



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 February 18 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 5th District.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/91248479003?pwd=ZTg2d0x3ZWx0U1JoaDdxeU9lbdPUT09>

Passcode: 068075

Or iPhone one-tap : US: +16699009128,,91248479003# or +13462487799,,91248479003#

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

LOWER RUSSIAN RIVER MAC

AGENDA

February 18, 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

Supervisor Hopkins to administer the Oath of Office for New Mac Representatives

- Lisa Nahmanson, Forestville
- Alica Teeter, Hacienda
- Naomi Hufstutter, Guerneville
- Nic Pereira, Guerneville
- Kyra Wink, Monte Rio/Villa Grande
- Mike Nicholls, Cazadero

And Alternates:

- Tony Goodwin, Cazadero
- Sherrie Owens, Hacienda
- Lucy Hardcastle, Forestville
- John Milo Chapman, Pocket Canyon
- Cynthia Strecker, Monte Rio
- Joe Falejczyk, Rio Nido

Roll Call

- A. **Election of 2021 Chair and Vice Chair**
 - a. Nomination of candidates
 - b. Council Representatives vote
 - c. New Chair takes over meeting leadership
- B. **Approval of Agenda**
- C. **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).
- D. **Correspondence** – none
- E. **Consent Calendar**
 - a. Approval of December 2020 Minutes
 - b. Approval of January 7, 2021 Special Meeting minutes
 - c. Approval of Annual Report
 - d. Approval of amended ByLaws
- F. **Public Comment on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda**
- G. **Regular Calendar Items**
 - a. Informational - Gary Helfrich of Permit Sonoma - Report on Russian River Area Plan
 - b. Tourism Impact -
 - 1. David Robinson Regional Parks on shuttle and waste plans
 - 2. Residential Parking Permit – AdHoc Committee Report
 - c. Presentation - Elise VanDyne report on The Re-Launch of the Russian River Confluence
 - 1. RFP for Russian River Initiative
 - 2. Trouble with Trash challenges and solutions
- H. **AdHoc Committees**
 - a. Chair – launching or sunsetting committees
 - i. FYI : LandUse – GuerneWood Park coming at a later time
- I. **Proclamations**
None.
- J. **Call for agenda items**
- K. **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

Held the 3rd Thursday in February, April, June, August, October, and December from 5:30-7:30

Please visit the Lower Russian River MAC website for agendas, including meeting location and time:

Sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac.

At the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (River MAC), a vote will be held for the 2021 Chair and Vice Chair.

Nominations may come from any representative of the River MAC and may nominate and current representatives.

To date, Supervisor Hopkins' staff has received the following River MAC representatives willing to serve in the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.

For Chair: Pip Marquez de la Plata, Representative since 2019 for Rio Nido.

Pip Marquez de la Plata has lived in the Lower Russian River since February of 2014. He is currently the Executive Director of Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County. He resides in Rio Nido and serves as the President of the non-profit group, Friends of Rio Nido. Previously he served on the board of directors for the Sweetwater Springs Water District from January 2016 through December of 2019.

For Vice Chair: Kyra Wink, Representative since 2021 for Monte Rio/Villa Grande and alternate from 2019 -2020.

Friends of Villa Grande (Board Vice President, Member, Secretary), Kaiser Permanente (Volunteer), American Lung Association (Board Member). I have experience in program development and the writing of protocols. I am a great organizer, communicator, facilitator and planner. I really enjoy working with diverse populations, teasing out commonalities for possible consensus building and problem solving.

Logging review report -Elise Wieland

Elise reported that due to the length of the detailed report from Susan Joice regarding Timber Harvest Plan and the community concern that Lynda asked Elise to review.

Elise completed a walk through with Foresters involved, Land Trust and Redwood Empire. Below are some key points of the walk through and answers to questions.

- No old growth trees are permitted to be harvested due to land trust provisions
- Harvesting will not occur near Neeley Road
- Majority of the loaded trucks will exit through Mays Canyon and Johannes from TPW has been involved in the traffic plan
- No clear cutting will be done and trees are harvested every ten years in rotation to improve the overall health of the forest.
- The same harvesting was completed in 2001 and 2008.
- They do not anticipate any major issues with runoff due to limiting harvest close to Neeley Rd.

