



## **06-13-17, Fire & Traffic Safety, Volunteers, EPPOC June Minutes**

OK Everyone, the snow from Sunday is gone and it is starting to warm up. Our facilities are open and many projects are underway. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of July we should be operating at full speed with some level of control. Here are the Headlines:

### **1. Fire Safety Inspections Results and Your Options**

- . All burning is now over, even though it is wet and rainy – you now have to pursue other options for debris removal and there are not many.
- . Pinebrook completed the First Fire Safety Inspection Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Here are the sad results:
  - 282 Cabin lots inspected with 111 failures and 38 deferrals. Could have been even worse but the Inspectors were getting tired. CalFire is responsible for these inspections and compliance.
  - 112 Bare lots inspected with 57 failures and 3 deferrals. EPFD is responsible for these inspections and compliance.
  - If you get a failure notice or personal contact, it should be clear as to what you must do with all the communications provided to you over the past several months. The second inspection for failures will be in early August and you will NOT be notified if you fail that one. The legal citation process begins with state and local fire district personnel. We cannot help you.
- . If you are doing nothing else besides praying that a fire will not burn you out, try the following:
  - Do the 30' clearing on and around your structures
  - Remove all flammable material – dead branches, dead brush from the ground
  - Eliminate ladders to stop the fire from getting up into the trees
  - Clear to the ground and remove all vegetation from the pavement up onto your lot along your road. It is reported that 70% of fires start from the roads. Make sure trees are thinned and there are no ladders in this area. If a fire gets up in the brush and trees, you are toast.

### **2. Flanders and Murphys Drive Traffic Safety**

- . With no outlook in sight regarding repairing the washed out Murphys Drive, efforts have been made to improve the vehicle flow and hopefully slow down the Indi500 folks going through our Recreational Area.
  - Permanent Detour signs are now up, the temporary ones were disappearing and being thrown in the lake.
  - A radar speed box is on Flanders in an attempt to get folks, especially from BLS 14,15,16 to slow down when entering the recreational area.
  - Additional signage and potentially speed bumps are being considered.
  - We need BLS UFM folks to spread the word in their community to slow down before someone gets killed.
- . You may have noticed that our old faithful pine tree on Moran Road saved another vehicle from going in the lake. It is taking quite a beating.

### **3. SPI dead tree removal**

- . If you have property up Murphys, Manzanita, Conifer, and Canyon View that borders SPI lands, call Aaron Smith at 209 536-2228 and he will have the trees removed.

**4. Volunteers for our July 1<sup>st</sup> (Saturday) 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend activities. We can't do this alone, so if you can find a way to help on Saturday (Events from 11:00am to 10:00pm) please respond with your name and an activity you would be able to help out on:**

- . BBQ Support: Setup, Check-In and most important: Clean-up
- . Kids Games at the beach: Organization, game monitoring, awards
- . Fireworks: Setup, Display runners, and CLEAN-UP
- . Events we will hold if we get folks to organize and manage them:
  - Basketball 3-point Shoot-off
  - Horseshoe doubles tournament on all 3 pits
- . Informal Events: we have equipment but don't intend on managing
  - Bocce Ball
  - Volleyball
  - Softball challenge
- . We plan on opening the new Pinebrook Disc Golf Course. We have folks to demonstrate and teach. We will have check-out Discs. Of course this is if all the volunteers get-it-done.
- . Planning a new event: MOVIE NIGHT on July 8<sup>th</sup> on the Basketball court

**5. RSVP for the BBQ – more details coming each week, but respond now to get our planning started: (don't forget to bring side dishes and special drinks)**

