



## Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

In accordance with Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20 regarding the Brown Act for public meetings during the public health emergency, the August 20 LRR MAC meeting will be held virtually. The meeting will be on Zoom and on Facebook live, links below. After the event, videos are available both on facebook and on Youtube. YouTube Channel can be found under Sonoma County 5<sup>th</sup> District.

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

**<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/97617262294?pwd=NThzMFAxWHhsOHFzZWhWNFhWNXIUT09>**

**Passcode: 199637**

**Or iPhone one-tap :**

**US: +16699009128,,97617262294# or +12532158782,,97617262294#**

- Streaming Facebook Live on Supervisor Lynda Hopkins page <https://www.facebook.com/supervisorlyndahopkins/>

### LOWER RUSSIAN RIVER MAC

#### AGENDA

December 17, 2020

5:30 – 7:30 pm

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council welcomes you to its meeting. Your interest and participation are encouraged and appreciated. Questions and comments may be entered in the zoom chat.

**Call to Order**

**MAC Clerk/Nance Jones**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

A) **Approval of Agenda**

B) **Statement of conflict of interest**

(This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Councilmembers to indicate any statements of conflict of interest for any item listed on this agenda).

C) **Correspondence**

- Susan Joice re: Silver Estates Timber
- Lloyd Guccione re: Guerneville USPS
- John Uniak re: Rio Nido entrance
- Jeniffer Wertz re: CARES Act Small Business Grants

D) **Consent Calendar**

Approval of October Minutes

Approval of Annual Report  
Approval of updated ByLaws

E) **Informational/Presentation Items**

- Chair Comments
- Supervisor Hopkins comments
- MAC 2021 and Villa Grande/Monte Rio election, alternate openings - Elise
- Permit Sonoma: Rezoning Sites for Housing projects – Jane Riley, Permit Sonoma
- Roads Report
- Septic Ombudsman Report – Alisha O’Laughlin

F) **Regular Calendar Items (Discussion and/or Action)**

- Lower Russian River Local Services Strategic Plan
  - planning pieces in place
  - issues requiring strategic planning – trash, septic, enforcement, parking
  - suggested approach
- Trash Programs rolling out

G) **Proclamations**

None.

H) **Board/Staff Reports**

- Ad Hoc Committee Reports
  - i. Residential Parking Permit AdHoc report
  - ii. LandUse Committee, set special meeting to review the GuerneWood Project
- Council member Reports
  - i. Terry Gwiazdowski on Vegetation Meeting

I) **Call for agenda items**

J) **Adjournment**

Documents related to open session agendas:

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council regarding any item on this agenda after the posting of this agenda and not otherwise exempt from disclosure will be made available for public review at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.

Disability Accommodations:

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-2866 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

Lower Russian River MAC Meetings

Regular schedule:

Thursday, June 18, Location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 20, 2020, Location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 15, 2020, Location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

Please visit the Lower Russian River MAC website for agendas, including meeting location and time:  
[Sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac](http://Sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac).

LRR MAC

December 6, 2020

Attention: Field Representative, Elise VanDyne

[Elise.VanDyne@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Elise.VanDyne@sonoma-county.org)

Dear Ms. VanDyne,

I am sending you my attached letter and ask that it please be placed in the December MAC meeting packet, along with this introduction letter.

I am a homeowner on Neeley Road in Guerneville and a member of the Guerneville Forest Coalition. I am concerned that commercial clear-cut logging is planned on Neeley Hill, right next to Neeley Road. I am afraid it will undermine the road. The redwood and Douglas fir harvest will be very near two locations where the road collapsed in the past and had to be rebuilt.

Trees are a natural sponge, and their roots hold the soil in place. Logging increases downhill run off that overflows the already inadequate gullies, grates, and culverts along Neeley Road. This leads to excess water crossing and undermining the road and eroding the cliffs by the river. It can eventually cause road failure.

To make matters worse, a large active watercourse has been discovered on the site that has carved a ten-foot wide ravine about eight feet deep. It extends from the hill top wet area down to Neeley Road. Water has been rushing down, carrying twigs, branches, and slash onto the road. Tree removal would increase this volume of water and could easily cause another road failure. This would endanger residents, as it is our *only* exit in the winter.

I realize that MAC would not normally address a Timber Harvest Plan (THP), but since the next MAC meeting includes a TPW presentation and discussion of road issues, I felt it would be appropriate to bring

up this problem. My attached letter is one I wrote to CAL FIRE, the agency who will decide whether to approve the logging. Thank you for your time.

Susan Joice  
Homeowner  
707-869-3134  
sjoice@comcast.net

Forest Practice Program Manager

December 5, 2020

CAL FIRE

135 Ridgway Avenue

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

(707) 576-2959

[SantaRosaPublicComment@fire.ca.gov](mailto:SantaRosaPublicComment@fire.ca.gov)

**Silver Estates THP #1-20-00084-SON**

***RE: Increased danger of water erosion and road failure if group selection logging is approved along Neeley Road.***

Dear Forest Practice Program Manager,

I am writing to you because I am concerned about area G6 on the THP map. It is located right next to Neeley Road, and it is slated for Group Selection in the Silver Estates THP. As you know, it is part of a landslide area that extends all along Neeley Road, where 20+ landslides are visible. I have also discovered that G6 is the site of major annual water runoff and erosion, already threatening the stability of Neeley Road. On my inspection of G6, I discovered a giant watercourse there not acknowledged in the THP or included on the THP map. Detailed photographs and a diagram of the G6 area that show this ravine are added at the end of this document.

### **MAJOR LANDSLIDE PROBLEMS ON NEELEY ROAD**

Neeley Road landslides are historic and legendary. Water, rocks, and mud are dumped down onto the road in several places during a typical winter. Near the bridge, at the first bend in the road, a landslide took out the foundation of a house. Further down Neeley, a giant Redwood fell across the road and crushed a child's bedroom. It left power lines scattered across the road and residents without power for days. Another landslide brought down a utility pole, knocking out electricity for a week while residents were flooded in. I was one of them. Landslides have created road blockages and road failures that have required one-lane passage for

months. Even the sewage plant at the far end of Neeley once suffered a large landslide that upended its operations. My point is, that the whole area is unstable.

A dramatic example of current landslide activity is adjoining the G6 area. Standing on Neeley Road and facing the hillside, one can see a giant slide series on the almost vertical cliffs to the right of the G6 zone. The slides start high at the top of the cliffs, and some are quite fresh. Road crews with big earth-moving equipment had to remove the dirt that came down from the landslides. They dumped the debris on the opposite side of Neeley, where the piles still remain behind a cement guard wall. These slide-prone cliffs have trees that appear to be barely hanging on, perched precariously on their cliff tops. The trees have dirt missing underneath, roots exposed, and they seem ready to come down in the next heavy rain, taking power lines with them when they fall.

### **WATER RUNNING OFF NEELEY HILL ERODES THE CLIFFS AND CAUSES LANDSLIDES**

What causes so many landslides on Neeley Road? It is partly the instability in the makeup of the soils, well documented by geologists. But it is also caused by the large volume of water that pours off Neeley Hill in multiple locations during the winter rains. This water erosion works away at the cliffs until they give way.

### **WATER EROSION ALSO CAUSES ROAD FAILURES**

Raging waterfalls and watercourses spill into gullies, grates, and culverts along Neeley Road. In many places, the gullies are inadequate or the grates are clogged up. The culverts are often crushed or rusted-out and are no longer functional. Water then finds its own course. Some of it floods across the road carrying rocks and mud from the cliffs. Overflowing water erodes under Neeley Road itself as well. Neeley Road has collapsed twice and had to be totally rebuilt both times. These road collapses occurred within a quarter mile of where G6 meets Neeley Road.

### **IN-PERSON, ON-SITE INSPECTION NEEDED**

Looking up into the G6 area from the road, I could see several large trees, and I understood why the landowner would want to do a group selection there. But, on further examination, I found several things that concerned me that were not mentioned in the THP. I feel that the THP forester, Jamie Pusich, geologist Timothy Best, and other geologists that worked on the project missed the things I found. Their analysis for recommending massive tree removal was based solely on old aerial photographs and LiDAR digital technology done at a distance.

Foliage growing along Neeley Road obscures the view of what is happening behind the front trees and bushes. It would have been impossible for the experts to see and analyze what is going on there without going to the site. Because they relied on long-distance methods of analysis, they underestimated the danger that massive tree cutting would do to destabilize the hillside and undermine Neeley Road.

From what I saw, it would have been impossible to assess properly what was there without exploring the site itself.

Without seeing it, they described the site as a dormant or inactive landslide or old watercourse. They even questioned whether it had been a landslide at all, and they gave logging a thumbs up.

### **VERY ACTIVE WATERCOURSE FOUND THAT IS NOT DESCRIBED IN THE THP**

Upon examining G6 up close, I would describe it as an area of extreme, extended water erosion. The G6 Class III Watercourse shown on the THP map does seem to have become somewhat obsolete, as described. But the inspectors and geologists who described it as such did not examine the whole area up close and discover what I did.

I found that the supposedly dormant G6 Class III Watercourse has merely redirected itself to the other side of the G6 area, a few yards

away. It now runs mightier than ever along the left border of the THP. It flows stronger and deeper than before, forms a ravine, and spills out onto Neeley Road.

### **DEEP RAVINE SHOWS MUCH WATER ACTIVITY**

On further examination of the ravine, I saw evidence of ongoing and recent water activity. The ravine has been carved by water over time running from the hilltop “wet area” to the bottom at Neeley Road. At the widest, it measures ten feet across. It varies in depth from about five feet to ten feet deep. On Thanksgiving Day it still had water in the bottom, from the two recent days of rain we had. Slash, rocks, and branches that were carried down by rushing water collected in piles at the base and spread out at the bottom on Neeley Road. This occurred from only two relatively light days of rain in November, spaced several days apart. I can only imagine that this ravine becomes a huge, gushing watercourse during a normal heavy rainy season.

### **WHY IS THE “RAVINE WATERCOURSE” NOT NOTED IN THE THP?**

The G6 Class III Watercourse indicated on the THP map is relatively dry and inactive compared to the ravine watercourse I discovered only a few yards away. Yet, there is no mention of this very active “ravine watercourse” in the THP. Standing on Neeley Road and facing the hill, the ravine watercourse is on the left, and is located along the exact edge of the G6 boundary, as indicated by orange tied markers. Why is this massive waterway, only yards away from the dormant Class III Watercourse not even mentioned? Why isn't it illustrated on the THP map?

Is it a new watercourse, or is it the same one, only redirected? Either way, there will be a serious problem if the trees that run along the edge of the ravine are cut. When they and other G6 trees are removed, it will have a significant impact on increasing water runoff, erosion, and sedimentation problems that already exist. I



feel the ravine watercourse needs to be explored by impartial experts on site and an impact report developed. The possibility of massive water flow leading to road failure also needs to be studied.

### **RAVINE MAY BE A CLASS II WATERCOURSE**

I also suspect that, if analyzed, inspected, and given a rating, the ravine watercourse may be a Class II Watercourse. The sheer volume of water that runs through it, combined with its shaded, moist environment, probably make it an ideal home for protected species. If that is the case, most trees in that vicinity would be protected automatically.

### **INCREASED WATER EROSION IF TREES ARE REMOVED**

So what would happen if the G6 zone that runs down to the edge of Neeley Road is cleared of the trees whose roots are holding up the hillside? Undisturbed land, with its trees and other foliage intact tends to form a natural sponge that absorbs much of the water. Without the trees, water will run more freely downhill on the surface.

G6 also extends high up on the hill, and that land, too, will be part of the group selection logging. I suspect that much of the water that is now being absorbed by the trees uphill will instead run off, causing major flooding downhill, and increasing the erosion already evident. The trees naturally moderate the water table. Without them, more water, sediment, slash, rocks, and debris will wash down to Neeley Road, already a site of major water erosion and floods.

### **EXTENSIVE WATER EROSION EVIDENT AT SITE G6**

The approximate 50% slope of G6 leans from Neeley Road back up to the hilltop. It is located between two very steep vertical cliffs on either side. That indicates to me that there has been much water erosion on the slope that has gradually washed away that part of

the cliff. The steep cliffs on either side remain comparatively intact.

A row of tall trees growing along the edge of the ravine has apparently flourished for many years by being next to this water supply. This line of trees, the large ravine, and the degree of the overall slope caused by water erosion are testament to the fact that water has been running heavily and regularly downhill at the G6 site. Water carves into the hillside more and more each year.

### **WHOLE G6 HILLSIDE IS SET BACK FROM NEELEY ROAD DUE TO WATER EROSION**

A large 600-foot long “turnout” at the base of G6 is further evidence of massive, regular, long-term water run-off and erosion at the site. The base of the hillside is set back from the road about eight feet. By comparison, on either side of G6, the vertical cliffs come down straight to the road edge. Over the years, the bottom border of the G6 hillside has worked back from the road through the erosion process, creating this turnout.

### **A TREE HARVEST ON G6 MAY CAUSE ROAD FAILURE**

Across the street from G6 is a cliff that is very close to the road and almost a straight drop down to the river. It doesn't have much soil and rock left, and the cliff can't afford much more erosion before it undermines the road.