Board Comment-

Cynthia Strecker-Her internet is not working correctly but voiced concern regarding collapse of Neeley Road. Elise responded that she had addressed already in her report and also Johannes from TPW will be monitoring.

Public Comment-

Susan Joice- thanks Elise for her tour report regarding Timber Harvest Plan. She still shows timber harvest by Neeley and is worried about erosion. At this time, she does not believe plan has changed.

Chair Dillman announced that General Public Comment was not included on agenda but would be made available at this time.

General Public Comments:

John Uniack- Major concern with what will happen with the sewer and wants to know if there is any information on the adverse affluent spray. Elise Wieland asked John to email her his question and she can research more if necessary.

Consent Items:

1. Approval of minutes from October 15th.

Motion made by Vesta Copestakes to approve minutes from October 15, 2020.
Motion seconded by Pip Marquez de la Plata. Motion carried 8-0-0

2. Approval of Annual Report.

Motion made by Mike Nicholls to remove the Land Use and Bylaw Reports from the annual report as the AdHocs work will not complete until after the January Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Claudia Sisomphou. Roll call vote 8-0-0. The annual report was not approved at this time.

3. Approval of updated Bylaws. This item was tabled by Chair Dillman at this time.

Informational Items

A. Chair Dillman's Comments-

We are coming to the end of the initial LRR MAC Council Member panel. Life, in general, has been a real roller coaster ride and the MAC is still continuing to move forward. Before we close this critical mark in time, the chair would like to recognize each council member and alternate. First, a thank you to Supervisor Hopkins for assembling and supporting the MAC to provide better community participation and representation. Thank you to Vice Chair Claudia Sisomphou (Hacienda) and the first MAC Chair, Mike Nicholls (Cazadero) for their essential support and counsel to the Chair. And to each and every Council Member and alternate for their continued support, patience, flexibility, persistence and downright true grit for getting the MAC to this point. Forestville representatives Vesta Copestakes and Lucy Hardcastle and

alternate Lisa Nahmanson who replaced Gary Harris. Hacienda representative Claudia Sisomphou and alternate Chelene Lopez. Rio Nide representative Pip Marquez de la Plata and John Uniack, alternate. Guerneville representatives Jordan Lebovich and Ron Redmon who replaced Jennifer Wertz and alternate Nic Pereira. Monte Rio/Villa Grande representative Cynthia Strecker and alternate Kyra Wink. Cazadero representative Mike Nicholls and alternate Terry Gwiazdowski. Pocket Canyon alternate Bruce MacDonell. Thank you for your time, consideration and skills in doing the work of the MAC and your commitment to the community. And a special thank you to the public for your participation, patience and true grit as well in bringing the community together and pointing the way forward.

B. Alicia O’Loughlin- LRR Septic Ombudsman Report

- Reintroducing herself to group
- Her role is to assist persons affected, communicate outcomes and share resource opportunities for the new septic requirements to be put in effect
- Septic owners will need to repair, upgrade or replace their septic systems in the next 15-20 years.
- Draft septic manual will be available in January 2021 for comment and hopefully go to BOS by April 2021
- A consultant will be hired to address feasibility, project design and environmental design which only addressed organization infrastructure
- For questions call or email Alisha at 507-565-6415, Alisha.O'loughlin@sonoma-county.org

C. Supervisor Hopkins update:

- Lynda thanked Chair Dillman for her role at the MAC chair for 2020. She acknowledged how hard it is to run Brown Act Groups and said she really appreciated all of Jeanette’ hard work and dedication.
- 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. The report they gave to the BOS helped influence the decision to continue a limited vacation cap for communities who have more than 10% of vacation rentals or more.

- Lynda also addressed that community funds were approved and distributed. There is also some money left to apply for.
- Lynda gave an update on homelessness-
 - Summer Shelter was considered a success. The green screen and supervision contributed to its success for the neighborhood
 - Currently 24 people at Vets Hall
 - 8 people received section 8 vouchers
 - 390k was use from Cares Act to help 121 families with rent
 - Sebastopol Inn was purchased to house 31 people- Covid first
 - Alliance Redwoods is expanding their abilities to house more
 - Homeless and prepare them to move into housing- West County residents first.

Board Comment-

Jeanette Dillman- wanted to know if there were any sunset provisions in the new tax ballots. Lynda responded no provisions.

