

Newsletter

Our Mission: To enhance and preserve the beauty and environment of the area, ensure the health and safety of residents, and protect the peaceful enjoyment of the residents' homes.



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From the Board

It has been a while since the Coalition has sent you an update. Much has been happening in our neighborhoods, and our Board and committees have been busy! Hopefully, our Newsletter (with its spiffy new format!) will catch you up on all the doings of the Coalition and its committees.

Our New Improved Website: If you have visited our website lately, you will see that it is full of information and has been updated regularly by our Board and various committees with the latest activities, issues and news of concern to our neighborhoods. Go to www.sprcoalition.org and check it out regularly to keep up with changing events. More information on the items in this Newsletter, as well as the Newsletter itself, can be found there.

Please **mark your calendar** for our upcoming Annual Community Meeting on August 22, 2009 from 9:30 to noon at St. Luke's Church, 10 Bayview Drive. Hope to see you there!

Bonnie Marmor, Co-President
 Pt. San Pedro Road Coalition

Support the Coalition
 Make a tax-deductible donation

Go to
www.sprcoalition.org/donate/

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Community News

The Coalition keeps track of several items and events of interest to our neighborhoods that are not related to specific activities or committees of the Coalition. Examples of such information are:

- construction plans for the 3rd and Union intersection (now having begun on June 15)
- a fundraiser to support all San Rafael public schools at Andy's Market scheduled for September 26
- a warning about a recent rash of burglaries in our area

For more information, go to the **Community News** page on our website at www.sprcoalition.org.

San Rafael Rock Quarry Committee



Healthy Air? Not when the Final EIR allows open strip mining in a residential area without first determining a set of best

practices that protect the public, unabated distribution of known carcinogens, and twice as many daily truck trips than should be permitted!

As many of you are aware, residents of our neighborhoods have long been concerned with the health risks from toxic emissions emanating from San Rafael Rock Quarry operations as well as other problems caused by those operations such as noise, blasting and truck traffic. With good reason, we fear the long-term effects of the exposure to air contaminated by known carcinogens, such as crystalline quartz silica and diesel, especially the effects on the most vulnerable residents: children and the elderly.

After years of pushing for a full Environmental Impact Report, the proposed Final EIR was released by the County in January 2009. After careful review, the Coalition has concluded that there are serious flaws in the FEIR, and that it should not be certified by the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

The Coalition has stated its opposition to the FEIR in a Position Paper presented to the Supervisors (and available on our website) that also proposes a solution addressing our serious concerns. The FEIR contains an option, called the "Reduced Alternative," that the Coalition could support if it were selected by the Board of Supervisors and modified in a number of respects, all of which are detailed in our Position Paper.

By the way, back in January, the IJ ran a story about the dismissal of a lawsuit against the Quarry, and the publication of a costly study paid for by the Quarry, that could

easily cause readers to think that air quality concerns raised by operations of the Quarry have evaporated. This is far from the truth. The lawsuit against the Quarry was brought by an environmental group, "As you Sow," and was dropped because its expert made errors that caused an overstatement of risks. The IJ article asserted that the Quarry "... won the latest round in its bid to convince the public that its operations are not fouling the air with cancer-causing dust and diesel fumes." The health risks are, however, quite real and the FEIR understates them. As just one serious example, the FEIR allows the SRRQ to emit unsafe levels of toxic air contaminants by "trading" them for lowered emissions at some other Dutra-controlled facility.

You may have seen on the news recently that Dutra's proposed Petaluma asphalt plant appears to be going down to defeat before a divided Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Earlier, that project was tentatively approved until Petaluma residents, especially a group called "Moms for Clean Air," united against the approval. The Dutra-owned SRRQ has an asphalt plant, too! We are dealing with that issue in addition to the issues discussed above. Like the proposed Petaluma project, the SRRQ is adjacent to a wonderful public park and precious wetlands as well as private residences.

Meantime, complaints continue about blasts so strong they shake homes with frightening force, awaken children from their naps, and cause people to inspect their homes for damage. The County needs to know when blasts are disturbing residents. To report complaints, please email the County at bdavidson@co.marin.ca.us or go to the

Quarry Committee Overview page on our website for the mailing address and telephone numbers. Also copy us at news@sprcoalition.org as well with your complaints so we can keep track. We have also posted copies of complaints on **Quarry Committee News** page our website made in the past couple of weeks.

