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Coalition Newsletter

April 22, 2020

Dear Neighbors,

We hope that you and yours are safe and healthy in this challenging time. We are proud of how many members of our community have been actively assisting others who are in need. Some neighbors are sewing masks, picking up groceries for those who are elderly or may be at risk, or checking in on a neighbor. Help in any way is important and appreciated.

While we all shelter in place, our Coalition Board and Committee Members have been busy. We are all volunteers and, though we are all individually coping with this crisis, we have continued to be involved on behalf of our community. This newsletter will bring you up to date on some of our activities.

As always, for additional information and resources, check out our [Coalition Website](#)! On behalf of our Board of Directors, we wish you and yours all the best on this Earth Day.

Bonnie Marmor
Co-President

Denise Lucy
Co-President



Loch Lomond Marina

The Loch Lomond Marina Committee meets on a monthly basis with the S.P. Community



Disaster Preparedness

on a monthly basis with the S.R. Community Development Department Director and representatives of the S.R. Public Work Department regarding the development (or lack thereof) at The Village at Loch Lomond Marina. This cooperative and open relationship has resulted in excellent community involvement and transparency as well as expeditious resolution of several issues.

A summary of our most recent meeting on April 2, conducted by Zoom video conference due to the limitations imposed by the coronavirus restrictions, is posted as [Loch Lomond Marina Update](#) on our website. Check it out to learn what is happening.

Two items were presented to the S.R. City Council at their April 20 meeting regarding the marina development; a Subdivision Improvement Agreement (SIA) amendment and a Below Market Rate (BMR) Agreement. The SIA amendment deals with a change in the bonding requirements for those aspect of the development's infrastructure that are complete as well as changed bonding requirements of those aspects that are yet to be completed, such as the flooding mitigation work on the playground jetty and the connector to the breakwater. The BMR Agreement deals with releasing the developer of the obligation for the remaining six (out of the original 17) BMR units in return for a sizable (\$3.6M+) contribution to the City's low-income housing fund. A [Coalition letter to the Council](#) on these items is also posted on our website. At the April 20, 2020 meeting, the S.R. City Council unanimously passed both resolutions.



Pt. San Pedro Roadway

Over the past 15 years, the Coalition has sponsored trainings for many of our local residents to “Get Ready” and trainings for our HOA and Disaster Prep leaders on how to organize their neighborhoods. Several of our local HOA’s have formed Neighborhood Response Groups (NRGs) and some are in the process of becoming Firewise Communities.

In October, we held a training for HOA and DP leaders on how HOAs can form NRG’s and how to gather information in order to assist vulnerable populations in our community during emergencies. Some of that effort, though initially intended to assist in a fire or earthquake, has proved to be invaluable during the shelter in place.

We are partnering with the City of San Rafael to share their Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Toolkit with our Disaster Preparedness Committee and those that have attended the recent training sessions. The Toolkit provides a simple and easy-to-use way to identify leaders to be responsible for smaller subsections of their neighborhoods, tailor outreach to their community, and let them run with it. The program is very complementary to our Neighborhood Response Groups, and ideally will be carried on even after COVID-19 is history.

Of course, all of us have also learned a great deal from this COVID-19 crisis, as well as other emergencies, including firestorms and power outages. We want to build upon and expand these lessons and the connections that have been made. Although this year we could not come together for an Earth Day event to pull weeds to make us safer in the event of fire as we did last year, many of us are doing what we can to “harden” our homes. It is a good time to clear combustibles within 5’ of your home, expand your defensible space, and create or update your “go bag” and family evacuation plan. Remember that routine landscaping and gardening services providing general upkeep are not deemed essential and are not permitted currently. However, fire reduction work is considered essential and can be done.

While we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to address the potential of additional disasters. However, if nothing else, COVID-19 has taught us that preparation both at home and in our communities is critical. Given modest rainfall this year, a potentially dangerous fire season is just around the corner and we must be ready. During March, the Coalition undertook a successful fundraising campaign for the express purpose

The Medians: The City of San Rafael has suspended its contract with Gardners' Guild, the company they hired to maintain the Point San Pedro Road Medians. This action was taken in response to the State and County Health mandates associated with the Corona virus which maintains that landscaping for esthetics is not considered an essential function.

Maintenance of the medians is paid from a yearly assessment fee from the Point San Pedro Road Median Assessment District. Gardners' Guild is paid only for the work that they perform. The City has informed this Committee that once the health restrictions are lifted, they will work with Gardners' Guild on a plan to restore the medians to the condition they were in prior to the health restrictions being put in place. In the meanwhile, the City will monitor and repair any problems with the irrigation lines and cut back vegetation that interferes with traffic lines of sight.