Ron Redmon-Thanked Lynda for all of her support and support of homeless in West County

Public Comment – no questions/comments

D. Selection Process for LRR MAC Members- Elise Wieland

Elise reported who the MAC members and Alternates will be for 2021:

Hacienda- Alice Teeter and Alternate Sherri Owens

Ri Nido- Pip Marquez de la Plata and Alternate Joe Falejczyk

Forestville- Vesta Copestakes and Lisa Nahmanson and Alternate Lucy Hardcastle

Guerneville- Nic Pereira and Naomi Hofstetter and Alternate **open**

Cazadero- Mike Nicholls and Alternate **open**

Pocket Canyon- Jeanette Dillman and Alternate Milo Chapman

Monte Rio- Election process occurring

Candidates Cynthia Strecker and Kyra Wink and alternate **open**

Voting available now, ballots may also be filled out and submitted on December 22 and 23 at Lucy's café

Applications for open positions on LRR Municipal Advisory Council Website

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

E. Permit Sonoma Jane Riley Comprehensive Planning Manager, Nina Bellucci Planning Project Manager, Darcy Kremin Rincon Consulting

- Permit Sonoma is in the process of updating all of their zoning sites which include low-income housing.
- Housing elements include site inventory, adequate sites zoned, fair housing, must be certified by the state
- Planning period is 2023-2031
- Out of 17,520 sites in Sonoma County 1727 must be low income
- Currently only four sites meet these requirements
- Looking at 59 sites
- Forestville- 6 sites
- Guerneville- 4 sites

There are maps which identify these sites on which can be viewed on Permit Sonoma for those interested. There will be public input open in January 2021 and a BOS presentation for approval in April 2021.

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Board Comment-

Claudia Sisomphou- asked what the sites are currently zoned as. Nina responded that they could be zoned for other zones but would be changed as part of this process

Vesta Copestakes- The sites by the elementary school is by skate park proposal. Answer yes will also have housing

Is the other site the power supply site which is a contaminated land? This is not a Forestville site but sites are near it.

Nic Pereira- Voiced concern with Guerneville sites and road access. Many of the roads by these sites have little to no road access.

Jordan Lebovich- asked for next steps. The sites will be identified and then there will be time for public comment and then a final report to BOS for approval

Lisa Nahmanson- asked how are sites identified. Response was that many are identified from nominations from public and from current inventory.

Public Comment-

John Uniack- Sites between Laughlin and Watson are on California Water which does not meet standards and the water table is very low there. Previous planning there was turned down due to water constraints.

F. Roads Report- Pip Marquez de la Plata

Pip identified that the report was on the packet for review and that many projects did get completed this year despite the fires. Thanks go to Elise and Johannes for putting this report together.

Elise reported that Moscow Road is very problematic and a study has been completed. That part of the road will need an actual bridge and contracting has begun. The project will be funded by FEMA and funds are not available as of yet.

Board Comment-

Vesta Copestakes- really appreciates this road report and says thank you

Mike Nicholls- asks that the TPW crew visit Neeley Road sites and review. Elise responded that they are already doing so.

Public Comment-

David Reichard- identified that culvert #1 on Neeley is non-functional and due to the fact that the owners and TPW cannot agree there is no movement.

Other areas the water is running under the road and undermining road.

Regular Calendar Items

Strategic Planning- Elise reported that Lynda and her team are looking to initiate strategic planning for West County. Looking at the possibility of hiring outside consultants. Everyone agrees that strategic planning must start.

Trash Programs- Glen Morelli and Brandon Hart from TPW were present to discuss trash. The contract with Recology will include more sweeping routes and illegal dumping. If there are dumped items in the road right of way they will be picked up. Otherwise, there can be requests for support for community cleanups. Complete the permit application through the BOS. Very often fees will be waived at dump site. Sometimes Recology will assist.

Mattresses will now go to Guerneville transfer station under new program

Free dump says for household toxic waste

Can call four times per year for bulk dump at your home Brush may or may not be included

Board Comment-

Claudia Sisomphou- Who do you call if garbage dumped not in right of way?

The sheriff

Vesta Copestakes- If the community or individual cleans up can the call Recology. For community clean ups forms need to be completed. Individuals can call Recology.

Cynthia Strecker- If trash cans are overflowing in town who do they contact. Glen said they would need more specifics to answer that question

Jeanette Dillman- asked for written information regarding what programs are available. Glen will provide.