For more information, go to the San Rafael Rock Quarry Committee pages on our website at www.sprcoalition.org. This includes Overview, News and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Loch Lomond Marina Committee



The construction of the planned development at the Loch Lomond marina ("The Village at Loch Lomond Marina") is currently suspended awaiting better economic conditions and the potential sale of the property. The current permits, which would have expired in August 2009, have been extended by the state and are valid until August 20, 2010. It is possible that the state will add further extensions.

Thompson/Dorfman of Sausalito, the

company that had been acting as local developer and processors for Oaktree Capital (owner of the Marina property) has been replaced by Real Estate Strategies and Solutions, Inc., a company headquartered in Emeryville. This new firm has begun working with the City to set up the Mello Roos Assessment District for the marina park and breakwater path as required by the project approvals.

Meanwhile, the Marina Oversight Committee continues to monitor the situation.

For more information, go to the Loch Lomond Marina Committee pages on our website at www.sprcoalition.org. This includes Overview, News and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Medians Committee



The Medians Committee has been actively working on alternative plans and funding strategies for the beautification and maintenance of the medians along Pt. San Pedro Road. This has been especially difficult in light of the current economic

situation and the fact that two jurisdictions, City of San Rafael and Marin County, are involved.

The Committee is now seeking to expand its membership by asking for a representative from each homeowners association along Pt. San Pedro Road so that everyone's issues and concerns are included.

Representatives of the committee met with Marin County Supervisor Susan Adams, San Rafael City Manager Ken Nordhoff, City Councilman Damon Connolly, and a representative of County Parks and Open Space. We were pleased there was a commitment by the City and County to work together with the community to find a solution and funding sources to deal with beautification and maintenance of the medians. At the end of the meeting, we were encouraged by our progress in:

- instituting ongoing joint meetings
- obtaining likely commitment for some County funds for a one-time clean up the medians
- reaching tentative agreement on safety improvements

For more information, go to the Medians Committee pages on our website at www.sprcoalition.org. This includes Overview, News and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Wetlands Committee



The Wetlands Committee successfully raised \$25,000 to have the broken flap gate that connects the Beach Drive wetlands to the Bay replaced. That project was completed last year.

The committee is now turning its attention to the inlet between the Loch Lomond Marina and Beach Drive (part of the Bayside Acres subdivision) that is filling with silt. This threatens the health of the Beach Drive wetlands as well as the use of the inlet by residents with houses along the waterfront.

Another area of concern is the wetlands on the Dutra-owned property between Pt. San Pedro Road and the San Rafael Rock Quarry. The deteriorating condition of this wetland has been brought to the attention of the Dutra Group as well as the County.

For more information, go to the Wetlands Committee pages on our website at www.sprcoalition.org. This includes Overview, News and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Your contribution to the Coalition is tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our federal tax identification number is 68-0458233. You can use PayPal from our website at www.sprcoalition.org/donate/ to make easy and secure online contributions in support of the Coalition's endeavors. We hope you are able to include the Coalition in your charitable contributions, even in these financially difficult times.

Disaster Preparedness Committee

| CITY OF SAN RAFAEL DISASTER PLAN WORKSHEET | |
|---|--|
| City of San Rafael Numbers & Websites | Other Important Phone Numbers |
| EMERGENCY 9-1-1 | American Red Cross (Marin) 721-2365 |
| Police Department 485-3000 www.srpd.org | CalTrans Highway Conditions 800-427-7623 |
| Fire Department 485-3304 www.srfd.org | San Rafael Chamber of Commerce 454-4163 |
| Fire Department Vegetation Mgmt 485-3488 | FIRESafe Marin 446-4420 |
| Office of Emergency Services 485-3111 | Marin County Fire Dept. 499-6717 |
| Public Works 485-3355 | Marin County Sheriff 479-2311 |
| Community Development 485-3085 | Marin County Office of Emergency Services 499-6584 |
| Community Services 485-3333 | Marin Humane Society 883-4621 |
| Volunteer Programs 485-3407 www.sanrafaelcvc.org | Pacific Gas & Electric 800-743-5000 |
| Redevelopment Agency 485-3383 | Poison Control 800-222-1222 |
| Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training | Get Ready Marin! |

Several Disaster Preparedness classes have been held in our neighborhoods under the auspices of Get Ready Marin. This has resulted in more individuals trained with the skills to be of service in an eventual disaster such as fire, flood or earthquake.

However, more people need to be trained and more work needs to be done in organizing and coordinating the various associations and individual throughout the Pt. San Pedro Road corridor. The Disaster Preparedness Committee is also seeking a permanent Chair.

For more information, go to the Disaster Preparedness Committee pages on our website at www.sprcoalition.org. This includes Overview, News and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).