Summary of Comments Received since September 18, 2010

From Parks & Recreation Commissioner Joan Murray

This may fit into the Natural Environment or Community Vitality workgroup:

- Sports field and open space acquisition, development, and sharing
- The City of Mill Valley should look to developing relationships with other jurisdictions in Southern Marin that would allow development and access to sports field space and purchase of open space. One possibility is the field space at Tam Valley School, which could be developed and upgraded. Policies at Mill Valley Parks & Rec could be developed so that for-profit sports activities could be assigned to fields further away from town i.e., Tam Valley School. <Per Danielle Staude: Part of Community Vitality>

Comments from Jerry Cahill:

4.4.7 Solar ready: "where feasible" should be revised. Although it may feasible to install solar on a project located on north-facing canyon walls of Cascade canyon, the solar panels would not receive enough sunlight to generate enough power or heating water to justify the installation. I would substitute: "In locations where a solar system can be shown to be cost effective...."

Suggested editing by Betsy Bikle, 9/18/12

Draft Goals:

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>(4th Mill Valley value:) Volunteerism and working with city staff to responsibly manage and administer Mill Valley's resources so that they are available for the use and enjoyment of existing and future generations of people, plants, and animals with the goal of leaving resources in excellent functioning and aesthetic condition.

Preamble:

Nestled between the salt marshes of the San Francisco Bay and the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais, Mill Valley exists where it does because of the attraction of the natural environment. Mill Valley's natural environment continues to evolve due to the unique combination of climate changes, habitat adaptation, land slides and earthquakes, rise in sea level and perhaps fire. From the earliest settlements of the Coast Miwok Indians in the territory that became known as Eastland to the present day's urban settlement, the natural environment supports the essence of Mill Valley. Over a century of urbanization has created changes to the landscape and settlement, but Mill Valley's vitality hinges on our ability to sustain the ecosystem. At the same time, natural and manmade disruptions and dangers need to be recognized, anticipated, and addressed. Human endeavors balanced with natural processes will create a dynamic Mill Valley.

Goals, Policies, Programs:

- 1.3.6 Reduce litter. Encourage a "pack it out" ethic to reduce litter, dog waste, and promote individual responsibility for helping to maintain natural areas.
- 2.1.3 Access. Provide access ...etc. Add: Post signs warning of no fishing due to presence of threatened fish and signs allowing activity in the creek only after spawning and early development of young fish i.e. July, August, September, October.
- 2.1.5 Creek Preservation. Preserve,, etc. Add: Develop pools, riffles, cover and slow flow areas for fish. Remove or provide alternatives to barriers to fish movements.
- 2.1.9 and 10: combine?
- 2.1.11 Volunteerism. Use etc. Add: Collaborate with community groups to seek grant funding. Keep channels of communication flowing back and forth city and citizens regarding proposed alterations of private projects seeking city approval and of public land.
- 3.1 ... that go beyond not goes in last line

- 4.3.1 Storm water. Require Add: Encourage and provide storm water retention education and incentives for existing development.
- 4.3.2 Investigate the possibility of refitting Cascade Dam for use in case of drought or emergency.
- 4.3.4 Investigate possibility of developing wastewater/// (may not be feasible at SASM due to saltwater intrusion.)
- 6.6 Develop post disaster concept plan
- 6.6.1 map 30 foot riparian zone. Indicate no development areas.
- 6.6.2 Plan for redevelopment according to current code.
- 6.6.3 Develop plans for improved street drainage, fish passage, and other improvements.

Comments from Barbara Wilson

GOAL 2

Preserve, restore or rehabilitate the integrity, function, productivity and long-term viability and resiliency of the ecosystem and its ecologically sensitive and significant natural communities and wildlife habitats.

Policies

2.1 Resource Preservation and Restoration. Utilize a watershed approach (as compared to a parcel-by-parcel approach) to identifying, preserving or rehabilitating natural resources that contribute to the community's native plant and wildlife species value and to its aesthetic character. All "best practices" will naturally follow the use of this framework.

Program Suggestions:

2.1.1 Adopt a watershed protection district as modeled http://www.ricocolorado.org/gov/watershed_planning.html through City Council as has been done in Rico, CO and Ventura County. (See attached.)

GOAL 3

All planning and decision-making processes should integrate sustainability and resource conservation.

Policies

3.1 Leadership and Coordination. Collaborate with local, state and federal agencies and private organizations to initiate and implement sustainable policies and programs.