The two sites where Neeley Road collapsed in the past also had almost no land left on the river edge of the road. When rebuilt, County workmen had to create large metal framed structures with posts, similar to building a bridge, due to the lack of land underneath. At G6, the lane of Neeley Road next to the river is already starting to sink a bit.

The THP description does not include any mention of this water erosion or danger to the road. But, since they apparently didn't examine the area on foot, I can see why they might have missed it. An aerial photograph would not have captured it. Without studying

the history of road collapses on Neeley due to water erosion, they would not have spotted the potential danger.

Also, though the THP reports that there were no leaning trees in the G6 zone, I discovered a large fallen tree. It was about halfway up, in the middle, with roots exposed and plainly visible. Water had apparently loosened its roots.

### **INADEQUATE GULLY AND CULVERT AT G6**

The structures along the side of Neeley Road put in to handle the water flow are already inadequate. The gully that stretches along the 600-foot bottom edge of G6 carries the water from the ravine to a culvert. The culvert then carries the water under the road to spill out by the river. The amount of debris flowing onto Neeley attests to the fact that some of the water doesn't make it into the gully or the culvert. It flows beyond the gully and onto the road at the mouth of the ravine. Some flows the other direction because the road slopes slightly downhill at that point, taking the overflow across the street and over the edge.

Also, the culvert does not appear big enough to handle peak flows. A mud wall buildup around the entrance indicates water was flowing higher than the culvert inlet. (The day after I first reported this, someone replaced the mud wall buildup with rocks.) The other end of the culvert, where it spills out into the river, also needs some rocks or rip-rap added below to keep the water from further eroding the cliff on the river side. The steep vertical cliff by the river will not be able to handle more water erosion.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES**

As already stated, Neeley Road has failed twice due to cliff erosion underneath it, and it has needed to be rebuilt in two places. In both instances, the road collapses and subsequent construction reduced Neeley to one lane with stop lights controlling the traffic. Residents were inconvenienced for months while the repairs were done. If it happened again, it could endanger people who might

need to evacuate or flee due to fire, flood, or other disasters. It also would make it difficult or impossible for large emergency vehicles to get in and out.

**SUMMARY:**

- Please reconsider any logging along Neeley Road, an unstable landslide area. Especially reconsider any group selection at G6, a major water erosion site. Neeley Road is already in danger of road failure there due to water erosion. Major tree removal would speed up that damage exponentially.
- Please examine the G6 area with an impartial geologist, land surveyor, or county roads inspector before approving the THP or going ahead with the work. A boots on the ground, impartial inspection of the massive, active ravine waterway is needed to evaluate its potential to cause road failure and other problems.
- The very active “ravine watercourse” needs to be assessed, as it appears to be a redirected version of the Class III Watercourse described in the THP as dormant. Does the ravine need to be given a new designation of its own? Perhaps it is a Class II Watercourse? What if protected species live there?
- What might happen if all or most of the trees are removed? How much water will be added to the water table? How much more will flow downhill and erode the hillside and road? Now that the ravine has been located, with its large water volume, it needs to be included in the THP and its effects calculated by experts.
- Please consider the previous road failures less than a quarter mile down Neeley Road from G6. Both had the same steep cliff structure down to the river. In both

cases, due to water seeping under the road, the cliff eventually eroded and collapsed. It took half the road with it.

- Please consider the residents who live here and the long-term effects. During the rains, the site is one of many along Neeley Road regularly flooded with water running off Neeley Hill. Don't make the situation worse and less safe than it already is. *In winter, it is our only exit.*
- Please take some time to study this. Serious onsite, scientific study needs to be done, honestly reviewed, and carefully evaluated.
- Consider the future effects. The results of the group selection could be disastrous. Please do not harvest trees along these heavy waterways, eroding cliffs, and landslides along Neeley Road.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Susan Joice, Homeowner  
Member, Guerneville Forest Coalition

17330 Neeley Road, Guerneville, CA 95446  
(707) 869-3134 H, (707) 575-0652 C  
[sjoyce@comcast.net](mailto:sjoyce@comcast.net)

***NOTE: Please see the photographs, diagram, and map on the following pages for further clarification. Thank you.***



This is the path up to the “Ravine Watercourse” at G6 and Neeley Road. It shows the path of water flow that came down to the road after two recent light rains. Leaves, rocks, twigs, and slash were carried down and onto the road by the water.



More close-up photos of debris that was dispersed by water that ran out the ravine and onto Neeley Road.



View from inside the ravine,  
looking upstream.



Large tree growing right on the  
edge of the ravine.





Various views of the ravine.



This is a view of the left bank of the ravine, as you face uphill.

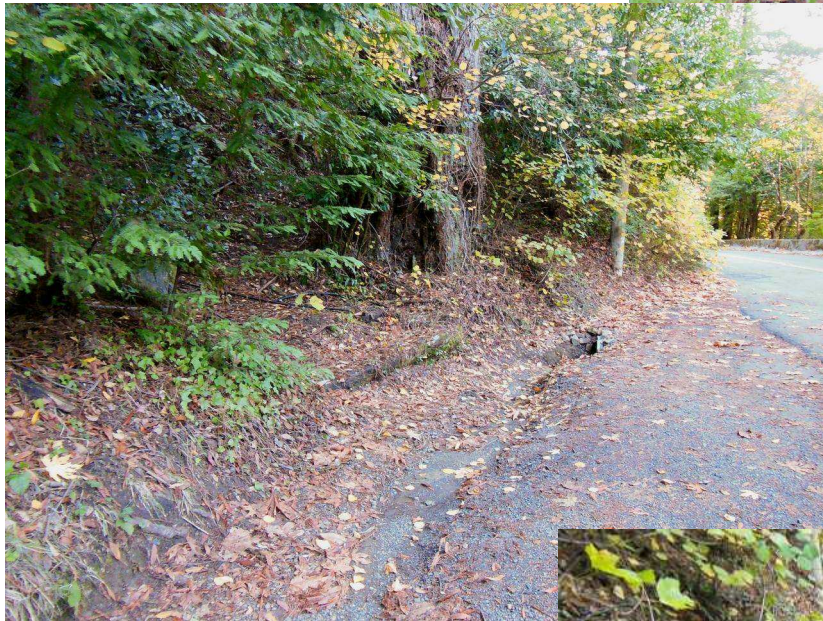


Branches have collected at the road end of the ravine, carried downhill by water.



Twigs and slash line the bottom of the ravine.

This is the Class III Watercourse on the other edge of the G6 area, considered to be “dormant.” Lack of ground wear shows little indication that water has recently flowed into the culvert that lies at its foot.



Gully that starts at the foot of the ravine runs along edge of Neeley turnout area to the culvert. Large turnout indicates land has been eroding back over many years,



Note the deep erosion at the culvert entrance caused by water rushing out of the ravine, down the gully along Neeley Road, to the culvert.



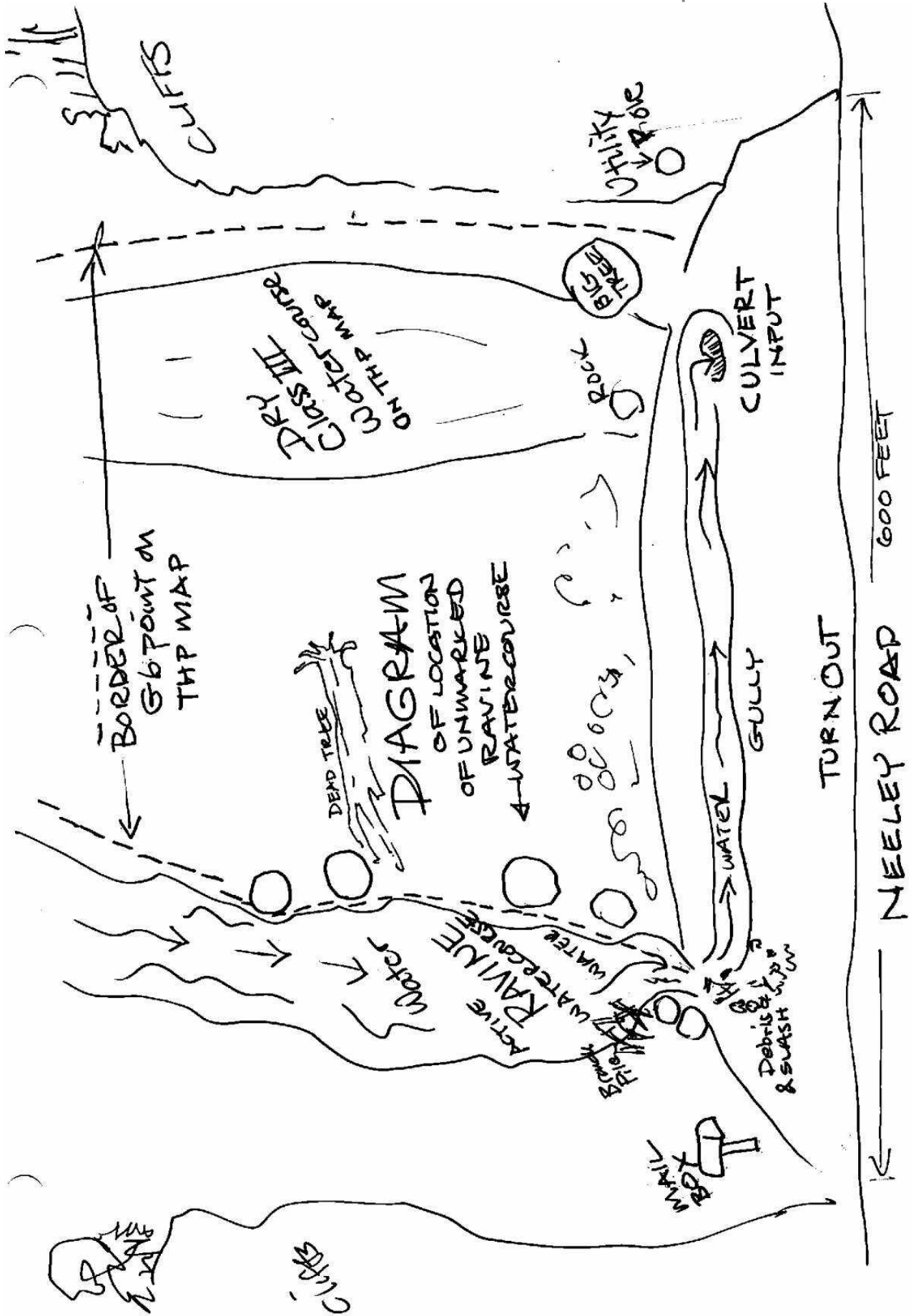
This is a photograph of a large landslide just to the right of G6 as you face the cliffs. It illustrates the instability of the whole area. Trees are barely clinging to the ridge top as the following photos show.



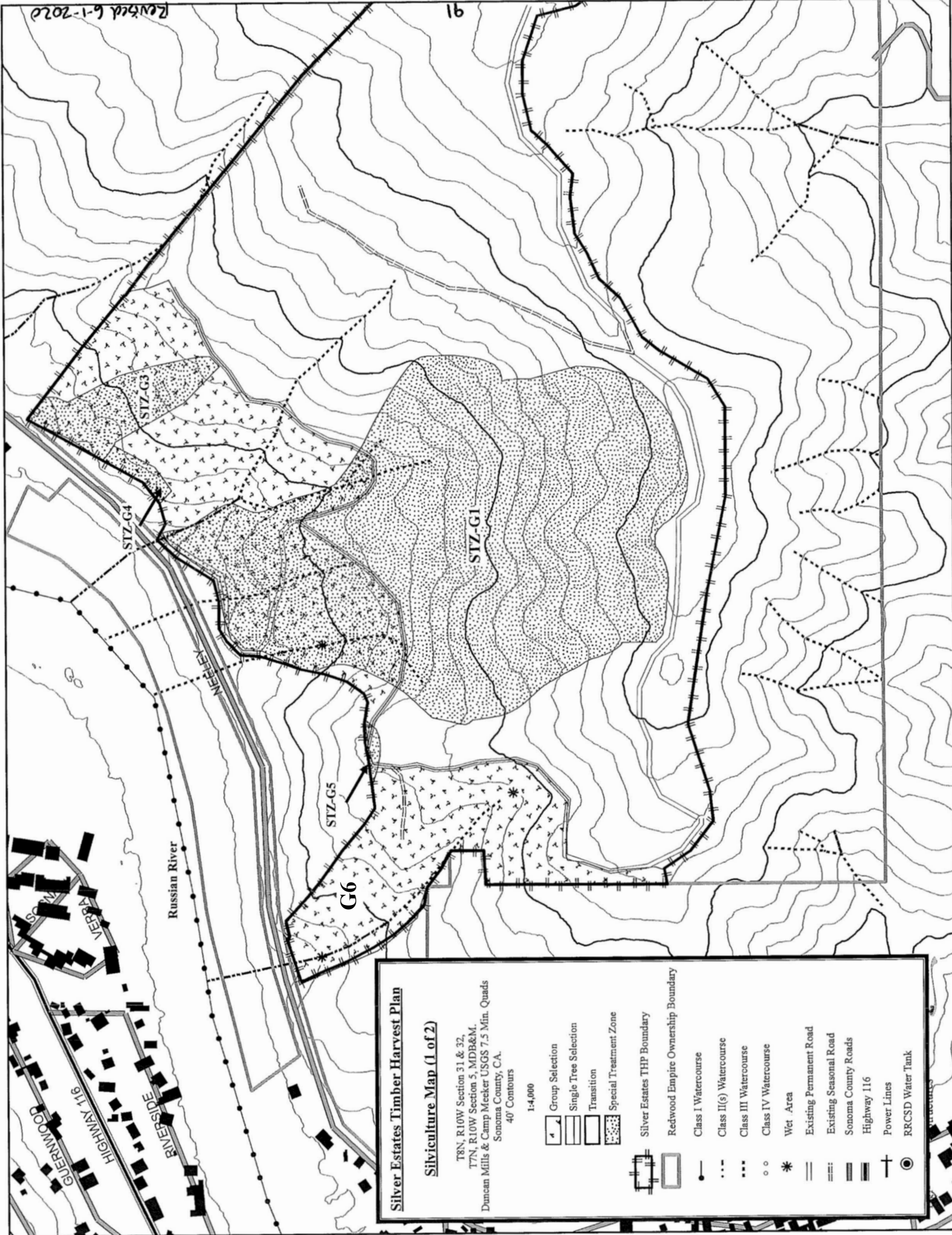
These photos show the top of the landslide area where trees have been undermined and “left hanging,” so to speak.