Public Comment-

Alice Teeter- under Hacienda Bridge there is trash pileup. Who is responsible for clearing this? Glen will have to review with his supervisor.

John Uniack- Had a dry mattress picked up right in front of his home. He requested more information and education for customers

Susan Joice- Years ago in Guerneville they paid for trash pickup and adopt a highway works well.

Proclamations

None

Board/Staff Reports

Residential Parking Permit- This group has met twice and developed survey. Survey went out today online and then they hope to collate data and report outcomes

Land Use Committee- "The Chair called for a special full LRR MAC meeting in January to provide a public hearing for presentation of the Lodge at the Russian River, Guerneville Park project and the accompanying Land Use ad hoc committee report

Deletion of 2020 AdHocs -Jeanette Dillman asked for a motion to delete all AdHoc Committees from this year except Land Use and Residential Parking Permit.

Discussion: Vesta asked about Vacation Rental AdHoc as work is not completed. Jeanette responded when the work starts again it can be reformed.

Mike Nichols made a motion to delete all AdHocs from 2020 except for Land Use and Residential Parking Permits. Cynthia Strecker seconded the motion. Roll call vote 8-0-0

Vegetation Management- Terry Gwiazdowski reported on a meeting she attended regarding how to spend the 25 million allocated from PG&E monies.

Overall attendees requested the following:

- Private Road vegetation management
- Restore Forrest to native state
- Grazing
- More home hardening
- Expand current chipper program
- Use Air Curtain burning and look at a Bio-Char facility
- More enforcement of property upkeep
- Look at ingress and egress problematic areas
- Communication Plan

Board Comment-

Pip Marquez de la Plata- who also attended reported significant support for restoring forests to native state

Cynthia Strecker- the Office of Resiliency Program is helping with home hardening. They are working on a BIO-Char program for the Berry Saw Mill location. This will be a three-step process led by native American tribes.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

None submitted at this time

Adjournment- A motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm was made by Mike Nicholls and the motion was seconded by Cynthia Strecker. Motion carried 8-0-0.

Minutes: Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Special Meeting: Council Representatives and Alternates introduction to the River MAC
January 7, 2021

Held by Zoom

Attendees

Current Representatives:

- Jeanette Dillman, Pocket Canyon Representative
- Vesta Copestakes, Forestville Representative
- Mike McNicholls, Cazadero Representative
- Pip de la Plata, Rio Nido Representative
- Nic Pereira, Alternate as Representative for Guerneville
- Kyra Wink, Alternate as Representative for Monte Rio/Villa Grande
- Lisa Nahmanson, Alternate as Representative for Forestville

And incoming Representatives:

- Sherrie Owens, Hacienda alternate
- Alice Teeter, Hacienda Representative
- Lisa Nahmanson, Forestville Representative
- Tony Goodwin, Cazadero Alternate

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Elise VanDyne, Field Rep and Staff Liaison to the River MAC

Leo Chyi, District Director

Jason Wilson, Supervisor's Aide

- I. Supervisor Hopkins Opening Remarks
- II. Introductions of attendees and the District 5 Team
- III. We reviewed Brown Act Training and members were asked to complete the ethics training.
- IV. We reviewed the role of the Representatives and Alternates based on the Communications and Outreach guidelines
- V. We discussed the Chair and Vice Chair election process for the February meeting.
 - a. Interested candidates will submit a short candidate statement of interest to be in the February meeting packet.
 - b. After the meeting opening, the current Chair will call for nominations for Chair and a vote will be held. The gavel then passes to the new Chair.
 - c. The new Chair will then ask for nominations for the Vice-Chair, a vote will be held and a new Vice-Chair confirmed.

The full meeting is available online: https://youtu.be/qq1htvW_g50

December 1st, 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. 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.
3. 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 moving forward to form a comprehensive lower river Strategic Plan framework for developing workable solutions.

This process includes identifying impact solutions for neighborhood residents, developing a PRMD Specific lower river plan as a part of the

General Plan (primarily land use issues), and contributing to the County Strategic Plan regarding funded projects over the next five years.

It urges that the LRR MAC continue to pursue a Strategic Plan framework unique to the lower river community in forming solutions to major issues.

In order to effectively accomplish this task, I recommended a dedicated assistant position be established to provide essential organizational secretarial functions required, i.e., preparing MAC reports; prepare, post, and distribute meeting agendas and materials; prepare MAC member requests; maintain records and website; and predetermine attendance at MAC meetings.