Develop and promote sustainable practices using an ecosystem and watershed approach to solving resource related issues that goe beyond political boundaries.

Program Suggestions:

- 3.1.1 Coordination. Continue coordination efforts with Marin County and its jurisdictions to jointly develop, create and implement common sustainability practices.
- 3.1.2 Purchasing practices. Adopt purchasing practices and standards that support climate action policies and reductions in Greenhouse Gas emissions.
- 3.1.3 Remove regulatory barriers. Remove barriers in existing City policies and regulations to allow for the application of new technologies that are environmentally beneficial
- 3.1.3 Review and update regulations. Encourage review of the Municipal Code to update regulations based on best practices and new technology.
- 3.1.4 Review creek setback requirements. Review and clarify creek setback requirements in zoning code

Other

5.2 Sense of Urgency in Adapting to Climate Change. Ground climate change adaptation strategies in the best-available scientific understanding of hazards, risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities, and make adaptation planning and implementation a City budget and operational priority

I am wondering if it would be possible to put some more specific language into this section for mandating "adapation" be a line item in the City budget. Not sure that the exisiting 5.2 language is forceful enough.

Program Suggestions:

- 1.3.1: Raise the money to hire a City of Mill Valley Sustainability Director to organize all activities among the ngo's, schools, city government and agencies, businesses and neighborhood organizations.
- 1.3.1: Create a Facebook Page and/or a Google+ group page where local residents can share ideas on an ongoing basis. Coordinate with Nextdoor.com and the Council of Neighborhoods.

- 1.3.1: Put out a call for volunteer grant writers and researchers so that Mill Valley can stay in the forefront and benefit from all possible monies.
- 1.3.3 Community Challenges: (See below) Use contests with Community Vitality arts and culture venues and programs + local businesses donated prizes to encourage community engagement and fun to accomplish any and all goals for resilience.
- 1.3.5 Signage: include the City of Mill Valley website on all signs.
- 1.3.6 Reduce waste..Encourage school, business and neighborhood based litter contests with prizes to be free services, theater tickets, restaurant, coffee, books, etc. Coordinate with Community Vitality on this enterprise.

Coordinate with the schools, City Council and others to encourage the use and updating of environmental monitoring smart phone applications like the free application downloadable at http://creekwatch.researchlabs.ibm.com/., or http://www.mobilethinkers.com/2010/12/mobile-app-tracks-invasive-species/, and others as they become available.

- 1.3.7: Develop a program with the "Sustainability Officer" to coordinate walking tours of demonstration homes and gardens where folks are willing on certain days to have open houses to anyone living in Mill Valley. Eventually this might expand to include whole neighborhoods and watershed sub drainage sections.
- 1.3.7 Sponsor invasive species removal contests among neighborhood groups. A prize might be that winners could be recognized at the Memorial Day Parade and other community-wide events.
- 1.3.8: Develop a corps of local sustainability docents who will visit new residents if they opt in to the volunteer service.

Sponsor a yearly environmental short film contest for children and/or their families to be shown at the library and to be posted on the Mill Valley website.

5.2.1 Adaptation plans and policies. Develop adaptive plans and policies on a continual basis, and amend as needed (rather than waiting for more complete understanding of climate change and/or data). Adjust plans and actions according to new data and information

Again, how can we integrate this into the budgetary process in a way that ensures authentic accountability?

- 5.2.2 Adaptation planning and funding. Prioritize adaptation planning and funding to help people, places, and infrastructure that are most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- 5.2.3..Coordinate with Council of Neighborhoods and existing Resilient Neighborhood Teams, Walk way groups, businesses, schools, etc. This can be best developed and coordinated by the "Sustainability Program Director."
- 5.2.3 City infrastructure. Establish a long-term strategy for adapting critical City infrastructure.
- 5.2.4 Coordination and education. Promote adaptation across multiple sectors. geographical scales, and levels of government. Build on the existing efforts and knowledge of a wide range of stakeholders who understand local or regional risks and needs.
- 5.2.4 Fund a full time position of Sustainability or Climate Adaptation Manager.

Laura Chariton

446 Panoramic Hwy.

Mill Valley, CA. 94941

September 11, 2012

Danielle Staude and the City of Mill Valley Planning Group of the

Natural Environment

RE: General Plan Update

Dear Planning group;

I live in your watershed on the boundary of Mill Valley and have a tributary of Old Mill Creek that runs through my yard. I have written my master's thesis *Revitalizing Riparian Legacy in Mill Valley through Policy Advocacy* and been involved with watershed issues here in Mill Valley for 5 years. The paper is now posted online at: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/foebbj6q500n58v/FhcVezbRpo

I am restoring the damaged riparian area that flows through our land with native vegetation.