Here is another example of major landslides and water erosion along the cliff tops of the hillside adjacent to the G6 group cut area, right above Neeley Road.







**Silver Estates Timber Harvest Plan**  
**Silviculture Map (1 of 2)**

T8N, R10W Section 31 & 32,  
 T7N, R10W Section 5, MDR&M,  
 Duncan Mills & Camp Meecker USGS 7.5 Min. Quads  
 Sonoma County, CA.  
 40' Contours

1:4,000

- Group Selection
- Single Tree Selection
- Transition
- Special Treatment Zone

- Silver Estates THP Boundary
- Redwood Empire Ownership Boundary
- Class I Watercourse
- Class II(s) Watercourse
- Class III Watercourse
- Class IV Watercourse
- Wet Area
- Existing Permanent Road
- Existing Seasonal Road
- Sonoma County Roads
- Highway 116
- Power Lines
- RRCSD Water Tank

GUERNEVILLE Post Office  
14060 Mill St.  
GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446-9998



Nov 24, 2020

Postal Customer  
15270 ORCHARD RD  
GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446

Dear Homeowner:

Some months back we started the process of trying to get funding for Cluster Box Units (CBUs) and Outside Parcel Lockers (OPLs) for this community. Siting the CBUs was real challenge. Sonoma County requires CBU's be placed 8' off the road. In GUERNEVILLE that makes most of the idea locations unusable and nobody wants a CBU on their front porch.

The CBUs are state of the art that will add a level of security at a time when identity theft is prevalent throughout the world. With all of the mail theft we have had in the area, having locking mailboxes that accommodates both your mail and your parcels should be a real plus. These lockers also avoid the problem of leaving packages on adjacent doorsteps, which can leave them susceptible to weather damage or theft. Having centralized delivery opens up the precious space in front of your house to park your car or to do the weekly recycling. We believe the CBUs represent a win-win for both residents and the postal service.

The good news is the boxes are in place and have been labeled. Your particular unit is located at 15098 Old River Rd. We are at that stage where we are ready for you to pick up your key. Please bring a Photo ID and something with your address on it. We will give you your keys for your new mailbox. Sorry for the inconvenience but receiving your mail and packages will be safer and more secure in the long run. We hope these new boxes will provide you with a peace of mind by alleviating any security issues concerning your mail.

If you have any questions or other postal concerns, please feel free to call me at (707) 869-2167.

Sincerely,

Ron COMBS  
Postmaster  
GUERNEVILLE Post Office  
14060 Mill St.  
GUERNEVILLE, CA 95446-9998

*phone does not answer*

Lloyd Guccione  
15270 Orchard Road  
Guerneville, Ca. 95446  
(707) 869 – 2935  
[llbooks@pacbell.net](mailto:llbooks@pacbell.net)

November 25, 2020

To: Ms. Elise Van Dyne (aide to 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor)  
Ms. Lynda Hopkins, 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
Mr. Ron Combs, Post Master, Guerneville  
Mr. Jared Huffman, U. S. House of Representatives  
Mr. Tennis Wick, Director Sonoma County Permit & Resources Dept.  
Ms. Donna Zapata (aide to State Senator Mike McGuire)  
Mr. Mike McGuire, California State Senate

**Subject:** Consolidated Postal Units – Guerneville area. Process and community engagement.

Dear Addressees:

Today I received another flyer from Mr. Combs, Post Master of the Guerneville Post Office; this one noticing me that I may pick up my key and I should remember to bring my identification. This is the third flyer I have received: two dated November 13<sup>th</sup> and this latest dated November 24<sup>th</sup>. No other correspondence, notice, etc. has been received by me (or by any member of my immediate neighborhood (Orchard Road), to my best knowledge). No invitations to community meetings on the matter – not from the Post Office, not from PRMD, not from our local supervisor. No articles or notices in the newspapers. Nothing.

Perhaps even the supervisor was kept at a distance from learning about this matter and its progress. It is reasonable to assume that this project has been in the ‘works’ for at least two years; given how government works. Surely we could have been involved quite early – even before Covid-19, the election, and etc., etc.; but we were not.

I attempted to call Mr. Combs today at the number provided, but the telephone just rings, and rings, and rings, and rings. It is much like when I visited the Guerneville Post Office recently, and did business at the counter with the mail clerk, and the telephone rang, and rang, and rang. No one picked up the phone. Not even when I suggested the clerk take the call and I would continue to wait. I suspect my experience is not unique.

However, my neighbor Mr. Eckert, did talk with Mr. Combs this past Monday. He tells me that Combs said they placed no newspaper notices. Mr. Eckert told him he had not received any notice prior to November 13<sup>th</sup> and asked that Combs send him a copy of the *original* flyer/notice. Mr. Eckert has not yet received that copy. Nor have I received a reply to my letter to Mr. Combs of November 14<sup>th</sup>. So be it.

The arrogance and indifference this process examples is, sadly, no longer the exception to our relation to government, its agencies, and functionaries. Perhaps this is what we deserve; our *just rewards*.

Kindly yours,

Lloyd Guccione

cc: Johanna Lynch, *Russian River Times*  
Paul Bomberger, Local News Editor, *Press Democrat*  
Eric Wittmershaus, Deputy Managing Editor, *Press Democrat*  
Jim Sweeney, *Press Democrat*

**Note:** Dear Ms. Elise Van Dyne: Please include a copy of this letter as correspondence to the Lower River MAC. Thank you. Lloyd

Lloyd Guccione  
15270 Orchard Road  
Guerneville, Ca. 95446  
(707) 869 – 2935  
[llbooks@pacbell.net](mailto:llbooks@pacbell.net)

November 17, 2020

To: Elise VanDyne  
c/o Ms. Lynda Hopkins  
575 Administration Drive, Room 100  
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95403

Greetings Elise,

John Uniack called me today to let me know there had been another accident at the entrance to Rio Nido. John has brought the issue of often to the attention of the various supervisors and directors of county roads through the many, many years.

John is of the view that a change in the roadway is needed and warranted, and certainly I agree that something (an improvement) needs to be done. Sooner rather than later.

Whether a dedicated turn lane, prominent rumble strips, or other such measures, are (each individually, or collectively) a *solution* deserves prompt consideration and some movement toward implementation. So it seems.

Also, given the continued increases in traffic flow on River Road between Rio Nido and Guerneville – increases arising from business activity, as well as increased occupancy in the housing units (many if not most converted from single family residences to multiple apartment and room rentals) I think it is time to give consideration to lowering the speed limit on that stretch of River Road to 35mph from the current 40mph. While it is understood that such a measure would help it is also a matter of education, enforcement, and (in general) traffic calming.

I hope you will be able to respond to John and share some positive reaction to his continuing efforts on behalf of all of us.

Kindly yours,

Lloyd Guccione

Note: Please include this letter as correspondence to the Lower Russian River MAC.

From: Jennifer Wertz <[jen@russianriveralliance.org](mailto:jen@russianriveralliance.org)>  
Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020, 5:16 PM  
Subject: CARES Act small business grants  
To: <[ethan.brown@sonoma-county.org](mailto:ethan.brown@sonoma-county.org)>  
Cc: Callahan, Mary <[mary.callahan@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:mary.callahan@pressdemocrat.com)>

Hello,

I am a volunteer for a non-profit community advocacy group in the lower river area. It has been brought to my attention that only 36 of the 540 grants were awarded to small businesses in the lower river area from Forestville to Jenner.

This is concerning considering we are an economically disadvantaged community that generates a large percentage of the TOT tax (showing how much we rely on tourism), and we have been hugely impacted by disasters, including a major flood.

I was forwarded an email in which you stated our area was a priority for this funding. I would like to know how much of the \$2.5m was awarded to this area, who made the decisions, and exactly where and how much of the funding was granted elsewhere in the County? Can you please provide dollar amount totals, number of grants approved, and in which cities/towns within the County the grants were awarded?

Regards,  
Jennifer Wertz  
707-483-7038  
[www.russianriveralliance.org](http://www.russianriveralliance.org)

Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (LRRMAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2020

Zoom Meeting

5:30-7:30pm

**Call to order** MAC Clerk/Nance Jones

**Pledge of Allegiance** Completed

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Michael Nicholls, Vesta Copestakes, Jeanette Dillman, Lucy Hardcastle, Jordan Lebovich, Pip Marquez de la Plata, Claudia Sisomphou, Cynthia Strecker, Ron Redmon

**Absent:** none

**Statement of Conflict of Interest-** None

**Agenda Approval:**

Mike Nicholls made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion Seconded by Pip Marquez de la Plata. Motion Carried 9-0-0.

**Correspondence:**

**Chair Dillman introduction of Timber Harvest Plan Letter:**

This is a letter from Colin Baptle, a member of the Guerneville Forest Coalition, regarding County responsibility in a failing culvert on Neeley Road as well as County action to ensure adequacy of Neeley Road and Mays Canyon Road to handle more than 80 logging truck trips related to the Silver Estates TH2

**General Public Comments: None**

## **Consent Items:**

1. Approval of minutes from September 18, <sup>th</sup> 2020.

Motion made by Mike Nicholls to approve minutes from June 18, 2020. Motion seconded by Pip Marquez de la Plata. Motion carried 9-0-0

## **Informational Items**

### **A. Chair Dillman's Comments-**

In a recent conversation with the first Lower Russian River MAC chair, Mike Nicholls, we reviewed these first 2 formative years. This is what he said, "Seems we are whipsawed due to major issues i.e. flooding, fires, evacuations, smoke, locust, landslides, PSPS events, all gobbling up time to address and discuss. .and detracting from our underlying mission. "We are whipsawed, he said. This is where we are and have been since the major flood the day after our first meeting. The mission of the MAC is advisory to the Board of Supervisors on matters related to the Lower Russian River, to be a bridge between the community and the Board of Supervisors for a more complete representative point of view. At this point, the Chair will advance the beginning of open conversation about the most prominent issues of our normal underlying mission...Tourism, Housing, Roads and Floods. After much thought on how to approach these issues the Chair is proposing beginning discussions based on the idea and framework of a strategic plan. This will elevate the conversation beyond those of individuals or pockets of community problems and focus on clearly identifying all sides of the issues and how to solve these problems; a framework, not a list. This approach will also begin to define who we are and where we want to be. Hopefully this will promote thorough presentation of the issues and, as a community, come to unified conclusions and solutions. Historically, in 2009 the RRROC developed a River Strategic Plan which was retired. In April of 2017 the County Administrators Office presented the Sonoma County Strategic Priorities document which is currently being developed and will include a River Specific Plan. For starters, Permit Sonoma has committed to present and discuss the question of a Russian River Specific plan at our December meeting. This gives the community time to research and clearly identify problems and prepare to provide solutions from the view of moving forward. I urge you to contact your

MAC representative for any comments, questions or assistance you may need. So let's see what we can do as a unified community. Supervisor Hopkins, is there any information you wish to add at this time?

#### B. Supervisor Hopkins update:

- Lynda profusely thanked all the MAC members for all of their hard work. Lynda also acknowledged the vacation rental AdHoc for all of their hard work on the survey. That information will be shared at the BOS
- Lynda addressed the serious issue of the campfires near Monte Rio and Bohemian Highway. Lynda reported that a meeting was held this Monday to include all of the key stakeholders to address this issue. The Torr property now belongs to the parks system and will have rangers patrolling. She asked for everyone to remain vigilant and report any suspicions of fire. PMRD will be addressing any permit issues on private property.
- Flood mitigation awards will be voted on at the next BOS meeting.
- Lynda also announced the nomination process is open for anyone interested in applying for a vacant MAC position. If you are interested in joining the MAC please apply.
- Lynda also reminded the group that there is a process going on right now to look at the possibility of combining school campuses. This is an important issue for our communities and please look for information.

