will not sign off on the application to FRA. The operator has rights under its lease with NCRA, which lease can be unilaterally extended for 105 years, without much NCRA supervision. Under the lease NWP will not be paying much in the way of fees, but it gets substantial public funds. Operators are generally controlled by federal law. There was some discussion of extending freight north of Willits opening an issue of gravel mining on the Eel River.

Transportation issues: Don reported that some SMART board members and staff went to Japan the test ride trains built by the preferred manufacturer. They apparently liked the trains, but the railcar decision was postponed to December. At the SMART meeting in Santa Rosa this week the Board decided to reduce the initial service area from Santa Rosa Railroad Square to the Marin Civic Center because there are not enough funds available to do the promised Cloverdale to Larkspur service. SMART promised "slow train" to Cloverdale and Shuttle buses to Larkspur. Steve Kinsey was unhappy that there was not a more detailed fiscal analysis. The towns in northern Sonoma County are unhappy about the change.

Firemans Fund: Gail reported that the DEIR should be available in January. It has been delayed because of inadequate information from the applicants to the EIR consultants.

MOST: Joyce reported that the art show is open until Nov. 20. Ann Thomas has joined the MOST Board..

The City manager will join us for a conversation at our January meeting, Jan. 31

The next meeting will be the Holiday Potluck at the Stompes on Dec. 9.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Notes by S. Stompe