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 2 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
 - 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: Lynda Hopkins

Mac Council Members and Alternates

Elise Weiland

Leo Chi

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



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council Ad Hoc Report – Land Use 2020

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 – Guernewood 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.
 - r. 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. No additional land use projects were referred by Permit Sonoma or county staff to the Lower Russian River MAC for consideration during 2020.
4. The Land Use 2020 ad hoc is expected to complete its work in February 2021.

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 2 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

LOWER RUSSIAN RIVER MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL Ad Hoc Report—

Bylaws Committee Lucy Hardcastle, Chair

Committee Members Jeanette Dillman and Jordan Lebovich

The AdHoc Bylaws Committee reviewed the existing document and made recommendations for changes, which were presented to the LRR MAC for consideration at the May 2020 Council meeting for review. The revised document was presented to the LRR MAC at the February 18,2021 Council meeting for approval.

Respectfully submitted by Lucy Hardcastle

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

Letter from Colin Baptie

Sheriff Mark Essick Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

2796 Ventura Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Sheriff Essick,

As you are aware, the Lower Russian River is a major tourist destination in the summer months with thousands visiting from out of the area. This past Memorial Day weekend, major concerns regarding lack of enforcement of Sonoma County's public health orders were raised by many residents. Crowded beaches without proper social distancing, the haphazard use of masks in public, and the masses of people converging at the Guerneville Safeway without, it seemed, any regard for public health were the topics most discussed. Many even felt they were "trapped" in their own homes for fear of contracting and spreading COVID-19 given the lack of orderly adherence to public health orders. The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council is deeply concerned that this could become a pattern in the coming months and is requesting your assistance to help remedy the situation. Specifically, we ask that your office affirms its commitment to enforcing the County's public health orders. Additionally, we believe that your office's daily presence, especially on weekends, walking rounds throughout Guerneville would help to address issues of noncompliance with health orders before they escalate. A deputy's presence during peak shopping hours at Safeway would also be helpful and go a long way to assure residents that your office is willing to help alleviate their concerns. The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council invites the Sheriff's Office to participate in an open dialogue with our council members to ensure solutions are put in place, and to share with us any existing plans aimed at keeping our communities safe and healthy this summer.

We look forward to your response and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Dillman, Chair

Cazadero Community Services District

PO Box 508

Cazadero CA 95421-0508

August 7, 2020

Tennis Wick, Director -- Permit Sonoma.

County of Sonoma

2550 Ventura Avenue

Santa Rosa CA 95403

Dear Tennis:

It was brought to our attention, the 2021 Gran Fondo is scheduled for Saturday, May 29 during the busy Memorial Day weekend in West County.

(<https://www.levisgranfondo.com/routes>) The Cazadero Community Services District has enthusiastically championed the Gran Fondo in past years and our local community has supported and staffed a rest stop for cyclists in conjunction with the event. This year, however, the CSD board has asked that I contact you expressing concern with the scheduling such a large event during an already traffic impacted holiday weekend along the Lower Russian River. The Gran, The Gran + and The Growler routes are mapped along River Road and Hwy 116 from the intersection of Wohler Rd to Cazadero Highway, then northerly up King Ridge Rd. These are the most popular routes, with the highest number of cyclists, which in turn will congest major transportation arteries as well as our narrow roads in rural areas of West County between the hours of 7:30AM and 3PM. Memorial Day weekend is the start of the busy summer season along the Lower River which includes our Cazadero area. Traffic impacts coupled with holiday weekend tourism just doesn't bode safely with thousands of cyclists attempting to share the road. The timing for this event could not be worse!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Nicholls, President

Cazadero Community Services District

Cc: Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Johannes Hoeverstz

Lower Russian River MAC

CCSD File 3

LRR MAC December 6, 2020

Attention: Field Representative, Elise VanDyne

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. These lead 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



SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MARK ESSICK
Sheriff-Coroner

Page 411689
JIM ENAUGLE
Assistant Sheriff
Law Enforcement Division

EDDIE ENGRAM
Assistant Sheriff
Detention Division

HEIDI KEITH
Chief of Financial and
Administrative Services

August 3, 2020

Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Jeannette Dillman, Chair
575 Administration Drive- 101A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Chair Dillman,

I am in receipt of the letter you sent on behalf of the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council. Thank you for taking the time to write me, and for inviting the Sheriff's Office to speak at your June 18 meeting.