#### **Board Comment**

- Claudia Sisomphou asked Lynda when the school decision would be made. Lynda did not know at this point.
- Vesta Copestakes asked where the communication was. Lynda was hoping that there would be more information. Mike Nicholls reported that there was an article in the West County paper.
- Elise VanDyne will ask for a presenter at the next Forestville Townhall.
- Lucy Hardcastle announced that the Forestville Townhall is on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30.



## **Public Comment – no questions/comments**

### **Chair Dillman introduced Roberta MacIntyre –**

Roberta MacIntyre, President of Fire Safe Sonoma, has over 35 years of fire service experience and served as the Sonoma County Fire Marshal for 7 years.

#### **C. Fire Safe Council Presentation by Roberta MacIntyre Executive Director of Fire Safe Sonoma**

Please see attachment of the outlined process for becoming a fire safe neighborhood or community.

Key Points:

- You need committed Champions
- You need members who are committed to the work
- It helps to have members who have some longevity and can keep the group going

### **Board Comment**

- Claudia Sisomphou asked if there is a minimum household requirement. Roberta uses geopolitical districts or large neighborhoods or neighborhood associations. Claudia also asked if the primary benefit of larger areas is funding? Roberta says whatever works for your neighborhood is great.
- Lucy Hardcastle- asked if her neighborhood morphed into larger neighborhoods and has this helped with fuel reduction. Roberta responded that you should create your CWPP and then apply for grant funding
- Elise VanDyne- commented that Fire Safe Councils are very useful at the BOS level
- Vesta Copestakes- reported that Fire Safe Occidental identifies escape routes and getting rid of wood chips on roadways. Also, that sharing of info is good. Roberta is recording educational seminars for Fire Safe Sonoma and can help with funding for property assessments.

## Public Comment

- Lisa Loop- asked Roberta to highlight how Fire Safe is better or different than other groups? Roberta said that there is no requirement for Fire Safe. COPE and map your neighborhood could broaden to outreach and education
- Pete Lescure- is on the Mark West Council and will invite Roberta to speak there. He informed the group that there is a grant program through Hazard Mitigation Cal OES mitigation
- Lisa Loop- Can people share grant info? Roberta says yes, they can

## Regular Calendar Items

### Chair Dillman introduced Joe Horak PG&E

Today we have Joe Horak, the General Manager of the PG&E

North Bay and Sonoma Divisions Director Joe Horak is with us to discuss Grid Resilience and the backstory of "Smaller, Shorter, Smarter PSPS events" in our area. He has also worked with Roberta and Fire Safe Sonoma in wildfire safety. PG&E also has formed a Community Wildfire Safety Program to reduce wildfire threats and strengthen a community's prevention and emergency response efforts.

#### A. PG&E Grid Resilience Presentation:

Presenters: Joe Horak North Bay and Sonoma Division Director, Melinda Rivera Public Affairs Director

Please see attachment of the Community Wildlife Safety Program presentation. Key points are highlighted here:

- PG&E working on reducing risk of wildfires
- Three tiers
  - 1-low risk
  - 2-elevated
  - 3-Extreme risk- Russian River out to ocean is all elevated risk

Areas of customer support where improvements have been made:

- Weather stations
- High definition cameras
- Resource centers
- Hardening poles
- Substation readiness
- Enhanced vegetation management
- More sectionalizing of grids to a finer degree
- PSPS are usually only tier 2&3

### **Board Comment**

- Mike Nicholls- reclosers and sectionalizers need to be added to the Russian River Area- Joe Horak agreed and reported they will look at those areas and also Salmon Creek moving generators there.
- Pip Marquez de la Plata-With only one weather station at Sweet Water Springs how does that affect impact
- Vesta Copestakes- Asked if gas is always shut off in a PSPS? Joe Horak responded that the call is made by Cal Fire and is not normally turned off only in case of actual fire. Then PG&E will turn power back on first before gas.

### **Public Comment**

- John Uniack- Asked how many towers can transmit? Joe Horak did not know the answer at this time but will research answer. John also asked if our humidity is high why are we still designated a high risk. Joe Horak responded that CPUC and Cal Fire make the decision for designated fire risk not PG&E.
- David Rosen- Can Lower Russian River get better weather station coverage and what does it take. Joe Horak responded that they need land that is good geographically to ensure ease of reading

**For any more questions contact Joe Horak at [joe.horak@pge.com](mailto:joe.horak@pge.com)**

## **Chair Dillman introduced the topic of Trash**

We are all aware of the significant trash problems in the lower river and the various concerted volunteer efforts to maintain a safe and healthy environment. As with any problem of this magnitude, the issue is convoluted. Supervisor Hopkins Field Representative Elise VanDyne is going to discuss the many aspects of how we deal with this community issue.

### **B. Trash- New Programs and discussion of challenges- presenter Elise VanDyne**

- Serious problem for all of us
- Community-wide programs a must
- Lynda Hopkins and the team are working on a multifaceted approach
- TPW will notify of mowing schedule- Will start adopt a highway program'
- Education and engagement-Confluence, working with Parks and Tourism
- Neighborhood cleanups-example Hacienda and Mothers Beach cleanup days
- Grant for Everclean services
- Elise is happy to hear suggestions

### **Board Comment**

- Pip Marquez de la Plata asks if he should contact Elise for clean up days?  
Yes
- Vesta Copestakes- asks if they have talked more about public trash cans and service at Park and Rides and Regional Parks. Elise says that regional parks do have trash cans and are looking at inflate and deflate for floaties
- Cynthia Strecker- there should be more focus on beaches. She is looking for a balance between park and rec and county.

### **Public Comment**

- Lisa Loop- there is a need to work with high schools to educate early, Elise agreed

C. Residential Parking Permit Program AdHoc Committee Report- Presenter Kyra Wink

Committee Members- Kyra Wink, Claudia Sisomphou, Lisa Nahmanson, Bruce MacDonnell

Work to date:

- Reviewing other Parking Permit Programs in the Area
- Drafting survey questions
- Gather information from other reports and programs and survey
- Report back to MAC

D. AdHoc Committee action item-

**Chair Dillman read the following statement regarding selection of AdHoc Committees:**

There are two reasons for this agenda item. One is to recognize what these groups do in moving our mission forward. This is the workhorse of the Council. In these times of many personal and community stressors committee members have devoted hours in developing and presenting complete and accurate information and documents for the Council to deliberate in forming advisory recommendations for the BOS.

I would like to introduce the committee members. Second. After appointment of committees the Chair failed to obtain approval of the Council as required. The Chair will entertain a motion to correct that error.

Motion so approve all appointees to the AdHoc committees made by Claudia Sisomphou. Motion seconded by Mike Nicholls. Motion carried 9-0-0

**Proclamations-none**

**Board Reports and AdHoc Committee reports in packet**

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

Continue with trash

Permit

Septic Rules and Regulations

TPW update on work done since last flood

Chair Dillman disbanded the previous AdHoc for agenda planning and asked for a motion to disband. Vesta Copestakes made a motion to disband the current agenda planning AdHoc. Mike Nicholls seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-0.

Chair Dillman then asked for volunteers for new agenda planning AdHoc. The new agenda planning AdHoc will comprise Chair Dillman, Claudia Sisomphou, Pip Marquez de la Plata and Cynthia Strecker.

**Adjournment-** A motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm was made by Pip Marquez and the motion was seconded by Mike Nicholls. Motion carried 9-0-0.

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Ms. Lynda Hopkins, Supervisor District 5  
County of Sonoma  
575 Administration Dr.  
Santa Rosa CA 95403

Dear Supervisor Hopkins:

The Lower Russian River MAC would like to summarize our activities and accomplishments over the calendar year 2020 for you and other members of the Board of Supervisors. Our summary is drawn from the complete record of activities extracted from our meeting minutes over the past year as well as from board reports.

1. Bi-Monthly Meetings -- The Lower Russian River MAC generally convenes the third Thursday of every other month at 5:30PM, with special meetings, called as necessary, redeploying at various venues within the MAC boundaries.
2. A Year of Challenges – This has been a second challenging year of multiple, simultaneous disasters with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting how we function on every level, impacting the LRR MAC (Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council) and slowing the process of moving forward.

As the LRR MAC first Chair, Mike Nicholls stated, “Seems we are whipsawed due to major issues i.e. flooding, fires, evacuations, smoke, landslides, PSPS events, all gobbling up time to address and discuss....and detracting from our underlying mission.”

In these trying times the LRR MAC is beginning to more clearly define the local predominant community issues of Tourism, Housing, Roads and Disasters evaluating various aspects and redefining the concerns while setting the goal to move forward to form a comprehensive lower river Strategic Plan framework for developing workable solutions.

At the same time, this past year has had some notable successes in creating a voice for our rural communities. The reports included on Land Use, the Flood Mitigation Grants, Roads Repair prioritization, Vacation Rental Policy and more have, for the first time, included widespread citizen outreach and input. This has come not only from the meetings, but also from the

individual outreach efforts of the Council Representatives and Alternates. These first two formative years have set the foundation for a Municipal Advisory Council that gives voice to unincorporated residents and for effective County collaboration on major issues.

The Council members and alternates are commended on their flexibility, endurance and resilience in these unique formative years. The first two years of the LRR MAC are coming to a close with the election of new Council Members and I look forward to increased involvement of all council members, an opportunity for alternates to participate more widely, and the future work of the LRR MAC to closely match our mission and goals.

#### 4. Presentations and Actions

- a. Presentation Permit Sonoma, Land Use Review Process
- b. Presentation by Sonoma County on TIF grants, process and priorities
- c. Approval of MAC Communication Guide
- d. Presentation mitigating tourism impacts at Forestville Beaches
- e. Presentation on Summer Dam Implementation and removal processes
- f. Presentation by Sonoma County Regional Parks and recent updates
- g. Presentation by community Sheriff Engagement Liaison on enforcement issues during Covid-19
- h. Designation of Flood Mitigation Grant Funds Awards
- i. Presentation by Vacation Rental Ad Hoc on Survey Program with outcomes provided to BOS
- j. Presentation by WCCS on implementation of Covid Homeless Navigation Center at Guerneville Park and Ride
- k. Presentation by MAC Chair of revised MAC Policies, Procedures and Bylaws
- l. Approval of MAC Land Use Policy
- m. Presentation by PG&E on Grid Resilience and new program updates
- n. Presentation by Supervisor Hopkins office on trash issues and solutions
- o. Presentation by County Regional Parks and updates on new policies and options for shuttle
- p. Presentation by Chair Dillman on new election process for MAC member selection
- q. Presentation by WCCS on progress of Covid Navigation Center in Guerneville Park and Ride
- r. Presentation by Fire Safe Sonoma



#### 4. Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Vacation Rental AdHoc
- b. Residential Parking Permit AdHoc
- c. Agenda Setting AdHoc
- d. Flood Mitigation Fund Distribution AdHoc
- e. Community Engagement AdHoc
- f. Bylaws AdHoc
- g. Roads AdHoc
- h. Land Use AdHoc
- i. CAG Liaison

#### 5. Accomplishments

- a. Town Hall Meetings by individual representatives
  - Forestville Town Hall Nov 5, 2020
- b. Community Engagement Policy finalized and approved
- c. Land Use Policy developed and approved
- d. Vacation Rental Survey Project Completed and shared with Board of Supervisors
- e. Agenda Setting Policy revised and approved
- f. LRRMAC policies and procedures reviewed and current policies stand
- g. LRRMAC election and selection policy revised and approved
- f. Land Use AdHoc Reviewed and recommended approval of The Lodge at GuerneWood Park- approved by the LRRMAC

#### 6. Communications/ Correspondence

- a. Letter to Sheriff Essick regarding Covid enforcement
- b. Letter to BOS from Cazadero Community Services District regarding Major Memorial Day Race
- c. Letter from Timber Harvest Plan Group
- d. Letter from Sheriff Essick
- e. Letter from Jennifer Wertz-Russian River Alliance Volunteer
- f. Letter from Lloyd Guccione regarding speed limit reduction at entrance to Rio Nido and post office

## **Board Changes in 2020**

Resignation of Representative Jennifer Wertz- Ron Redmon was appointed to replace Jennifer

Appointment of Nic Pereira to Alternate to replace Ron Redmon

Resignation of Alternate Gary Harris- Lisa Nahmanson was appointed to replace Gary

Should you require additional detail regarding the 2020 activities of the LRR MAC do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Jeanette Dillman, Chair

Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

Attachments – Ad Hoc Reports, Correspondence.

Cc: Mac Council Members and Alternates

Elise Weiland

Leo Chyi

Attachments – Ad Hoc Reports, Correspondence.

