

THE COALITION'S 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2020 GOALS

2019 was a particularly active year for the Coalition and its committees! We acted on a wide range of issues important to residents of the Pt. San Pedro Road Peninsula. Our website (www.sprcoalition.org) is an excellent source for community news and updates as well as in-depth information on the work of the Coalition's committees, so please visit it regularly. Also, please sign up for our email and mail list, if you have not yet done so, using the applicable form under the "Contact Us" menu on our website. You can use our website to sign up for our committees, too. Please spread the word to your neighbors.

The following is a summary of past Coalition activities and future plans:

Disaster Preparedness Committee

The past year has been busy for our Disaster Preparedness Committee! In the spring, we held a meeting to inform residents about San Rafael's draft Wildfire Protection Plan. We also had a very successful weed and scotch broom pull on the fire trail at the end of Bayside Drive, which increased the ability for firefighters to access our fire roads and triggered further grading and clean up, crucial for fire safety in our area.

In October, the Coalition conducted a HOA and disaster preparedness leader's training program to assist leaders with organizing Neighborhood Response Groups and creating Firewise Neighborhoods. Attendees were energized to promote "Get Ready" programs, neighbor-to-neighbor support in each of their communities, and shared ideas to help their residents to prepare for the various challenges they could face in a fire, earthquake or other disaster. In the coming year, the Committee plans ongoing support for HOA and DP leaders and other interested residents by providing training programs in our area including "Get Ready" individual preparedness, CERT training, disaster first aid, and CPR.

Four work groups were formed addressing community wide issues: community resources, utilities, medical services, and evacuation. **Community resources** will identify facilities such as markets to provide on-going services, and **utilities** will explore providing uninterrupted power, water, and sewer. **Medical services** will address when public first responders are overwhelmed or medical facilities unreachable, and **evacuation** will deal with coordination of City and County emergency services regarding local evacuation sites and plans, including stockpiling emergency supplies. Those interested on serving on these committees should email John Lenser, committee chair, at john@lenser.com.

The County advises citizens to be prepared to take care of basic needs for 5 to 7 days. Some of our local neighborhoods have already organized, and organizing efforts have been launched in others. For more information about preparedness, go to www.readymarin.org as well as the Disaster Prep section on the Coalition website, <https://sprcoalition.org/disaster-prep/>

San Rafael Rock Quarry Committee

The Quarry continues to operate a substantial commercial mining operation at the east end of Pt. San Pedro Road. For many years, the Quarry operated with few restrictions, but for the past decade has been required to adhere to conditions the Coalition pushed for to reduce negative impacts of Quarry operations on our neighborhoods. Our past Quarry-related efforts have included successful legal action in conjunction with the County and the State that resulted in environmental review and, in 2010, a new Operating Permit with 172 operating conditions that significantly reduced the impact of Quarry operations on our neighborhoods.

Under state mining law, the Quarry is required to perform reclamation annually in compliance with a detailed Reclamation Plan to ensure that the Quarry site will be returned to other productive uses once mining ceases. A bond is required to secure funding for that purpose in the event Quarry owners do not complete required reclamation. The final phase of reclamation involves planning for the future use of the site.

In May of this year, we were pleased that the 1st District Court of Appeals affirmed the Marin County Superior Court decision in favor of the Coalition preventing the Quarry from expanding its operations. The California Supreme Court refused to hear the Quarry's petition to review that decision, thus ending the matter. Separately, the Coalition had to incur legal expenses in 2019 relating to the Quarry's application to extend operations from 2024, when the current operating permit expires, for another 15 years to 2039. The original application was woefully inadequate, and following submission of Coalition objections by our attorney, the initial application was withdrawn. A new application addressing many of our prior objections was filed—but this time asking for a 20-year extension to 2044. The request includes submission of a new, much lengthier, schedule for reclamation of the Quarry site. If the request is granted, planning for the end use of the site will be delayed by 20 years and will not be within the purview of San Rafael's General Plan 2040.

It is now up to the County to determine the next steps for the application, including what environmental review will be required. That determination is now in process and we will be advocating for a thorough review and submitting comments to ensure that community concerns are considered. History of the Quarry and the changes to its operations over the years, especially since 2003, can be found on the Coalition website.

Roadway Committee

The Roadway Committee and its various subcommittees continues to be very active in issues related to the vital roadway in our corridor.