San Rafael Transit Center: The 3 sites being considered for the new San Rafael Transit Center are:

1. Underneath Highway 101 between Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue,
2. Adjacent to the Whistlestop building between Hetherton Street and Lincoln Avenue, and
3. A site straddling Fourth Street between Third Street and Fifth Avenue

The Golden Gate Transit District (GGTD) is managing the project and their consultants are working on the environmental analysis for the three alternative sites. GGTD was planning to hold a meeting to provide the public with a status report on consultant's analysis on the three alternatives in May. However, because of the current health situation, the meeting will be postponed to June or beyond. GGTD is hoping that the environmental work can be concluded and the GGT District Board can approve the EIR with the preferred alternative by the end of this year. Their recommendation would then be forwarded to the San Rafael City Council for their approval. Construction of the new transit center is not likely to begin for several years.

The Coalition's Roadway Committee will be closely monitoring both of these situations.

of purchasing of emergency supplies that will be prepositioned in our communities, reaching its goal of \$10,000. In addition, a grant application for an additional \$10,000 was submitted to the County of Marin.

Recently, the Coalition's DP Committee has become more active than ever and now has over 30 members, including those serving on work groups addressing the following:

- **Training:** Expand Neighborhood Organization, "One Hour to Get Ready", CERT, and First Aid for Disaster Response (FADR) training programs.
- **Neighborhood Preparedness:** encourage the Coalition's 18 HOA's to create *Firewise* and *neighbor helping neighbor* programs;
- **Evacuation & Refuge:** purchase supplies, and identify potential evacuation and triage sites;
- **Community Resources:** identify markets, pharmacies, gas stations, etc., to be available to our community in an emergency encouraging back-up-power and credit card acceptance;
- **Utilities:** meet with PG&E, Marin Water & Sewer, internet, and cellular service to assess their capability to continue service during a power outage or disaster.

Much progress has been made in each of these areas. If you have interest in participating on the Disaster Preparedness Committee, please contact its chairperson at John@Lenser.com.



San Rafael Rock Quarry

For more than 20 years, the Coalition has advocated on behalf of residents in our area to



Wetlands

As we shelter in place, many of us are walking around our neighborhoods and noticing our local birds and wetlands. Some will recall that this past winter, the Beach Drive Wetland was the scene of much excitement as birders from far and wide came to see the Little Blue Heron that visited. The species of heron, rarely seen in California, generated a lot of interest in local birdlife in our area.

Our Wetlands Committee met in early February and decided to plan an event this spring for area residents to learn about our wetlands and the birds along the Pt. San Pedro Road peninsula. Those plans have been put on hold for now due to the coronavirus restrictions.

However, this is a great time for budding adult and child birders to learn more about their feathered neighbors by downloading the Audubon Bird Guide app which guides you to identify birds, then tells you a lot about them. It's very easy, and fun, to use.

Audubon is also streaming a weekly show on Zoom, “I Saw a Bird: Audubon’s Spring Migration Show”, with different guests discussing bird behavior. It has an easy conversational style but is also very informative. Go to the [Coalition's "I Saw a Bird" post](#) for more information and to RSVP.

Also, there is a treasure trove of information and ideas on Audubon’s website for parents who want to engage their kids in learning about birds! Take a look at [Audubon Adventures](#) or the [Audubon Kindergarten Study Guide](#).

advocated on behalf of residents in our area to ensure that environmental impacts to our community from San Rafael Rock Quarry's operations are mitigated whenever possible. During the shelter-in-place, the Quarry is allowed to continue to operate in order to supply materials necessary for the operation and maintenance of essential infrastructure or for allowed construction activities.

Shortly after shelter-in-place was ordered, the Marin County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing during which they approved a proposed contract with Dan Sicular, an environmental consultant, to prepare a report regarding the environmental review of the Quarry’s proposal to extend operations and reclamation to 2044. This study will proceed during the current shutdown. In a letter describing what he plans to review, Mr. Sicular noted that the proximity to residential neighborhoods of a large-scale mining operation has been the source of ongoing tension. He noted, “It can be expected that this Supplemental Environmental Review will be subjected to close scrutiny by the public.”

Since May 2018, air quality monitoring equipment, operating from the back yard of a home close to the quarry, has been testing for levels of particulate emissions from Quarry operations. The testing is done when reclamation work takes place each year for 10 weeks from June - October. In technical terms, the particulate matter includes PM2.5, PM10, and black carbon (BC) and uses 24-hr discrete PM10 filter samples to quantify crystalline silica and metals. According to a recent memorandum from the environmental consulting firm that conducted the testing, data showed that “the impact of quarry activities on local air quality increased during reclamation, but concentrations were still within allowable state and federal air quality standards.”

Air quality monitoring is likely to be ending soon with the principal testing site to be dismantled. Because recent testing has been conducted during a time when Quarry operational levels have been very low compared to levels of pre-2010, the Coalition has some concern that testing results may understate the risk that will result when the Quarry substantially increases its expected activities over the next several years as levee and other Bay projects come online.

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