## **Ad Hoc Annual Reports**

Reports Received from:

Land Use AdHoc

Vacation Rental AdHoc

CAG Liaison Ad Hoc

Agenda Setting AdHoc

Flood Mitigation Fund Distribution AdHoc

Bylaws AdHoc

Community Engagement AdHoc

Residential Parking Permit AdHoc

No Reports received from:

Road Use AdHoc

**Land Use AdHoc Annual Report**

**Michael Nicholls – Chair**

**11/18/2020**

The Land Use Ad Hoc was established at the regular MAC meeting on June 18, 2020, specifically for the purpose of coordinating with Permit Sonoma, residents within the Lower Russian River MAC jurisdiction and the Board of Supervisors in identifying matters related to permitting and land use issues. Ad hoc members consisted of Michael Nicholls, Jeanette Dillman, Cynthia Strecker and Claudia Sisomphou. 1.

The Ad hoc met on July 21, 2020 to review a presentation made by the Lodge at Russian River – Guerneville Park, a synopsis of key presentation points follow.

- a. Resort will consist of 100 guest rooms, and 20 'tree house' guest rooms, including dining, convention meeting space, and spa facilities
- b. Lok and the Noble House group have a proven long-term hospitality service record in the county, the bay area and throughout the United States and are recognized for employee retention and competitive wage and benefits offerings.
- c. The Resort is anticipated to create a year-round customer/revenue base for downtown Guerneville and the lower Russian River Community.
- d. 25 Public Parking Spaces, managed by gatehouse personnel, in addition to employee and guest parking spaces.
- e. Public rest room facilities adjacent to guest parking area
- f. Public access to the beach area
- g. Facility will provide \$250,000 in anticipated annual TOT revenue to county
- h. Emergency shelter potential in time of need.
- i. Has been in planning discussions since 2009 with the county
- j. Anticipated workforce of 80-100, approximately 75-80% will be hired within a 20-minute commute radius from the resort. Wage structure to be based on prevailing wages, complete with healthcare, 401K and other benefits. Committed to compliance with NRLB guidelines should labor organizing take place.
- k. Steel framed fire-resistant structure, meeting height limitations and built above 100-year flood level on a pier system, allowing for flood resiliency. No history of flooding noted in proposed building structure areas.

l. Zoned K (Recreation/visitor-serving) since 1989, therefore no zoning change is required to amend the county general plan.

m. Broad Support from business community and neighbors.

n. Traffic studies are numerous and recent, inclusive of major intersections at Hwy 116 and River Rd, and Hwy 116 and Armstrong Woods Rd.

o. Water supply needs are adequate from Sweetwater Springs. Russian River Sanitation district has confirmed adequate WWTP capacity for the resort.

p. Management group worked with County Fire on preliminary design

q. 24/7 Security is planned on-site. Emergency access is also provided to Dubrava neighbors EV Charging stations included in the plan.

2. The ad hoc recommended, at a future regular or special MAC meeting, a full presentation by the applicant be presented which includes public comment for final consideration and endorsement by the full council.

3. The Lower Russian River MAC ratified the recommendation of the Ad Hoc and approved recommending the project move forward for public comment and full presentation by the applicant

. 4. No additional land use projects were referred by Permit Sonoma or county staff to the Lower Russian River MAC for consideration during 2020.

5. The Land Use ad hoc completed its assigned work in November 2020

**LRRMAC Vacation Rental Committee Report Final Recommendations: A  
Synopsis of Findings Date: 11-23-20**

Committee Members: Lucy Hardcastle, Chair; Vesta Copestakes, Forestville Representative, Cynthia Strecker, Monte Rio Representative; Nic Pereira, Guerneville Representative and Neil Baker, community member and volunteer.

Note: This Ad-Hoc Committee was tasked to present a “snapshot in time” of Vacation Rentals in the lower Russian River Area and report on our findings. The ensuing report revealed three key issues to be addressed.

Issue #1. Political Will - How invested is the Board of Supervisors in resolving conflicts associated with Vacation Rentals in the lower Russian River? Previous studies have gone ignored. Former recommendations put before the Supervisors have not been enacted. Those who benefit financially from fewer restrictions have strong incentives to lobby Supervisors insisting their point of view be adopted. They feel complaints from neighbors are overblown, yet the informal survey that was conducted by the committee showed problems continue to exist. Then there is getting data on Vacation Rentals from the County pulled together to create a comprehensive picture. Right now, it seems different data is stored in different departments. Without a mandate to pull that information together it remains scattered and inaccessible to the public. With so many important issues before the Supervisors, will this one get ignored or put off again? Who in County government can ensure the research gets done? Where will the financial resources for this research come from, and who has the political will to tackle the issues around Vacation Rentals... once and for all? It's obvious doing nothing has not worked in the past.

Issue #2. Housing Stock – Without clear data we are operating on assumptions that the more housing stock that goes into Vacation Rentals means the less opportunity there is for those who may have grown up in the area to settle down here and raise a family. Where do people rent or buy who work in the lower Russian River? There seems to be pressure, either from existing building ordinances or NIMBY, to accommodate tourist dollars by using houses in neighborhoods vs creating more hotel rooms. Tourism dollars are important and part of the lower Russian River economy, while having affordable housing for its workers holds true as well. This is actually an international dilemma where “attractive communities” are weighing what their future will look like. What amount of sacrifice of local is ideal? Is there a way to have more than a handful of people benefit from whatever decision is made? What is a good balance between building a community and tax dollars?

Issue #3. Enforcement – You can have all the rules spelled out (like in Section 26-88-120) but if they are just words with no action, they lose value. There are already well thought out and specific rules on what is and isn't allowed for

Vacation Rentals. What is less clear is the rather vague section on what might happen to a rule breaker, and how the County's process of enforcing those regulations plays out. If the current code was consistently enforced across the board most of the community's complaints would be addressed. All sides would benefit from knowing what to expect and penalties would assist County coffers along the way. The biggest complaint the Committee heard from the community was the lack of enforcement. Vacation Rental companies feel they get good response from the County when it comes to code enforcement. Others living in communities impacted by rude and sometimes abusive behavior from tourists beg to differ. Recommendations:

1. That the BOS allocate funding to properly gather the data needed to make informed decisions. That data to include but not limited to:

- a. Actual numbers of Vacation Rental permits currently active.
- b. Saturation levels in any given neighborhood.
- c. Number of complaints any given year and what was done about them.
- d. Amount of money collected from fines and amount of money spent on overseeing code violations.
- e. Percentage of housing stock available for long term rentals.

2. That the BOS research the efficacy of utilizing an outside business that assists local governments in the regulation of Vacation Rentals (and finding unlicensed operators) if they determine they do not have the bandwidth to do the appropriate studies on Vacation Rentals in lower Russian River themselves. The committee talked with Host Compliance but there may be others who provide this service.

3. That the BOS review the more extensive report prepared in 2016 whereby several of the recommendations from that report would be salient to this day. No need to repeat what is readily available to the BOS from that report. Thank you for the opportunity to look into Vacation Rentals in the lower Russian River. It was an enlightening experience and the committee respectfully encourages the BOS to use the ensuing time it has available during the temporary freeze on new permits to create a policy that will address the concerns brought forth.

Lucy Hardcastle, Chair

### **CAG Liaison Annual Report**

The CAG has continued to grapple with problems related to funding interim solutions and a management entity for the project. It had been expected that the State would finalize the TMDL regulations in January 2021, but that process has been delayed. When the TMDL is finalized the Regional Board will begin working on a letter to homeowners (with CAG input) asking for information about their waste systems and outlining next steps in the process. At this point the letter is expected to go to homeowners in late summer of 2021.



Mike Thompson from SCWA reported that the application for the planning grant (\$500,000) has been made and we expect to hear from the state Department of Financial Assistance in October. In the meantime, Charles Reed from the Regional Water Board has discovered an additional funding source (CSU - Sac State) that could help with a portion of the questions involved. They are willing to study different management options for whatever entity gets formed to manage the district. One of our co-chairpersons, Dan Fein meets with this group regularly and acts as a liaison between the two groups. This could be very helpful as it would allow us to study the options in depth, but at the moment it is putting the cart before the horse as this addresses the HOW we would manage the district while we have not yet decided WHAT this district would be and do. IF the final system and management plan calls for a district which makes regular inspections of people's septic's so as to insure TMDL compliance, Permit Sonoma has expanded their definition of qualified (septic) inspectors to any number of individuals with qualifying certification. This is expected to substantially reduce the cost of regular inspections to individual homeowners. This change will be reflected in the revised OWTS (On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems) manual. Nathan Quarles of Permit Sonoma hopes to get this change to the Board of Supervisors in Sept. or October.

CAG recommends making it a requirement for coordination with Engineering Grant consultant and SAC STATE consultant (in workplan) so that both the Engineering Consultant AND the Governance Consultant work in tandem.

Mike Thompson (SCWA) will develop a list of questions regarding the content of the Scope of Work. The CAG will review Scope of Work questions and give input at its next meeting on Aug. 27th. This input will then be reflected in the RFQ.

Mike Thompson will explore with SCWA (Sonoma County Water Agency) the possibility of getting a preliminary RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for the consultant in advance of the executed agreement so that they would be prepared to begin the study immediately after the funds become available in October.

Alisha O'Loughlin, Lower Russian River Ombudsperson, reports that expectations are for a 2022 funding timeline for the mini-loan program designed to help individual homeowners comply with the TMDL regulations. She is researching which county department would implement/administer the mini-loans to homeowners.

The very large question remains of what will happen to homeowners if their system fails or needs repair during the multi-year timeline while the system is being decided upon and fully implemented. These questions can also impact major remodels/additions which homeowners might wish to undertake.

The CAG recommends that the Regional Board and Permit Sonoma come to agreement about accommodations that will address this interim period.

Submitted by Cynthia Strecker

**Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council Ad Hoc Report –  
Agenda 2020 Michael Nicholls – Chair 7/22/2020**

The ad hoc was established at the February 20, 2020 LRRMAC meeting, specifically for the purpose of setting agendas for the LRRMAC during 2020

1. Claudia Sisomphou, Michael Nicholls, Jeanette Dillman and Pip de la Plata are the appointed ad hoc members.

2. Michael Nicholls was named ad hoc Chair.

3. The Ad hoc met bi-monthly and as needed to research, formulate and assemble a meeting agenda for bi-monthly council meetings as well as special meetings called by the council chair.

4. With the adoption of the LRRMAC Policies and Procedures, the Agenda 2020 ad hoc no longer serves a function and was dissolved on July 22, 2020.

**Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council Annual Report**  
**Flood Mitigation Funding Ad Hoc Committee**  
**Submitted November 30, 2020**

The Flood Mitigation Funding Ad Hoc Committee was established at the October 17, 2019 LRRMAC meeting specifically for the purpose of defining projects that would qualify for the County's \$1.5M flood recovery funds.

1. Claudia Sisomphou (Chair), Michael Nicholls, Jeanette Dillman, and Jordan Lebovich were the appointed Ad Hoc members.

2. The Ad Hoc, in coordination with Supervisor Hopkins and the District 5 Director, established the four priorities areas for funding consideration in December 2019: a. Improved communications during floods and disasters b. Fire department and first responder needs c. Economic resilience for local businesses d. Water runoff and pavement mitigation for roads

3. The Ad Hoc solicited input from the community on projects and efforts that could be eligible to receive the flood mitigation funding, based on the criteria listed above. The Ad Hoc then presented the compilation of projects to the council and the public at the February 20, 2020 LRRMAC meeting. The Ad Hoc was then dissolved.

4. The Ad Hoc was reactivated at the request of Supervisor Hopkins and met with the District 5 Field Representative via Zoom on June 9, 2020, to review how the County's priorities had evolved during the pandemic, as well as to discuss how the flood mitigation funds were going to be distributed. It was decided that there would be a grant application process that not-for-profits in the LRR area could apply to. This decision was reported on at the June 18, 2020 LRRMAC meeting.

5. The Flood Mitigation Funding Ad Hoc met via Zoom on June 30, 2020, to review the County's draft of the Flood Mitigation Grant application. The committee provided recommendations and edits to the document, as well as a suggested timeline for the opening and closing of the application. \$200,000 of the County's flood recovery funds were then reserved for the Flood Mitigation Grant.

6. The application went live to the public on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. The application was prominently displayed on Supervisor Hopkin's County webpage, as well as featured in her newsletter and shared across social media by both the District 5 Office and LRRMAC councilmembers.

7. The application closed on July 24, 2020 and the grant applications entered the review process. 18 applications were received with a total of over \$490,000 in requested funds.