Point San Pedro Road Traffic and Safety Issues: The committee has worked with homeowners' associations along Pt. San Pedro Road as well as the City and the County to identify and address traffic, pedestrian crossing and other safety issues along the roadway.

Traffic Congestion Mitigation: We have been particularly active in providing input to the City in their planning efforts regarding pedestrian crossing and traffic issues at 3rd and Hetherton. In addition to, and related to that issue, we have provided input to the Golden Gate Transit District in their planning efforts for the new San Rafael Transit Center. Other City and Caltrans projects that affect our Peninsula residents' ability to access downtown or the entrances and exits to Highway 101 have been on our active agenda. The SMART train and its impact on traffic problems for Peninsula residents of the scheduled extension of SMART from Downtown San Rafael to Larkspur has become an increasing issue as SMART moves toward implementation of the extension to Larkspur. This service will seriously impact traffic on 2nd and 3rd streets and our residents' ability to travel into and out of downtown San Rafael as well as access to Hwy 101.

Roadway Medians: The committee has held quarterly meetings with City staff on median maintenance issues. We have also worked with City staff and their median maintenance contractor to implement a plan to replace dead or dying plants, remove litter and operate a more consistent median maintenance program. We have successfully negotiated with City staff for a Median Assessment District annual fee payment plan for the next five years.

Wetlands Committee

The Coalition will continue to inform our community about the vital wetlands and inlets along the PSPR Peninsula, including the wetlands at the Quarry and at Loch Lomond Marina. Anticipated sea level rise has focused attention on the need to restore and maintain tidal wetlands and associated upland buffers. Tidal wetlands serve as nurseries for aquatic species, help abate flooding by absorbing runoff, and reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by storing carbon. In China Camp State Park, sea level rise threatens the roadway which is our only alternate to Pt. San Pedro Road as an escape route. A group of City and County stakeholders is working on developing a plan to address road safety, flooding and environmental issues. Board Member Kati Miller continued her work on behalf of the Coalition with NEERS (National Estuarine Research Reserve System) and a large group of City, County, State and non-profit end-users and stakeholders to identify and evaluate China Camp Road sea level rise adaption options that will address road flooding. Through a series of facilitated discussions, nine options were identified and evaluated based on how well they met the road adaption goals and feasibility criteria which the group had defined. NEERS will be seeking another federal grant to fund a detailed analysis of those options having the most potential.

Loch Lomond Marina Committee

During 2019, the Loch Lomond Marina Committee continued to monitor the rather limited developments at The Village at Loch Lomond Marina (including The Strand, which is the residential portion of this development). This past year our committee was augmented by a new member representing The Strand.

Progress on completing this project by the developer, Marina Village Associates (MVA), has been painfully slow, almost non-existent, and similar to the previous year. There is a positive behind-the-scenes development in the resolution of the persistent flooding on the East Jetty (playground area) and the connector to the breakwater at the eastern side of the property. After prolonged negotiations and back-and-forth between MVA and BCDC (Bay Conservation and Development Commission) and involvement of both this Committee and the City agencies, a permit amendment has finally been approved by BCDC defining the work to be done. This approval is to become official in December 2019. While we are aware of the broad outlines of the proposed flooding solution, we will be able to see the details, including any mandated completion dates, once it becomes official.

MVA has also, after a long delay, submitted to BCDC a permit amendment for the stalled installation of a fuel storage facility and fuel dock. At this point, BCDC has reviewed that amendment request and returned it to MVA for further changes. While the old boat repair shop building has finally been demolished, much still needs to be done at the western side of the property. Installation of a kayak launch ramp next to the existing boat ramps, refacing of the Yacht Club building, construction of the multi-use building, the boat repair shop and the Harbormaster's office are all awaiting MVA action. Start of construction of the remaining residences in The Strand is dependent on the completion of the surcharge's compaction of the soil and, of course, the real estate market. The timeframe for progress on all these items is unclear.

While nothing is certain, there is some reason to hope that 2020 will be a turn-around year and progress will again begin on completing this development project in our midst. The Committee is doing its best to encourage MVA action and meets monthly with the San Rafael Community Development Department and Department of Public Works. Information that comes out of these meetings is posted monthly on the Coalition website. Please let us know your concerns via the Marina Committee contact form on our website. The Loch Lomond Marina section of the website also contains up-to-date details about the project design, work schedules, etc.