Enforcement of the Health Order is a complex, polarizing subject.

We are in a pivotal moment in our nation's history as society debates the role of law enforcement in our country. We are feeling the effects of this debate at the local level, including how peace officers should enforce the Health Order. While some community members are asking us for greater involvement in enforcement, other community members believe peace officers should not be enforcing the Order at all.

Our primary responsibility is responding to criminal activity. In 2019 we responded to 94,755 calls for service. We are enforcing the Health Order in addition to our normal workload and prioritize calls for service based on the immediate level of danger. To date, we've fielded over 700 calls for service, resulting in 19 written warnings and 14 citations. We continue to emphasize education over enforcement.

Every business owner is responsible for ensuring customer compliance with the Health Order. We have spoken with Safeway managers several times; they are enforcing the requirement to wear masks. They also have masks available for customers to purchase. In addition, deputies regularly visit the store to purchase food or meals and have observed compliance with this portion of the Health Order.

In response to COVID-19 health concerns, we have intentionally changed the way we interact with our community. We handle calls for service by phone when possible and have temporarily paused most community oriented policing activities. Members of the Sheriff's Office are more likely to carry COVID-19 than the general population because we cannot implement all recommended health precautions, including the recommendations to stay home and maintain social distance. Limiting in-

From: Jennifer Wertz jen@russianriveralliance.org

Date: Thu, Nov 19, 2020, 5:16 PM

Subject: CARES Act small business grants

To: ethan.brown@sonoma-county.org

Cc: Callahan, Mary <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

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: **Colin Baptie** colinbaptie@me.com
 Subject: MAC Meeting - Public Comment
 Date: August 18, 2020 at 10:18 AM
 To: jeanette.nvermac@gmail.com
 Cc: Susan Joice sjoice@comcast.net

Dear Jeanette,

Re: Silver Estates Timber Harvest Plan

I want to thank you for accepting my comments to the MAC via email. I apologize for not being able to attend the meeting in person to present my concerns (I am a clinical psychologist and see patients until 6pm on Thursdays.)

I would like to raise the following concern about the proposed timber harvest on 224 acres between Neeley Road and Mays Canyon Road (the Silver Estates THP):

ROADS AND CULVERTS

The THP will have significant impact on county roads and culverts on county-owned property.

First, I would like to know what correspondence has occurred between the Sonoma County Public Works Dept and the THP's Registered Professional Forester (RPF) regarding a failing culvert on Neeley Road.

Specifically, I am concerned that Sonoma County Public Works Dept is unable to make the necessary repairs prior to the start of this proposed THP. For example, in the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife Pre-Harvest Inspection Recommendations dated August 5, 2020, it is stated under Recommendation 5:

"During the Pre-Harvest Inspection, the review team inspected the culvert located at map point 1. In the THP Significant Erosion Sites Map Point Table, map point 1 is described as an existing, failing 24-inch diameter by 100-foot long corrugated metal pipe on a Class II watercourse that drains into the Russian River, a Class I watercourse, approximately 60 feet below the outlet. Half of the culvert is on Redwood Empire property; the other half is on Sonoma County property.

The THP describes, and the review team observed, multiple issues with the culvert; it is rusted with holes in the bottom resulting in soil piping, the outlet is perched with no downspout or energy dissipaters, it is undersized, the inlet is fully plugged with debris, and there is record of the culvert plugging during high flows and diverting water approximately 50 feet down the access road before discharging into the inside ditch of Neeley Road.

The THP states, "The existing culvert will ultimately need to be replaced with a larger diameter pipe. However, because about half of the pipe crosses a public road with underground utilities on County lands, any repair of this site will need to be done in cooperation and support from Sonoma County public works. The RPF contacted the County about this culvert and they replied that they do not have immediate plans to replace this culvert."

The review team agreed that the culvert is failing and should be replaced. Currently the THP proposes to limit repairs to improving the culvert inlet because there is little benefit to replacement of only the upstream half of the culvert on Redwood Empire property. The short-term improvements will improve crossing conditions but will not prevent failure. CDFW along with the other review team agencies agreed to contact Sonoma County Public Works to inform them of our evaluation of the culvert conditions and recommendation for replacement.