8. The grant applications were evaluated by Supervisor Hopkins and the Ad Hoc Committee on their potential impact to the community and relevance to the priority areas below:

I. Emergency services

A. Improved communications during disasters/emergencies

B. First responder needs

C. Neighborhood security

II. Community Resiliency

A. Matching funds for FEMA projects

B. Matching funds for EV, solar, and generator projects or grants

C. Community revitalization projects in flood-damaged areas

III. Roads and water runoff mitigation projects

IV. Economic resiliency/small business support 9. The Board of Supervisors approved the final proposed list of Flood Mitigation Grant recipients at their meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

The list of recipients of the Flood Mitigation Grant are as follows:

- Guerneville FEMA match to Guerneville School rebuilding - \$26,848
- Russian River Chamber of Commerce Business Revitalization - \$15,000
- Downtown Guerneville trash EverClean/Russian River Chamber - \$20,000
- Monte Rio/Villa Grande Drainage survey Villa Grande match funding - \$21,200
- Generator for Monte Rio Community Center - \$12,000
- Creekside community garden landscaping flood repair - \$3,000
- Monte Rio Chamber Small Biz Support - \$3,500
- Hacienda Culvert repair on Skyline Road - \$25,000
- Generator for Hollydale Community Club - \$11,000
- Forestville Sonoma Family Meals - \$29,839
- Cazadero Generator for Cazadero Firehouse - \$20,000
- Fiber connection for downtown and Firehouse - \$12,613
- General Region Pole Mountain fire lookout rebuilding - \$20,000

## **Bylaws Lucy Hardcastle, Chair**

The Ad Hoc Bylaws committee reviewed the document and made recommendations which were presented to the LRR MAC for consideration at the May,2020 Council meeting. Given the sporadic meetings this year and lack of a professionally constructed document for Council approval this task has not been completed. It is recommended that the committee be reinstated and complete a review and appropriate presentation to the full LRR MAC members for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Hardcastle, Chair

## **Community Engagement AdHoc Report**

**Chair Claudia Sisomphou**

**Members Jeanette Dillman, Lucy Hardcastle**

The Community Engagement AdHoc developed guidelines for communication by the LRRMAC. These guidelines were approved by the LRR MAC in 2020 and the AdHoc is disbanded.

**Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Ad Hoc Committee End of Year Summary  
Report December 3, 2020**

Members: Kyra Wink (Villa Grande / Monte Rio area) Claudia Sisomphou (Hacienda Area) Lisa Nahmanson (Forestville Area) Bruce MacDonell (Pocket Canyon Area)

#### Purpose / Mission

- RESEARCH: Types of RPPs that exist in similar communities
- SURVEY: Do river / beach communities of the LRR buy in to the idea of an RPP program.
- ORGANIZE/FACILITATE: community and county discussions should desire exist from the results of the RPP surveys.
- PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS: to MAC and Supervisor Hopkins Work / Findings to date:
- This Ad Hoc Group was formed in September
  - Research into like communities & RPP were undertaken (Tahoe / Truckee / Sausalito / San Rafael / Santa Rosa American River and Sacramento River)
  - Hacienda RPP proposal received and reviewed
  - Draft of survey questions for community engagement developed
  - Identification and contact to river communities began and still on-going
  - Weblink and final copy of survey ready to launch Future work Identified:
  - Summary of survey findings and recommendation to be provided to LRRMAC and County Supervisors (through Lynda Hopkins)
  - Should the results of the survey demonstrate the support for a RPP, in person / Zoom engagement with communities would begin to define community specific implementation plans
  - Engage with County for funding and processes for enforcement, permit process, etc....



# Correspondence

Letter to Sheriff Essick regarding Covid enforcement

Letter to BOS from Cazadero Community Services District regarding Major Memorial Day Race

Letter from Timber Harvest Plan Group

Letter from Sheriff Essick

Letter from Jennifer Wertz-Russian River Alliance Volunteer

Letter from Lloyd Guccione regarding speed limit reduction at entrance to Rio Nido and post office



**LOWER RUSSIAN RIVER MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
BYLAWS**

Approved by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on September 25, 2018

Modified on November 13, 2018

Modified on December 17, 2020

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this Municipal Advisory Council shall be the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (“River MAC”).

**ARTICLE II - AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** In order to facilitate community engagement, the River MAC will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and other County decision makers on the following Advisory Topics:

- a. Use Permit Applications when referred by the Permit and Resource Management Department
- b. Rezoning applications when referred by the Permit and Resource Management Department
- c. General Plan Amendment Applications when referred by the Permit and Resource Management Department
- d. Prioritization of Transportation and Transit Improvements when requested by the District Supervisor
- e. Health and Human Safety-Net Services when requested by the District Supervisor
- f. Additional Topics Requested by the District Supervisor
- g. local issues brought forward by the community or MAC representatives

**Section 2.** The duties of the River MAC shall include:

- a. Hold regular open and public meetings;
- b. Study and analyze the Advisory Topics;
- c. Keep the District Supervisor informed of any issues related to Advisory Topics within the community;
- d. Provide advisory recommendations on the Advisory Topics and annual reports to the Board;
- e. Comply with Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policies and Procedures.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Membership. The membership of the River MAC shall be nine members.

Requirements for membership include: members must reside within the boundaries of the Municipal Advisory Council, and be at least 18 years of age. There are no requirements for property ownership or citizenship. The District Supervisor will select members based on the following criteria:

- a. The Fifth District Supervisor will work with the community to identify sub-areas within the MAC Boundaries.
- b. The Fifth District Supervisor will work with the community to evaluate the sub-areas within the River MAC boundaries to determine proper representation on the MAC. This scoping exercise will inform the composition of the MAC for well-rounded representation. The River MAC will have the following representation:

Rio Nido: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate  
Guerneville: 2 Representatives, 1 Alternate

Monte Rio/Villa Grande: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate  
Cazadero and Duncans Mills: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate  
Pocket Canyon: 1 Representative, 1 Alternate

- c. The Fifth District Supervisor will lead the community in an exercise to ~~nominate~~ select representatives and alternates to serve on the MAC using the identified sub-areas as a framework for the composition of the MAC.
- d. The Fifth District Supervisor will consider the community's nominations for appoint to the MAC and will select final nominations to submit to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

**Section 2.** Appointment Authority. The District Supervisor shall submit selected applicants to the Board of Supervisors for appointment. Appointments shall be posted in accordance with the Maddy Act (Government Code section 54970 *et seq.*).

**Section ~~2~~ 3.** Terms. A membership term is a two-year period. The River MAC members may be reappointed. Members may serve a maximum of two terms.

**Section ~~3~~ 4.** The Board of Supervisors shall classify the initial members into two classes. Class A shall consist of five members; Class B shall consist of four members. Class A shall have an initial membership term of two years. Class B shall have an initial membership term of three years. Thereafter, each member's term shall be two years. The District Supervisor shall determine which members shall serve the initial three-year term.

**Section ~~5~~ 5.** Attendance. Members are expected to attend all meetings of the River MAC. Absence from two consecutive or three cumulative absences from the River MAC meetings in a twelve-month period may result in removal.

**Section 6 6.** Removal. The District Supervisor may, in his or her discretion, recommend removal of a member to the Board of Supervisors. A majority vote by the Board is necessary to remove a member.

**Section 7 7.** Vacancies. A vacancy shall exist when a member dies, or submits a written resignation to the District Supervisor, or has been removed as set forth in Section 6. When a vacancy occurs, the District Supervisor will fill the vacancy consistent with membership criteria and submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for appointment.

## ARTICLE IV- MEETINGS

**Section 1.** Brown Act. All meetings of the River MAC and, its committees and subcommittees, shall comply with the Brown Act (Government Code section 54950 *et seq.*).

**Section 2.** Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the River MAC shall be held regularly at an established date, time and place open to the public. Notice of the meeting time and place should be given to the public and the MAC members at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

**Section 3.** Special Meetings. The Chair may call and preside over special meetings. The Chair may call a special meeting by providing notice of the time, place, and agenda to each member and the public at least (twenty-four) 24 hours before the special meeting. Only items on the agenda of the special meeting may be considered at said special meeting.

**Section 4. Quorum.** A quorum of the River MAC must be present at any regular or special meeting in order for a decision to be made on any matter. A quorum is defined as a majority of MAC members or voting alternates.

**Section 5. Voting.** While the River MAC will strive for consensus, every official action taken by the River MAC shall be adopted by a quorum vote. An alternate of the **River** MAC may vote under the following circumstances:

- 1) If a member of the MAC is absent from a meeting and the alternate replaces the MAC member for the full meeting;
- 2) If a member of the MAC recuses themselves from an item the alternate may replace the MAC member for the full meeting. If an alternate is sitting for a MAC member and the agenda includes items continued from a prior meeting, the alternate must state on the record that she/he has reviewed the relevant materials for the items on the agenda, including the minutes (if available) from the prior meeting.

**Section 6. Abstention.** When any member abstains from participation in any matter before the River MAC because of a conflict of interest, that member shall not be counted as present for purposes of determining whether or not there is a quorum. An alternate may fill the MAC member's seat as outlined in sections four and five.

**Section 7. Secretary.** Administrative support for the River MAC shall be provided by staff identified by the District Supervisor, a voluntary agreement, contract, or other means.

**Section 8. Notice.** The River MAC meetings will be open and public, with notice of the time and place given to the public and the River MAC members at least seventy-two (72) hours before the time of regular meetings and at least twenty-four (24) hours before special meetings.

**Section 9. Public Comment.** At each River MAC meeting, members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the items on the agenda before being voted on, and on Advisory Topics within the jurisdiction of the River MAC.

## **ARTICLE V – ADMINSTRATIVE ROLES**

**Section 1.** The River MAC shall have a Chair and Vice Chair. The District Supervisor shall appoint the first Chair and Vice Chair. After that, the MAC will elect the Chair and Vice Chair annually. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for one (1) calendar year, or until replaced by the District Supervisor.

**Section 2. Chair.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the River MAC and call for special meetings. The Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policies and Procedures.

**Section 3. Vice Chair.** In the Chair's absence, the Vice Chair shall assume the Chair's responsibilities. The Vice Chair shall carry out the duties listed in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Policies and Procedures.

## **ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Section 1:** **The River MAC may establish single-purpose committees or subcommittees, consisting solely of less than a quorum of MAC members on an as-needed basis by a quorum vote. The committees and subcommittees may conduct research, meet with members of the community and develop**

recommendations to bring back to the MAC in an open and public meeting. If the committees and subcommittees continue for a longer term, they will become standing committees and must comply with the open and public meeting requirements of the Brown Act. Alternate council members may serve on committees which shall not exceed more than four (4) members.

## **ARTICLE VII – CONTRACTS**

**Section 1.** The River MAC and/or members thereof shall not have the power or authority to bind the County of Sonoma by any contract or agreement.

## **ARTICLE VIII – MANDATE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement is paramount to the success of the River MAC. MAC members will use the Community Engagement Guide ~~at the start of each calendar year~~, as approved by the River MAC members and the Fifth District Supervisor.

## **ARTICLE IX - CONFLICT OF INTEREST/GRIEVANCES**

**Section 1.** Conflict of Interest. The River MAC members will not involve themselves in official River MAC activities that could materially benefit them personally, their business interests, or the interests of organizations that they represent. In a conflict of interest, the member will abstain from voting, and the abstention will be recorded in the minutes.

**Section 2.** Members and staff will comply with State of California laws regarding conflict of interest for publicly appointed bodies, including the Political Reform Act. The River MAC will implement the procedure for resolving conflicts of interest in the Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council Recommended Policies and Procedures.

## **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** A recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to amend these bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the River MAC by a quorum vote of MAC members, ~~provided that copies of the proposed amendments are sent to all members of the River MAC at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which such action is taken.~~ The amendment will not be effective until and unless it is approved by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

## **ARTICLE XI – MINUTES**

**Section 1.** There shall be minutes of the River MAC meeting proceedings. The River MAC administrative staff shall be responsible for minutes and will be responsible for the sending of minutes to all River MAC members, the District Supervisor, and members of the public who request them. A record of minutes will be maintained by the River MAC secretary.

## **ARTICLE XII – RECORDS**

**Section 1.** Records of all River MAC agendas, minutes, meeting materials, records of action, annual reports, and external communications from at least the prior two years shall be maintained by the River MAC Secretary and retained at a location designated by the District Supervisor. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying as required by the Public Records Act (Government Code section 6250 *et seq.*).

### **ARTICLE XIII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Except as otherwise provided by law, these bylaws, or rules adopted by the Board of Supervisors, Rosenberg's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority of the River MAC.

### **ARTICLE XIV – LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

The River MAC shall comply with the legal requirements of the County of Sonoma, the State of California, and with federal funding sources. Nothing in these bylaws shall be interpreted to be inconsistent with the ordinances of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

### **ARTICLE XV - EFFECTIVE DATE**

These bylaws and future amendments thereto, unless otherwise specified, shall become effective upon adoption by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Approved by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on .

---

Lynda Hopkins, Chair, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors



### **2021 Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (River MAC)** **Selection, Openings, and Nominations**

The nomination process for members of the Coast and River Municipal Advisory Councils was open through the month of October during which we received applications to fill the representative positions. We have one run-off election in Monte Rio/Villa Grande. A few alternate positions were not filled by the deadline and so those positions are being filled as needed by Supervisor Hopkins. Keep reading to learn about your new representatives, the election, and any open alternate positions. We encourage you to participate in this important advisory committee representing your community.

9 representatives and their alternates are nominated to serve on the Lower Russian River (River) Municipal Advisory Council. These representatives give a voice to local residents and businesses, provide a conduit between diverse rural towns and the County Offices, and advise Supervisor Hopkins on topics of importance. Many representatives are running unopposed. Staff reviewed these unopposed applications and determined that they were qualified, so they are being appointed to the vacancies. We do have one contested seat, and this is for Villa Grande/Monte Rio. And we still have a couple of alternate positions open, for Guerneville and for Cazadero/Duncans Mills. Please let us know if you are interested in applying.

