



**POINT SAN PEDRO
ROAD COALITION**

2022 Pt. San Pedro Road Coalition Year-End Report

Emergency Preparedness

Over the past year, the Coalition’s Disaster Preparedness Committee met regularly and continued to prepare our community for a wildfire, earthquake, flood or other emergency event.

Emergency Response Training and Education: The Committee facilitated a class presented by the Marin Medical Reserve Corp on “First Aid for Disaster Response” that trained over 20 residents on how to perform CPR and immediate treatment of injured. In addition, we hosted a “1 Hour 2 Get Ready” seminar presented by the San Rafael Fire Department that was attended by over 60 residents. The seminar can be viewed on the Coalition’s website along with other information such as recommended contents of “go bags” and in-home supplies that residents should maintain. A community forum was held with the Fire Department addressing the wildfire danger we faced this year and its inspection program assuring that defensible space is maintained around homes. The committee is planning to repeat these presentations in 2023 and add a CERT training class, a class that trains individuals in first aid and rescue skills.

Disaster Supplies: The Coalition maintains medical and rescue supplies for use in a major disaster, particularly one requiring our area to be self-reliant for a period of time. These supplies, purchased with over \$20,000 in donations from residents and a County of Marin grant, are maintained in two caches, one centrally and one in an emergency response trailer that can be moved where most needed. The trailer was purchased this year following a successful fund-raising campaign.

Emergency Evacuations: The Committee continues to work with City and County emergency services to identify and secure appropriate evacuation sites along PSPR should the road become impassable following a disaster. We encourage local retailers to remain open for business in the event of a short- or long-term power outage.

Emergency Response Volunteers Needed: Our efforts to recruit emergency response volunteers will continue in 2023. Local residents with medical, rescue and communication skills are needed to use the above supplies and provide emergency services if public safety services are compromised in a major event. Individuals can contact John Lenser, Committee Chair, at John@Lenser.com.

Wetlands Committee

The Wetlands Committee generally meets monthly and focuses on ways to protect and restore our local wetlands, and hosts events educating our community on wetlands-related topics. The following is a summary of our efforts in 2022.

Quarry Marsh Advocacy: To ensure the success of the restoration of the 55-acres of Quarry wetlands, collaboration between the Coalition leadership and the Quarry’s management team continued in 2022. The Quarry and the Coalition agreed that the Coalition would engage Dr. Stuart Siegel, a wetlands restoration expert, to peer review the current Marsh Restoration Plan. Dr. Siegel, highly regarded by both the Quarry and the Coalition, is Principal of Siegel Environmental and Coastal Resilience Specialist for the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. He

has 30+ years working in wetlands and coastal conservancy. Related discussions between the Quarry and Coalition team (which includes the Wetlands Committee) are ongoing.

Glenwood Wetlands: An alliance was initiated between committee members, Glenwood Elementary School educators, and the Point Blue Conservation Science STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed) program to explore restoring wetlands abutting Glenwood Elementary School that is City School District property. The educational benefits of involving students district-wide in this restoration effort are notable. Though several meetings have been held, this project is in its early stages.

Educational Webinars and Field Trips: Continuing our wetland webinar series, we presented *Why Healthy Wetlands are Important – Restoration Success Stories*. Julian Wood, the SF Bay Program Leader of Point Blue Conservation Science, was the guest speaker. Mr. Wood has years of wetlands conservation and habitat restoration experience, and drew parallels of nearby Point Blue wetlands restorations with our own wetlands discussing how they might be restored. Following up on our 2021 webinar with Rich Cimino on the seasonal migration of Vaux’s Swifts to McNears Brickyard, we held an autumn field trip to the Brickyard. Rich, one of our committee members, is a bird expert with expertise in the Swifts, as has participated for years in the annual count of Swifts that roost at the Brickyard in the fall. We were enthralled to watch many thousands of Swifts gracefully maneuver their way into the chimneys at dusk each night. We were fortunate to have Rich’s comprehensive insights into the habits of these unique birds. Recordings of Wetlands Committee Webinars are posted on our YouTube Channel under the Resources tab on our home page.

Goals: In 2023, the Wetlands Committee will continue to advance ongoing projects, sponsor new educational events and work with the Quarry Committee on wetland restoration issues.

Roadway Committee

Point San Pedro Road Traffic and Safety Issues: The Committee continued to work with City and County staff to identify and address traffic, pedestrian crossing and other safety issues along PSPR, including temporary lane modifications to accommodate the renovation of Fire Station 55.

Traffic Congestion Mitigation: We monitored and provided input to the Golden Gate Transit District in their planning for the new San Rafael Transit Center and other City and Caltrans projects affecting PSPR peninsula residents’ access to downtown and entrances and exits to Highway 101.

Bayside Park: Several meetings with County staff were held to address design and parking related issues on the controversial renovation of Bayside Park. We co-sponsored public forums for County and City staff to discuss the County’s proposal to reconfigure the eastbound section of PSPR, from Bayview Drive to Riviera Drive, from two lanes to one. This proposal was rejected in favor of an alternate plan adding an ADA parking space but eliminating other curbside parking. The solution provides a bike lane along the park, as required by BCDC, while retaining two eastbound lanes.

