



POINT SAN PEDRO ROAD COALITION

"Promoting Quality of Life in our Community"

November 27, 2021

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Dear Neighbors,

Throughout 2021, we focused on our community's future as we addressed San Rafael's 2040 General Plan, the environmental impacts of an additional 20 years of Quarry Operations, emergency preparedness, flooding, and the impacts of sea level rise in our area. We write to you today to thank all of you who have contributed to the betterment of our community and for your past --and future-- financial support.

The Coalition hopes you can make a year-end tax-deductible contribution in support of our ongoing work promoting the health and safety of area residents and the enhancement and preservation of our local environment. As expected, we incurred legal expenses and consultant fees for professional advice and technical expertise needed so that we could be effective.

Contributions can be made to the Pt. San Pedro Road Coalition (or SPRC) and mailed to: 369B Third Street, Box 449, San Rafael, CA 94901. You can also contribute electronically via the "Donate Now" button on our website. Many employers match their employees' charitable contributions. Please check with your employer about a matching option. The Coalition's Board and Committee members serve on a voluntary basis and receive no compensation.

To get an idea of the work we have been doing and our goals for 2022, please review at our enclosed annual summary. The Coalition's 2021 Community Meetings and educational programs of general interest were conducted on Zoom, recorded and posted on our YouTube channel which is accessible via the Resources tab on our website's homepage.

While visiting our website, please provide any updated contact information, including your street and email address, HOA, and phone numbers, using the "Contact Us" menu on our website. If you would like to get involved in our community-based committees, let us know using the committee contact forms via the "Contact Us" menu.

On behalf of the Coalition Board, we wish you Happy Holidays and a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2022.

Best regards,

Bonnie Marmor
Co-President

Denise Lucy
Co-President

Year-End Committee Reports

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Our DP Committee met via Zoom throughout 2021, primarily focusing on wildfire, evacuation, and the pre-positioning of emergency supplies. Our PSP Roadway corridor is in a precarious position with fire prone parkland on one side, water on the other, and one primary evacuation route past San Rafael High. It is imperative that our communities be self-sufficient for a period following any type of disaster.

This year, we prioritized the purchase of medical and emergency supplies that can be quickly deployed. While supplies are currently stored centrally in San Pedro Cove, a trailer will be purchased to allow their expeditious deployment to an area of need. These purchases were supported by generous donations from individuals, neighborhood associations and the Coalition, as well as a grant awarded by the County of Marin.

In 2022, the Committee plans to position supplies in secure but accessible locations in our area, such as the Peacock Gap Golf Club that will serve as a refuge site following a disaster. The DP Committee played a key role in facilitating an agreement between the Golf Club and the Red Cross.

In April, the Coalition sponsored an Earth Day Weed Pull to remove fire prone vegetation. The event was highly successful with many volunteers participating. Additional support was received from CVNL (the Center for Volunteer and Non-profit Leadership), Friends of China Camp and the City of San Rafael. This event will be repeated in 2022; potential areas of need are currently being evaluated.

Due to Covid-19, many of the training programs planned for 2021 were again cancelled including CERT training, "Get Ready" personal preparation, and FADER (first aid & CPR). If Marin County continues to allow indoor group meetings, the DP Committee will hold these programs in 2022 and continue to help local neighborhoods better organize themselves to implement "neighbor-helping-neighbor" programs.

Wetlands Committee

In 2021 the Wetlands Committee learned more about the condition of our local wetlands and researched ways to improve their health and ability to function as important parts of an interconnected habitat corridor.

Field trips with restoration experts. In April and July, we organized two field trips to five of our local wetlands with representatives from Marin Audubon and Point Blue Conservation Science to better understand the condition of the wetlands and determine what restoration methods could improve their condition.

Advocacy for the Quarry Marsh. Most of the Committee's time was dedicated to better understanding the current restoration plan for the 55-acre wetlands parcel belonging to the San Rafael Rock Quarry (SRRQ). SRRQ is obligated to restore it through mitigation measures contained in its operating permit. There is broad concern that the Marsh is not thriving and that more can and should be done to increase its vitality and attract conducive wildlife species. Awareness raised by the Coalition led to an agreement between the Coalition and SRRQ, announced before the Board of Supervisors on Nov 2, for SRRQ to choose a consultant from three suggested by the Coalition to review the Marsh Restoration Plan, assess its condition and give recommendations.

Education webinars. We hosted the *Wetlands 101* webinar featuring wetlands scientist Dr. Stuart Siegel, who gave an excellent overview of wetlands around the San Francisco Bay. Marin Audubon's Board President Barbara Salzman focused in on the character and condition of individual wetlands within the Point San Pedro corridor. Together they provided the community an excellent overview of this important natural resource. In the *Winter Birds of San Pablo Bay* webinar, Audubon Society volunteer Rich Cimino, gave a presentation about our winter birds, some of which travel from very far away for a temporary stop-over, while others are seen regularly year-round.

The Wetlands Committee is energized by the collaborative effort with SRRQ. In 2022, we will move ahead with the SRRQ Marsh peer review in 2022 and continue to work toward maintaining and restoring other local marshes. We

welcome and appreciate all the community support and participation as we work to preserve our coastal resources.

Roadway Committee

During 2021, the Roadway Committee worked on multiple issues related to Point San Pedro Road:

Pt. San Pedro Road Traffic and Safety Issues. We worked with City and County staff to identify and address traffic, pedestrian crossing, and other safety issues along PSPR.

Traffic Congestion Mitigation. We monitored and provided input to the Golden Gate Transit District as they plan the new San Rafael Transit Center, along with other City and Caltrans projects affecting PSPR Peninsula residents' ability to access downtown and entrances and exits to Highway 101.