**Election** - For the Monte Rio/Villa Grande seat we are holding an election. The two candidates are Kyra Wink of Villa Grande and Cynthia Strecker of Monte Rio. The candidate with the most votes will be your representative, the other will become your alternate. For the past two years Cynthia Strecker has represented this district and Kyra Wink has been an alternate.

- Candidate statements are linked here.
- There will be a Zoom candidate meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm, zoom link here.
- The Rio Café has graciously agreed to host a ballot box on December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-8pm. We hope that COVID rules will allow us to have this inside, but if not, Elise will be bundled up and masked, sitting outside with hot tea, ballots and the ballot box to collect your votes.
- All ballots, whether electronic or paper, need to be collected by 8pm on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and results to be reported later that evening.

Your 2021 Municipal Advisory Council Members to be nominated in January by Supervisor Hopkins include:

- I. **River MAC** Ongoing term Members – representatives with terms from January 2019 through 2021:



- a. Forestville - Vesta Copestakes
- b. Rio Nido - Pip Marquez de la Plata
- c. Pocket Canyon - Jeanette Dillman

You can find information on these members on the River MAC Representatives page here.

II. **River MAC** new or reappointed members whose new terms begin January 2021:

- a. Hacienda
  - i. Alice Teeter, Representative
  - ii. Sherri Owens, Alternate
- b. Forestville
  - i. Lisa Nahmanson, Representative
  - ii. Lucy Hardcastle, Alternate
- c. Rio Nido Alternate
  - i. Joe Falejczyk
- d. Guerneville Representatives
  - i. Nic Peirera
  - ii. Naomi Huffstutter
  - iii. Alternate open
- e. Monte Rio/Villa Grande - A vote will determine whether Kyra Wink or Cynthia Strecker will be the representative or the alternate for the 2021/2022
- f. Cazadero/Duncans Mills Representative
  - i. Mike Nicholls
  - ii. Alternate open
- g. Pocket Canyon alternate
  - i. Milo Chapman



December 2020

Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council Election for Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative

Candidate Forum to be held on December 22<sup>nd</sup> via zoom. Link:

Choose 1 Candidate only. The Candidate with the most votes will be the Council representative and the candidate with fewer vote will be the Alternate.

\_\_\_\_\_ Kyra Wink

\_\_\_\_\_ Cynthia Strecker

Please return your completed ballot to [elise.vandyne@sonoma-county.org](mailto:elise.vandyne@sonoma-county.org) by December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm or drop off at the Rio Café in Monte Rio.

Ballots will be checked to ensure no duplications or votes from outside the district.

Voter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Address \_\_\_\_\_



**Monte Rio/Villa Grande Election for the  
2021 Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (River MAC)**

**Candidate Statements**

**Kyra A. Wink**

Pre-COVID Kyra



COVID photo



- Villa Grande Resident since 2005
- Respiratory Care Practitioner
- Retired Kaiser Permanente Healthcare Director
- Vice President, Friends of Villa Grande, a 501(3) organization
- 2018-2020 River MAC Alternate for Monte Rio/ Villa Grande
- Chair, Residential Parking Permit AdHoc Committee

I am interested in representing the Monte Rio and Villa Grande Communities, bringing our community issues and input to Lynda Hopkins and the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors.

I would like to work actively with you to understand your point of view on the many issues affecting us on the lower Russian River.

Important Issues for me:

- Emergency preparedness (in light of recent fires and ever present risks for floods)
- Reopening of Moscow Rd
- Continued Road Maintenance throughout Lower Russian River
- Beach and community overcrowding – and their effects on you
- And, what is important to YOU.

### **Your Vote Counts!**

Kyra's Bio: Patient care and health of community is Kyra's true passion. Kyra retired from healthcare after a 35-year career with Kaiser Permanente. She began her career as a Respiratory Care Practitioner, she proved that by educating a patient about their disease (asthma, COPD, etc.) not only was the patient's satisfaction improved; health care costs were lowered by decreasing emergency room visits and hospital admissions. As an RCP, she volunteered for asthma outreach education in conjunction with the American Lung Association (as a board member and volunteer) to rural parts of the Sacramento Valley.

Kyra also worked as a purchasing manager within Kaiser's National Purchasing Organization saving Kaiser Permanente over 10.5 million dollars in the purchasing costs of respiratory, anesthesia and imaging equipment. At the time of her retirement she was an Area Clinical Technology Manager for the Napa / Solano Service area. As such, she championed managing union staff through change and achieved a 1.5 million budget savings to operations. Kyra has often been praised for her ability to listen to others, be objective, fair and bring opposing views to a collaborative decision or solution.

In 2005, Kyra returned to her family roots in Sonoma County and purchased property in the lower Russian River area of Villa Grande. While still working, Kyra managed the building of her retirement home in Villa Grande. Kyra currently serves as Vice President for the Friends of Villa Grande, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. She also serves as Chair of the FoVG Membership Committee, managing all membership-related activities including member communications, volunteer recruitment, a group purchase & service agreement for discounted propane service, and many community-related issues including parking, emergency service, and abandoned vehicles. Over the last 2 years, Kyra served as the LRRMAC alternate for Monte Rio / Villa Grande. Of most recent, she volunteered and then worked at Sonoma County's Alternate Care Site (ACS) serving the quarantine needs of Covid-19 + community members or those exposed / suspect of having Covid-19.

One of Kyra's goals has been to work with Sonoma County to create a community identifier for the town of Villa Grande. This effort is to address the problem of title companies defining Villa Grande as Monte Rio. Service providers such as FedEx, UPS and Amazon ignore Villa Grande

existence with the result that packages are delayed or not delivered. Of most concern is the confusion for emergency responders who are sent to similar sounding addresses in Monte Rio instead of Villa Grande. Recently Kyra became chair of the LRRMAC Residential Parking Permit Ad hoc Co. This Committee's function is to garner community interest in a RPP program to help resolve the influx and overcrowding to our LRR beach communities by restricting parking.

Kyra is happily married and enjoys traveling, kayaking on the Russian River and hiking with her dog Sutter. Her hobbies include gardening at the local community garden, landscape design and volunteering. Kyra believes in giving back to community and in doing so spends some of her time assisting elderly neighbors by shopping for them during these covid times. Kyra's desire in retirement is a personal commitment to make a difference for the community

**Thank You for your support !**

CYNTHIA STRECKER

Candidate Statement for MAC Representative

Who I am:

- lived in Monte Rio for 43 years
- retired teacher
- widowed; 1 son

Other Community Service:

- Served on the Monte Rio School Board for roughly 10 years
- Started the Community Garden at the beach with my friend Marcy Martin
- Wrote 2 grants with my late husband, Vicky Venter (kindergarten teacher and Rec. & Park member), and the Torrs (Lee III and IV) which resulted in getting the Old School property given to our Rec. and Park District

While on the MAC:

- Served as Vice Chair the first year
- Made Special Districts and community groups aware of \$200,000 (total) available for non-profits. Groups in both Monte Rio and Villa Grande applied for this funding and were ultimately awarded a total of \$37,700. That's almost 20% of the money available and is more than any other town in the MAC except Guerneville.

Our Rec and Park Dept. was awarded \$15,000 and after checking with others I persuaded Lynda Hopkins to let us use that money as seed money/matching funds toward a solar system for the Community Center.

- Served on the Vacation Rental committee tasked with gathering information to assist the Board of Supervisors as they grapple with this issue. Important facts they are assessing include:

- Sonoma County was experiencing a severe and on-going housing crisis even before the fires which only made things worse.
- TOT (bed tax) payments increased 60% - to \$12,000,000 - in the past 5 years.
- Employment has increased since 2009 but median household income has remained stable while rents have risen on average by 30%.
- Many of the new jobs in the county are in the hospitality industry. These jobs tend to be low-wage and therefore the people doing them tend to be renters.
- With the advent of AirBnB in 2008 housing devoted to seasonal use (vacation rentals) rose by 1800 units to a total of 5,616 in 2013 and have continued to rise.
- The largest portion of these vacation rentals (21%) are located on the Russian River with the Sonoma Valley being next at 19%.
- In 2018, 273 new building permits were issued while 346 existing houses were converted to vacation rentals. New building alone will not solve our housing problems

Due to these facts the BOS voted to temporarily cap the number of vacation rentals while they studied the matter further. Hosted rentals (renting out a spare room) are not affected. No permits were taken away. As permits lapse due to lack of activity or home sales, new permits will be issued. 12 permits have expired to date. The cap is 1948 permits.

Served on the Land Use Committee. Only 1 potential project has come to us at this point, a 120-room luxury hotel on the property next to DuBrava called The Lodge at the Russian River. I elicited thoughts and opinions from a variety of community members - environmentalists, business people, labor leaders, real estate people, and those serving on our Special Districts (fire and water). The consensus of many (though of course not all) was that the scale of the project was way out of line and would disrupt our homey, folksy appeal. Most inns in this area have @25 rooms with 49 rooms being the largest. Labor leaders pointed out that the jobs created would likely be low-wage and seasonal. Additionally, it appeared that the traffic on River Road would be likely to double on the week-ends. I came to feel that if the project were considerably smaller - say 50 rooms - it would make sense but not at the proposed scale. I therefore voted against it. The project was slated to come before the full MAC but the developers removed it from the agenda. It may appear again in the future.

-Served as a liaison to the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) looking at the question of wastewater treatment in Monte Rio and Villa Grande. This group is looking at many detailed and technical questions with many moving parts. We are in the process (with the Water Agency) of putting out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) which is the first step toward hiring a consultant. The options to be considered are: 1) leave what we have and correct them as necessary, 2) opt for an alternative system, possibly a STEP system (Septic Tank Effluent Pump), or 3) build a standard wastewater treatment system ourselves or join an already existing one. Of those choices the only one I do not at this time support is #3. We tried building our own. It was extremely expensive and the Guerneville plant is already marginal and plagued with many difficulties.

-I hosted a Town Hall at the Community Center around fire issues. Speakers addressed the topics of How to Protect Your Home by Home Hardening, How to Pay for the Needed Work, and How to Deal with Insurance Companies

The Future:

The two things that I feel are most necessary for us to explore further at this time are Workforce Housing and Fire Protection. I am asking for your vote so as to be able to address these issues via the MAC in the future.

Thank you,  
Cynthia Strecker.

## 2020 Completed and Ongoing District 5 Projects - Design Special Projects Unit

Green Completed Projects		No Color Means project is still ongoing					
#	Road Name and Post Mile #	County Project #	Location of Project	Estimate	Type of Project	District ?	Completed or Ongoing
<b>2019</b>							
1	Bohemian Highway PM 19.47	M31826	PM 19.47	\$250,000	Large Mudslide & Debris Removal (FEMA Category A)	5	Completed
2	Coleman Valley Road PM 19.88	C31887	PM 19.88	\$670,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall & Culvert Replacement	5	Completed
3	Drake Road PM 10.75	C31886	PM 10.75	\$160,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall & Culvert Replacement	5	In Construction
4	Fitzpatrick Lane PM 11.01	M31828	PM 11.01	\$17,000	Tree Removal & Small Roadway Section Repair	5	Completed
5	Fort Ross Road PM 15.73	C31899	PM 15.73	\$1,175,000	Bridge or Box Culvert	5	Ongoing
6	Fort Ross Road PM 15.80	C31898	PM 15.80	\$1,183,000	Bridge or Box Culvert	5	Ongoing
7	Freezeout Road PM 11.38	C31885	PM 11.38	\$1,008,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall & Culvert Replacement	5	Ongoing
8	Hausser Bridge Road PM 9.55	C31873	PM 9.55	\$341,000	Reinforced Geogrid or Rock Buttress Gravity Wall	5	Ongoing
9	King Ridge Road PM 13.53 (13.62)	C31896	PM 13.53 (13.62)	\$1,128,000	H-Pile Cantilever Retaining Wall	5	Completed
10	King Ridge Road PM 13.67	C31868	PM 13.67	\$210,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall	5	In Construction
11	King Ridge Road PM 18.62 (18.79)	C31854	PM 18.62 (18.79)	\$2,152,000	H-Pile Cantilever Retaining Wall	5	Completed
12	King Ridge Road PM 18.72 (18.79)	C31894	PM 18.72 (18.79)	\$1,409,000	H-Pile Cantilever Retaining Wall	5	Completed
13	King Ridge Road PM 18.85 (18.92)	C31893	PM 18.85 (18.92)	\$1,390,000	H-Pile Cantilever Retaining Wall	5	Completed
14	King Ridge Road PM 21.24	C31869	PM 21.24	\$454,000	Large Roadway Section Repair	5	Completed
15	King Ridge Road PM 22.75	C31870	PM 22.75	\$729,000	Reinforced Geogrid Roadway Section Repair	5	In Design
16	King Ridge Road PM 22.85	C31871	PM 22.85	\$1,204,000	Reinforced Geogrid Roadway Section Repair	5	In Design
17	King Ridge Road PM 24.91	C31872	PM 24.91	\$538,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall	5	Completed
18	King Ridge Road PM 25.62	C31892	PM 25.62	\$2,154,000	(2) Retaining Walls (one H-Pile Cantilever one H-Pile with Tiebacks)	5	Completed
19	Kruse Ranch Road PM 3.28	C31866	PM 3.28	\$122,000	Culvert Replacement	5	Ongoing
20	Kruse Ranch Road PM 4.37	C31867	PM 4.37	\$160,000	Culvert Replacement	5	Ongoing
21	Mays Canyon Road PM 11.45	M21819	PM 11.45	\$125,000	Large Mudslide & Debris Removal (FEMA Category A)	5	Completed
22	Mays Canyon Road PM 12.78	C31865	PM 12.78	\$203,000	Bridge Abutment Scour Repair	5	Completed
23	Morelli Lane PM 10.14	C31864	PM 10.14	\$1,048,000	Consultant (Likely Retaining Wall)	5	Ongoing
24	Moscow Road PM 10.84	C31863	PM 10.84	\$1,420,000	Consultant (Likely Bridge)	5	Ongoing
25	Moscow Road PM 12.55	C31862	PM 12.55	\$498,000	Consultant (Likely Rock Buttress)	5	Ongoing
26	Neeley Road PM 11.90	M31824	PM 11.90	\$20,000	Mudslide & Debris Removal (FEMA Category A)	5	Completed
27	Occidental Road PM 11.66	C31853	PM 11.66	\$500,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall - FEMA REJECTED "In-House" Project	5	Ongoing
28	Old Cazadero Road PM 13.56	C31861	PM 13.56	\$464,000	Consultant (Likely Rock Buttress)	5	Ongoing
29	Old Cazadero Road PM 14.26	C31860	PM 14.26	\$1,100,000	Consultant (Likely Retaining Wall)	5	Ongoing
30	Sweetwater Springs Road PM 13.95	C31856	PM 13.95	\$861,000	Consultant (Likely Reinforced Geogrid or Rock Buttress)	5	Ongoing
31	Westside Ave PM 10.18	C31888	PM 10.18	\$1,698,000	Consultant (H-Pile Cantilever Wall)	5	In Design
<b>2017</b>							
1	Cazadero Highway PM 14.41	C11603	PM 14.41	\$175,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall	5	Completed
2	Cazadero Highway PM 16.50	C21605	PM 16.50	\$225,000	Rock Buttress Gravity Wall	5	Completed
3	King Ridge Road PM 18.05	C11609	PM 18.05	\$1,000,000	H-Pile Cantilever Retaining Wall	5	Ongoing