I am giving you, today, the Executive Summary that was written with Susan Ives Communications for the City 5 months ago. I have given copies of my paper to many members of your group in hopes that you may benefit from my research. Within it you will find informed program incentives for creating change and support for watershed wide protection. Since it is a large paper, I recommend you look at the Executive Summary, Conclusion of Section I and all of Section II, where the current and proposed codes and ordinances are located. We have an opportunity here to improve the existing plan that has many good basic facets. However, times, challenges and science have changed in 25 years. The Countywide plan of 2007 has some good information.

There are two extraordinary issues that Mill Valley is faced with that are not mentioned in the plan thus far: extinctions of species such as the coho salmon in 1991 and that steelhead are on the endangered species list now. Well known in scientific circles, biodiversity is the key to natural resilience. We need to emphasize this in the plan especially because of the National Marine Fisheries Service Steelhead Recovery Plan for the San Francisco Bay, California Department of Fish and Game Coho and Steelhead Recovery Strategies and the work of BayKeepers, Mill Valley StreamKeepers and the numerous groups that are striving to recover these species. I am hoping that this new plan would reflect the hundreds of millions of dollars that are being spent by the state and federal governments on these issues. I

am also hoping that it would take a watershed approach to solutions. The plan isn't there yet.

The other issue is water quality as Mill Valley's water is listed impaired by the State and water is the foundation of all life.

I don't expect you to know the state and federal laws regarding salmonids such as the steelhead but, I hope you understand the significance of this species in the environment; how many other species such as marine mammals, sharks, otters and birds are reliant on them. The time they spend in our watershed is only half their life story. The other half is in the ocean. The same is true of our water, one partly of sky, partly in our creeks and part in the ocean with the exception of that which is retained here in the hills and vegetation. The importance of rain water retention on hills, for vegetation and fish, for building the marshes, water quality and year round quantity in creeks cannot be overstated.

The plan overall needs to reflect the importance of fresh water in the ecosystem and spend a lot more time on how we can improve it while it is in our care. We should be monitoring its quality for us and the fish and improving natural hydrology and fluvial geomorphology. These will improve our recovery chances in the face of climate change events.

Other cities are doing much better than ours in protecting their watersheds and species. Without stronger safeguards in planning and implementation, Mill Valley is opening itself up to legal vulnerability because of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.

I appreciate the move to live sustainably but Marin County's demographic has one of the highest carbon footprints on the planet as well as one of the highest consumption rates of natural resources. Overall, the plan is over focused on disasters and energy rather than protecting and enhancing the existing ecosystems functionality. In wording policy, mere suggestions and promotions are not requirements and have no real teeth to protect the environment. We need change, now, if we are to be responsive to these climate change and ecological issues.

Trees make oxygen and store carbon, and creeks need to be protected for fish and other animals. The structural integrity of the hills, the natural hydrology and biodiversity needs to be protected and enhanced. Please focus your attention on the specifics of what rehabilitation and restoration, often mentioned in the plan entails. Steps to be taken by the city immediately should target detrimental development and building, existing non-permeable surfaces and in improving rather than creating and causing negative impacts.

We need to protect the 37 species of native trees at all different life stages, not just the three large species of Madrone, Redwood, and Oak if we want to see any biodiversity and regeneration. I have attached a list of those trees except for Juglans

Hindsii, Northern California Black Walnut that is being considered for the endangered species list. A few months ago, one of the largest and only specimens in Mill Valley was cut down unknowingly.

Regular monitoring needs to be established for water quality, salmonid species and habitat within the Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio, not just carbon use impacts.

Following are some items in the current version of the plan that I have questions about: Please make a point to get these sections line numbered because it is pretty hard to make comments on minor changes to wording, especially without lines or numbering indicated. Tell your group they should at least do that so the public can comment on the proper section and be understood.

Incorporated into 9/18 draft document

V = Ince

Page 2

Define "benchmark study"

Regularly update the "benchmark study" is too vague. Please define Benchmark Study. Their needs to be regular requirements as part of staff responsibility to visit this at least every 5 years as they do with the housing element of the General Plan.

Add "flooding" to the last part.

Page 3.

"Program suggestions" is way too vague to have impact. It should say program requirements.