Roadway Medians and Sidewalks. The Committee held meetings with City staff on median maintenance issues and worked with the City's median maintenance contractor to implement a plan to replace dead or dying plants, remove litter and operate a more consistent maintenance program. We also successfully negotiated with City staff for a Median Assessment District annual fee payment plan for the next five years, and worked to have the County assess the median and the structural integrity of several roadway walls. And we worked with the City and County to keep Point San Pedro Road's sidewalks clear of obstructions and graffiti.

Bayside Park. The Committee worked with County staff to address design and parking-related issues at the recently renovated Bayside Park.

For 2022, the Roadway Committee will continue its work in each of these areas and address any new roadway, traffic issues and safety issues as they arise.

Loch Lomond Marina Committee

During 2021, the Loch Lomond Marina Committee continued to be involved in developments at The Village at Loch Lomond Marina (including The Strand). While little was accomplished "on the ground" this past year, there was "behind the scenes" progress. MVA sold its remaining property, the undeveloped residential portions of The Strand, to Trumark Homes, a large and well-established residential developer. (MVA had sold the marina-related property in 2020 to Safe Harbor Marinas (SHM).) MVA retains some legal responsibility for the completion of the various outstanding projects at the marina.

The Committee worked hard to ensure that these sales did not compromise the original conditions set on the property and did not disadvantage nearby communities. The work to fix the flooding that plagues the playground spit and the breakwater connector, and install a kayak launch ramp and dock, moved at a snail's pace due to the bureaucratic processes of Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), though our committee's involvement helped to move it along. One negative outcome this year was the failure of Andy's Market and SHM to agree on allowing a café in the Harbormaster's Office between Andy's Market and the Loch Lomond Yacht Club despite strong community and committee appeals to both parties supporting a café. The ultimate use of this building is still under consideration.

We are hopeful that 2022 will be a turn-around year and most of the outstanding work will be completed this year. The flooding remediation work is expected to begin in March or April and completed by November 2022. The kayak dock is expected to be installed early in the year. Trumark Homes is in the final stages of approvals and permit issuance with the City and expects to begin construction of the remaining residences very early in 2022.

With this pending surge of activity, the Committee will continue to meet monthly with all involved parties to encourage progress and ensure adherence to permits and community safety. Information coming out of these meetings is posted monthly on the Coalition website.

San Rafael Rock Quarry Committee

Two years ago, the Quarry filed an application to extend its Operating Permit and Reclamation Plan (to clean up the site after mining) for 20 years beyond 2024. A study was required to assess whether the Quarry's 2009 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) continued to be adequate or whether a new, or supplemental, EIR would be required. The County's consultant reviewed that question, and in its August 2021 report concluded that the Quarry's application would not require additional environmental review, and thus recommended an addendum to the FEIR.

The Coalition disagreed and submitted comments urging further environmental study, mainly on four issues: greenhouse gas emissions, the marsh restoration, air quality, and road maintenance. Over 30 written comment letters were submitted, including comments by Marin Sierra Club, Marin Audubon, Point Blue, Marin Conservation League, and individual residents who live in the area.

The consultant's report agreed with some of our comments on greenhouse gas emissions, and additional mitigating measures will be required of the Quarry. On the remaining three issues, we met with Quarry leadership to discuss the issues candidly before the County Board of Supervisor's hearing on the Quarry's application. The Coalition and the Quarry agreed that:

1. The Quarry will engage a marsh expert to advise on improving the current restoration plan consistent with updated technology and practices. The Quarry suggested that the Coalition name three consultants from which the SRRQ would choose.
2. The Quarry will develop a plan to determine when compliant air monitoring and testing will be conducted by the County.
3. Maintenance of the sound mitigating asphalt roadway was the final key concern given an additional 20 years of truck usage on Pt. San Pedro Road. Although we could not come to an agreement, the Quarry agreed to continue discussions regarding the issue of road maintenance.

We believe that real progress was made on these issues, and we therefore did not challenge the approval of the Draft Addendum to the 2009 FEIR and the application to extend mining and reclamation.

China Camp Road

The China Camp Road corridor (North San Pedro Road through China Camp) is our residents' primary "lifeline" for evacuation and emergency response if PSPR become impassable. It also provides public access to the remarkable, unaltered wetlands reserve along San Rafael's shore. The degradation of the roadway from sea level rise results in more frequent and severe flooding, making it increasingly impassable, and threatening the preservation of the inland China Camp wetlands. Therefore, the condition of the China Camp Road is very important to our neighborhoods.

In 2017, the Coalition began raising concerns with the County and China Camp State Park leadership about the deterioration of the road. County Supervisor Damon Connolly convened a group of City and County stakeholders who began work on a plan to address road safety, flooding and environmental issues. With Coalition support, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SFB NERR) received a federal grant to unite end users and stakeholders to identify and evaluate sea level rise adaptation options to solve roadway flooding and improve hydrologic connectivity to inland marshes.

With Coalition support, a second SFB NERR grant request was approved this past summer to continue funding for the planning of sea level rise adaptations for the China Camp Road. The project, "Respecting the Past, Planning for the Future: Assessing Cultural Resources and Watershed Connectivity Associated with a Proposed China Camp State Park Road Modification Project," will receive \$525,000 over three years from the National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative. Work on this next phase is expected to begin in January 2022, and the Coalition will continue to be involved. More information on this vital roadway is posted on the Coalition's website under Disaster Preparedness > China Camp Road and under Wetlands > China Camp Marshes.