**Grand Total                    \$25,791,000**



2020 Completed and Ongoing District 5 Projects Road Maintenance						Estimates via Chris Collins	
#	Road Name and Post Mile #	County Project #	Location of Project	Type of Project	Completed or Ongoing	EFS Reporting Total	
1	Cazadero Hwy	C11603	PM14.41	Rock wall	Complete	\$ 172,157.29	Total Project Cost
2	Summerhome Park Rd	M20015	PM10.93	Crib wall repair	Complete	\$ 105,670.83	Total Project Cost
3	Vacation Beach Summer Rd	M03256	PM10.18	installation of crossing	Complete	\$ 59,126.54	Spring 2020
4	Vacation Beach Summer Rd	M03256	PM10.18	removal of crossing	To be scheduled	\$ -	Fall 2020
5	Mays Canyon Rd.	C31865	PM12.78	emergency bridge repair	Complete	\$ 179,387.43	Total Project Cost
6	Cazadero Hwy	C21605	PM16.50	Rock wall	Complete	\$ 223,088.91	Total Project Cost
7	Drake Rd.	C31886	PM10.75	Rock wall & culvert R&R	Complete	\$ 2,587.50	Total Project Cost
8	Odd Fellows Rd	M03255	PM10.61	Installation of crossing	Complete	\$ 31,428.51	Spring 2020
9	Odd Fellows Rd	M03255	PM10.61	Removal of crossing	To be scheduled	\$ -	Fall 2020
10	Sweetwater Spirngs Rd	M12021	PM11.28 -16.00	Fire cleanup	Complete	\$ 167,336.16	Excluding Culverts
11	Armstrong Woods Rd	M12021	PM11.85 - 15.05	Fire cleanup	Complete	\$ 88,420.97	
12	Meyeser Grade Rd	M12021	PM11.22 - 14.59	Fire cleanup	To be scheduled		
13	Sweetwater Springs Rd	M12021	PM15.49	R&R burned culvert	Complete		Total for both location, not tracked by PM
14	Sweetwater Springs Rd	M12021	PM15.87	R&R burned culvert	Complete	\$ 29,084.28	
15	Bohemian Hwy	M07305	PM19.42	Installation of new Storm drain	Complete		
16	Nolan Rd	M07305	PM10.00	R&Rculvert	Complete		
17	Mission St.	M07305	PM10.48	R&R culvert & rock wall	Complete		
18	Green Valley School Rd	M07305	PM10.36	R&R culvert	Complete		
19	Drake Rd.	M07305	PM10.21	R&R culvert	Complete		
20	D St (Monte Rio)	M07305	PM30.04	Storm drain repair	Complete		
					Total	\$ 1,058,288.42	

## 2020 Completed and Ongoing District 5 Projects - Construction

#	Road Name and Post Mile #	County Project #	Location of Project	Estimate	Type of Project	Completed or Ongoing
	Old Monte Rio Slide Repair	C21601	PM 10.94	\$648,694.49	Landslide Repair	Complete
	King Ridge Road	M31822	PM 13.52	\$790,000.00	Landslide Repair	Complete
		M31822	PM 18.62	\$1,130,000.00	Landslide Repair	Complete
		M31822	PM 18.72	\$903,000.00	Landslide Repair	Complete
		M31822	PM 18.85	\$765,000.00	Landslide Repair	Complete
		M31822	PM 25.62	\$2,465,000.00	Landslide Repair	Complete
	Coleman Valley Road	M31822	PM 19.88	\$620,000.00	Landslide Repair	Complete
	Moscow Road	M31822	PM 10.84	\$72,000.00	Culvert Clearing	Complete
	Wohler Road Bridge at Mark West Creek	C01135	PM 10.11 to PM 10.14	\$4,700,000.00	Bridge Replacement	Ongoing
	Stony Point Road	M20201	Scenic Ave to Bellevue Ave	\$396,000.00	Microsurfacing	Complete
	High School Road	M20201	Sebastopol Limits to Occidental Rd	\$290,250.00	Slurry Seal	Complete
	Bohemian Highway	C20101	Bodega Hwy to Bittner Rd	\$3,128,000.00	Overlay	Complete
	Barnett Valley Road	C20101	Burnside Rd to Bodega Hwy	\$1,810,500.00	FDR-C	Complete
	Moorland Avenue	C20101	Todd Rd to Bellevue Ave	\$765,000.00	Overlay	Complete
	Todd Road	C20101	Stony Point Rd to Hwy 101 Ramps	\$1,135,000.00	Overlay	Complete
	Tomales Road	C20101	Marin Co Limits to Valley Ford Rd		FDR-C	Complete
	River Road Pavement Rehabilitation	C14051	Trenton-Healdsburg Rd to SMART	\$3,200,000.00	Overlay	Complete
	Roadway Repair at Old Cazadero Road	C21604	PM 17.43	\$1,300,000.00	Landslide Repair	Ongoing
	Mill Station Road	C20302	PM 10.34	\$40,000.00	Culvert Replacement	Complete
	Furlong Road	C20302	PM 11.02	\$40,000.00	Culvert Replacement	Complete
			<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$24,198,444.49</b>		

## TPW Design Unit

Year	Project Number	Road Name	Road ID	Location	From PM	To PM	Length	Treatmen	District	Estimate	Completed or Ongoing
2020	C20201	Barnett Valley Rd	6906	Burnside Rd to Bodega Hwy	10.00	12.13	2.13	FDR	5	\$1,810,500	Completed
2020	C20201	Bohemian Hwy	6002D	Bodega Hwy to Bittner Rd	9.92	13.60	3.68	Overlay	5	\$3,128,000	Completed
2020	M20201	Stony Point Rd	6803	Scenic Ave to Bellevue Ave (continues into 2nd district)	22.83	24.59	1.76	Microsurfacing	5	\$396,000	Completed
2020	C20201	Moorland Ave	68085	Todd Rd to Bellevue Ave	10.00	11.02	1.02	Overlay	5	\$765,000	Completed
2020	C14051	River Road	8802B	Trenton-Healdsburg to SMART tracks	19.77	24.60	4.83	Overlay	5	\$4,200,000	Completed
2020	C20201	Todd Rd	6807A	Stony Point to Hwy 101 Ramps	13.29	14.71	1.42	Overlay	5	\$1,135,000	Completed
2020	M20201	High School Rd	79002	Sebastopol City Limits to Occidental Rd	10.13	11.42	1.29	Slurry Seal	5	\$290,250	Completed
2021	C21401	Bay Hill Rd	60005	1 Mile South of Hwy 1 (Coast) to Hwy 1 (Coast)	12.83	13.83	1.00	FDR/Overlay	5	\$850,000	To be started in 2021
2021	C21401	Cazadero Hwy	8101	Austin Creek Rd to Town of Cazadero	13.61	16.68	3.07	FDR	5	\$1,800,000	To be started in 2021
2021	C21401	Todd Rd	6807A	Llano Rd to Begin Bridge (Colgan Creek Flood Control)	11.87	13.29	1.42	Overlay	5	\$641,250	To be started in 2021
2021	C21401	Gold Ridge Rd	69040	Burnside Rd to Bodega Hwy	10.00	11.44	1.44	Overlay	5	\$918,000	To be started in 2021
2021	C21401	Main St	6002B	End Bridge (Dutch Bill Creek) to Starrett Hill Dr	18.81	20.05	1.24	Overlay	5	\$990,000	To be started in 2021
2021	C21401	Rio Nido Rd	80063	Armstrong Woods Rd to River Rd	10.00	11.56	1.56	Overlay	5	\$819,000	To be started in 2021

**Grand Total**

**\$17,743,000**

### 2020 Completed and Ongoing District 5 Projects - TPW Special Projects Unit

#	Road Name and Post Mile #	County Project #	Location of Project	Estimate	Type of Project Ex: Wall, Culvert, etc.	Completed or Ongoing
1	Armstrong Woods Road (length of road)	C12036	PM12.54 to PM15.05		Fire damage, repair to road, reestablishes of ditches	Ongoing
2	Cazadero Highway PM 12.94	C11650	PM 12.94		Tree removal, side repair	Ongoing
3	Cazadero Highway PM 13.27	C11802	PM 13.27		Tree removal, side repair	Ongoing
4	Eagle Nest PM 10.25	C19501	PM 10.25		Slide repair	Ongoing
5	Memory Lane PM 10.05	C19502	PM 10.05		Slide repair	Ongoing
6	Old Cazadero Road PM 17.43	C21604	PM 17.43		Slide repair	Completion 1-2021
7	Old Monte Rio PM 10.94	C21601	PM 10.94		Slide repair	Completed
8	SP/SS PM 13.67	C31891	PM 13.67		Slide repair	Ongoing
9	SP/SS PM 13.98	C31891	PM 13.98		Slide repair	Ongoing
10	SP/SS PM 19.67	C31890	PM 19.67		Slide repair	Ongoing
11	SP/SS PM 21.01	C31889	PM 21.01		Slide repair	Ongoing
12	SP/SS (length of road)	M12035	PM34.35 to PM42.08		Fire, guard rail	Ongoing

Grand Total      0

## Residential Parking Permit AdHoc

In discussing the impacts of lower Russian River beach visitors and vacation rentals, one of the top challenges has been parking. These include: parking that blocks driveways, EMS access, residential access; parking that crowds neighborhoods and encourages crowded, loud parties and events in quiet residential areas... and, in some instances, all-day beach parking in front of retailers that need street parking to make a living.

One of the most frequent requests from some residents has been for a residential parking permit (RPP) program in which only residents or people with visitor tags from residents can park in a specific area. Another request has been for paid or time limited parking (2-hour, 4-hour only) in business zones.

Such programs would require a County of Sonoma Ordinance, Parking Enforcement Officers (PEO), and - **most importantly** - neighborhoods that would be willing to organize to create their zones and approve the costs and rules for an RPP program.

Supervisor Hopkins' team and the MAC RPP AdHoc Co. have done the research to look at such an ordinance and some cost parameters. Now we need to get your engagement in the process. We need to know what areas would like to have such a program, whether you'd be able to organize your neighborhood to get the approvals needed of your neighbors and to find out about details such as costs and timing.

Would you please help us by completing this survey and giving us your input? Here is the survey link. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KKGQWYZ>  
Please share within your community, especially those neighbors / businesses that are most impacted by parking in the summer as well as those neighbors that want to come enjoy their neighborhood beach.  
We would like to get as much possible feedback from all Lower Russian River beach or vacation communities impacted by crowds and parking issues t/o the summer.

Thank you for your input,

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council Parking Ad Hoc Committee