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

Quarry Committee

In November 2021, the San Rafael Rock Quarry obtained an extension of their operations and Reclamation Plan until 2044. The Coalition discussed some concerns with Quarry leadership about

the extension. During the County's environmental review process, the Quarry and the Coalition agreed on three specific areas for further dialogue and action, which are now ongoing.

Wetlands: As the Wetlands Committee report notes above, the Quarry agreed to engage an expert for a peer review on the current restoration plan that accounts for updated technology and practices. The Coalition recommended that the Quarry consider engaging Dr. Siegel, whose expertise is an excellent fit for the review. We are pleased that the Quarry has recently contracted with Dr. Siegel to perform the review.

Air Monitoring: The Coalition expressed concerns that air monitoring may be needed from time to time when Quarry operations increase. The Quarry is amenable to developing a plan that would determine when compliant air monitoring/testing would be conducted by the County. The Coalition will be meeting with the Quarry as this plan is developed.

Roadway Maintenance: The PSPR roadway was repaved in 2014 with special open-graded asphalt to mitigate noise and vibration. The Coalition has asked the Quarry to provide materials to be used for maintenance of the roadway that preserve these benefits. Since the permit extension to 2044 would include an additional 20 years of truck usage on PSPR beyond the 2024 permit, the Coalition seeks assurances that the road will continue to be maintained in a manner that sufficiently accommodates the continuous passage of heavy trucks coming to and from the Quarry. We will continue to discuss this issue with the Quarry in 2023.

China Camp – Planning for Sea Level Rise

Efforts continue toward funding and creating a sea-level rise adaptation plan for the China Camp Road. With the Coalition's continued support, a second SF Bay NERR grant request was approved for funding and work began early this year. 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," was recommended to receive \$525,000 over three years by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Science Collaborative.

This grant will be used to focus on tribal (cultural) use of the area (known to be important but not geographically explicit), and hydrological and sediment linkages between the watersheds and Baylands. Both are important issues for designing any future road modification at the site.

The grant will provide a unique opportunity for increased participation of the Coast Miwok peoples (represented by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria) on cultural resources vulnerability assessment and adaptation of options that support the tribe's ongoing participation, as well as moving the project forward with the community to identify a selected project alternative.

The NERR will also be working with the County to seek engineering design funds to work alongside the new grant work, allowing the project to get permit and construction funding.

Living with Coyotes

The Coalition has been working with The Marin Humane Society and the City to alert the community to a particularly aggressive pack of coyotes that has harassed people and pets on Biscayne Drive and in Peacock Gap Park. Information is posted on the Coalition website about a webinar and a flyer that both provide information on how to coexist with coyotes. At the Coalition's request warning signage has also been posted at the park and along Biscayne Drive. For more information, go to www.sprcoalition.org and search Coping with Coyotes.

Loch Lomond Marina Oversight

Development at Village at Loch Lomond Marina: Positive progress on the development of the various components of the Village at Loch Lomond Marina continues. The Marina Oversight Committee meets monthly by Zoom with the project's interested parties including Marina Village Associates (MVA), Safe Harbors Marina (SHM), Trumark Homes, The Strand, Andy's Market, SR Community Development Department (CDD) and SR Department of Public Works (DPW). Representatives of each participate in these meetings where status reports are provided and discussions held to ensure permit limits and codes are followed and progress is sustained.

Improvements at Breakwater Connector and Playground Jetty: Work continues on the mitigation of flood damage to the breakwater connector and playground jetty and construction of a kayak launch ramp. A kayak dock has already been installed next to the boat launch ramp and is now in use. These projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Photos of the progress are available on the Marina page of the Coalition website.

Residential Construction at Loch Lomond: Trumark's construction continues on residential units within The Strand, many of which have already been sold. MVA continues to look for a buyer for the mixed-use parcel containing the now-abandoned commercial building on the corner of Loch Lomond Drive and PSPR. The future of this parcel and what it might contain remains uncertain until MVA finds a buyer, though MVA feels that currently approved plans will not be attractive to any buyer. New plans may need to be submitted for City agency review, public input and approval.

Harbor Master's Office: The building planned for the vacant parcel between the Loch Lomond Yacht Club and the public plaza next to Andy's Market was originally going to house the harbormaster's office and a small restaurant. The harbormaster's office will now be located elsewhere on the Marina property and the restaurant concept has been abandoned. SHM continues to study what they will do with this property. The decision as to the future of the parcel is very important to the community since it will have visual and traffic impact on the public plaza which has grown in popularity as a public gathering spot.

Goals: The committee will continue to host monthly meetings of the interested parties in this development, which will provide a forum for discussion and problem resolution. We will continue to urge development plans for the parcel adjacent to the public plaza that are compatible with plaza usage. Much of this information and continuing status reports can be found under Loch Lomond Marina on the Coalition's website.