There needs to be introduced "a watershed property tax" to implement programs of outreach and education. The county is considering just such a tax. The city should also. There is no mention about how programs will be funded.

The community outreach section does not address ecosystem education at all.

Sustainability is not the same as preserving, conservation and restoring damaged critical habitat and ecosystems.

Instead of Challenge the community to practice sustainability through engaging and fun activities such as the Low Carbon Diet and other programs......You should say; provide literature to the community about how to care for creeks, removing invasive species, the significance of native plants and why they need to be protected and planted for critical habitat restoration and for fire safety,

Why did you take out Best Practices: Utilize best practices for restoring and rehabilitating the ecosystem balance needs of the community and the ecosystem.

Page 4

Program suggestions should say: "Program Requirements"

Modify City standards and regulations to ensure that valuable natural resource areas are preserved and rehabilitated. take out "or." Change rehabilitated to "restored."

Create a list of riparian and oak woodland trees, shrubs and grasses to be protected. The county has a wonderful list to begin with. Right now, the city only protects three extremely large trees with no possibility of regeneration.

Retain plant and wildlife habitat areas, including where there area known sensitive resources...... is already protected under state and federal laws and that the city has heretofore been ignoring.

Preserve the ecological integrity of creek corridors is also, critical habitat for salmonids and therefore under state and federal regulations protected,

You need to have a list of protected plants and non- allowable and allowable activities in the riparian zones.

Same as "preserve and protect riparian and creek resources in compliance with applicable regional state and federal regulations."

Sustainability is not the same as protecting an ecosystem.

Page 5

Policies: Uses ecosystem should add: "watershed" approach to solving resource related issues.....

Incentive programs such as rainwater storage and greywater system guidelines are already part of state law through the state building code.

 $m{ ilde{x}}$ valuate existing city owned landscapes and $\,$ add "parking lots"

In compliance with NPDES requirements, install rainwater, rain-garden and bioretention basins to filter pollutants from stormwater run off from existing parking lots and streets.

Establish new development standards the (TYPO) should say that promote - but Change to that "require" permeable pavement and reduce lot coverage.

Please clarify the vagueness of the Creek Setback ordinance for several issues:

Setback description from top of bank, when the top of bank is eroding into the creek where there are listed steelhead is not a good place to measure from because, in the case of La Goma, the bank needs restoration and the measurement will actually be much closer to the creek than allowable by code in a flood zone

Page 6

Refit Cascade Dam? What are the seismic issues from having a dam in Cascade Canyon

Your consideration of these issues is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Laura Chariton

ATTACHMENT 1 - Ordinance #3342

Trees Native to Marin County

Botanical Name	Common Name	Diameter at Breast Height
Acer macrophyllum	Big-leaf maple	10 inches
A. negundo var.	Box elder	10 inches
californicum		To mones
Aesculus californica	California buckeye	10 inches
Alnus rhombifolia	White alder	10 inches
A. rubra	Red alder	10 inches
Amelanchier alnifolia	Service-berry	10 inches
Arbutus menziesii	Pacific Madrone	6 inches
Castanopsis chrysophylla	Giant Chinquapin	10 inches
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain-mahogany	10 inches
Crataegus douglasii	Hawthorn	10 inches
Cupressus sargentii	Sargent cypress	6 inches
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon ash	10 inches
Garrya elliptica	Silk tassel	10 inches
Lithocarpus densiflorus	Tanbark oak	10 inches
Myrica californica	Wax myrtle	10 inches
Pinus muricata	Bishop pine	10 inches
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas-fir	10 inches
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	6 inches
Q. chrysolepis	Canyon live oak	6 inches
Q. douglasii	Blue oak	6 inches
Q. garryana	Oregon oak	6 inches
Q. kelloggii	California black oak	6 inches
Q. lobata	Valley oak	6 inches
Q. parvula var. shrevei	Oak	6 inches
Q. wislizeni	Chaparral oak	6 inches
Salix exigua	Narrow leaved willow	6 inches
S. laevigata	Red willow	6 inches
S. lasiolepis	Arroyo willow	!
S. lucida ssp. lasiandra	Shining willow	6 inches
S. scouleriana	Scoulier's willow	6 inches
S. sitchensis	Sitka willow	6 inches
Sambucus callicarpa	Red elderberry	6 inches
Sequoia sempervirens	Coast redwood	
Taxus brevifolia	Pacific yew	10 inches
Torreya california	California nutmeg	10 inches
Umbellularia californica	California bay	10 inches
	ouy	10 inches