CDFW recommends that any correspondence between the agencies and the Sonoma County Public Works regarding map point 1 be amended into the plan. Justification: including documentation of review team agency requests for map point 1 replacement supports the RPF's proposal to only apply short term improvements and it provides background information to assist with future inquiries into proposed work at the map point."

I would like to know what efforts are being made by Sonoma County Public Works to ensure that the RPF (the forester) does not apply only short term improvements. This is a serious erosion site and we have legitimate fears of landslides that could potentially block access to Highway 116.

Second, I would like to know what action is being taken by the County of Sonoma to ensure Neeley Road and Mays Canyon Road are adequate enough to handle the 80 plus logging truck trips mentioned in the THP. Both roads are narrow and in a poor state or repair. Neeley Road has been subject to numerous landslides.

Thank you again for allowing me to air my concerns.

With best regards,

Colin Baptie, Psv.D.

This page is inserted in lieu of the edited ByLaws.

A request will be made to remove the ByLaws approval from the February consent agenda as staff received ByLaws that do not conform to the Brown Act.

Any ByLaws changes will be brought forward at a future meeting.



Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Ad Hoc Report

Respectfully submitted by Kyra Wink & Lisa Nahmanson

The RPP Survey

Summary

- The RPP Survey was launched December 17, 2020 and closed on February 5, 2021
- It was widely distributed (See attached "Survey Outreach" Document)
- 336 lower Russian River residents responded to the survey
- Survey structure received some constructive criticism but did produce some conclusions for us to build on moving forward.
- A written and verbal presentation of the survey results will be provided at the February 18, 2021 River MAC Meeting.

Next Steps

- Reach out to the self identified "Champions" in those neighborhoods that were predominately in favor of the RPP Program to start more detailed discussions within their neighborhoods as to all the details encompassed in a RPP (parking zones, how many homes would be included, etc.)
- Reach out to other Supervisorial Districts to see if there is any interest in their areas for a County wide RPP program
- Start discussions with the County as to how funding would be developed
- Possibly add some volunteers or other members (MAC Alternates) to the RPP Ad Hoc Committee



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Residential Parking Permit ("RPP") AdHoc Committee
SURVEY OUTREACH
12/17/2020 – 2/5/2021
336 RESPONSES

- FB pages of Supervisor Hopkins and LRRMAC
- January Gazette article in "Towns" section

- Forestville: Forestville Planning Association zoom on 1/5/2021
- Forestville Chamber of Commerce email blast
- Forestville: Next Door (Steelhead Beach Group)
- Forestville: Posted Flyers at Nightingale's Bakery, The Service Station, Hardware Store, Pharmacy, Speer's, Fred's, La Rosa, Tiny Town, Elementary School and Downtown Bulletin Board
- Forestville: Mailboxes and Poles on Argonne, Trenton, Marianna, Mailboxes on River Road from Champs to Martinelli, Rio Dell, and Champs

- Cazadero/Duncan Mills: Next Door and FB; Post Office and General Store

- Rio Nido: Friends of Rio Nido zoom on 1/31/21
- Rio Nido: Posted Flyers on Poles near Roadhouse and Parcel Outlet Plus

- Hacienda Improvement Association zoom on 1/23/2021
- Hacienda: Posted flyers on Mom's Beach, Forest Hills, half of River Drive, Sam's, In the Trees Apothecary, some areas toward Summerhome and above Old River Road, mailboxes of homes known to be occupied year round
- Hacienda: zoom with 6 community reps from Forest Hills/River Drive and Hacienda Improvement Association

- Guerneville: emails to Russian River Getaways, Russian River Vacation Homes, Wine Country To Coast Vacation Rentals, Russian River Realty, D&G Equity Property Management
- Guerneville: Posted Flyers at Mill Street Thrift, West America Bank, Barker's Pet Supply
- Up with Guerneville FB page
- Guerneville Neighborhood Association
- Guerneville Chamber of Commerce

- Friends of Villa Grande: Board meeting zoom on 1/2/2021
- Flyers posted on Monte Rio Post Office bulletin board, Villa Grande Post Office, Monte Rio School, Patterson Point Preserve, Monte Cristo, Rio Café, Skate Park Cafe
- Next Door Monte Rio
- Emailed survey link to Events Director at Monte Rio Weddings and Events