- Name
- Total number of people
- How many hamburgers
- How many hot dogs

**6. EPPOC June 7 Minutes below for local Arnold information**

1. **Meeting called to order:** President Eric Davis at 0930.
2. **May minutes:** Approved as written.
3. **Treasurer:** Jill Holstein reported that 11 HOA have paid dues for a total of **\$352.51**. An additional \$35 is anticipated next meeting from an outstanding HOA.
4. **CCWD:** Berth Underhill, Director of District 3:
  - a. **Blue Lake Springs** is enjoying full and clear well water due to high levels of ground water.
  - b. **Reach 3A** has 3,000 feet of remaining pipe to be completed by this September.
  - c. **Reach 1A** (Avery to Forest Meadows) is up for Bid. ECD is Summer of 2018 to complete construction.
  - d. **Water Conservation:** Abundant water exists due to recent rain, HOWEVER there is not enough stored water to service the growing population of California. Water conservation will continue to be implemented in the Future. Legislation exists for HOA common property to reduce water usage by 25% by 2020. Residents will be encouraged to convert from grass and large-water usage landscape to rock and low-water usage. New homes are now required to have water restrictors, recirculation hot-water pumps, low-flow toilets, and the list will go on.
  - e. **Water Rates:** Due to existing water Conservation, CCWD has suffered a \$700.000 lost in revenue while costs have significantly increased over past years. Consequently, CCWD is investigating necessary increases in water rates for its 14,500 customers.
  - f. **White Pines Lake:** Planned dredging is on hold.
  - g. **Blagen Road Bridge:** The temporary bridge owned by CCWD will be removed by mid-July for the installation of the 'public useable' temporary bridge that hopefully will arrive in time.
  - h. **Water Quality:** It was noted that the purity and taste of Calaveras water was excellent!

5. **Council of Governments (COG): Tim Muetterties reports:**

- a. **California Senate Bill 1 (SB 1):** Which was recently signed by the Governor earlier this year will raise Gasoline Tax, Diesel tax, DMV Registration Fees, and sets new Fees for electric/hybrid vehicles effective in November of 2017. The estimated collection is projected at 5.2 Billion dollars each year for 10 years. Of the 5.2 Billion in collections each year, only 200 Million Dollars will reach the Cities and Counties with a substantial amount of funds going to other agencies and issues (General Fund). In the language of the bill there is a reference to ‘self-help’ counties (those Counties and Cities with taxes earmarked solely for Roads) and at this juncture we are uncertain if Calaveras County will qualify for these funds.
- b. **Additional in SB1:** SB 1 creates automatic increases (starting after 2019) each and every year based on the Consumer Price Index. It is also the intent of the Governor to place a ballot measure codifying the terms of SB1 by the people to prevent future administrations/legislators from changing it. Once passed by the People, it would require another vote of the People to change it.
- c. **Forest Fires:** The Stanislaus National Forest is now designated as “Wild and Scenic”. This means that should a forest fire exist; the required action is only to contain the fire within the Forest boundary. Homes and property near the boundary line (like the Butte Fire) are no longer considered as priority objects until the fire actually crosses the Forest line. This is to limit the liability of the Government. This policy increases the fire threat to subject homes.

6. **EP Fire Commissioner: Tom Sullivan reports:**

- a. **Off-Road Vehicle:** The new ATV is now fully equipped and operational for back-country rescue by EPFD personnel.
- b. **Gas Detector:** A recent \$22K purchase of a gas detector will aid in new capability

7. **Arnold Rim-Trail: Steve Lauterbach reports:** The Arnold Rim-Trail has recently installed a new Kiosk. Residents are encouraged to explore the many new features along the 21 miles of improved trail markers and information. Visit [www.Arnoldrimtrail.com](http://www.Arnoldrimtrail.com).

8. **Guest Speaker: Aaron Smith of the Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) reports:**

- a. **Cedars:** These proliferating trees are now included in the tree-mortality epic. Yes, a Cedar beetle does exist. Cedar trees, which are growing fast in numbers and size, can kill an established tree within its drip-line.
- b. **Tree-Mortality Activity:** For this area, the mortality has vastly improved. The beetle activity has fallen from a rating of 10 to now a 2 ½ (on a scale of 10). The mortality will continue until we have at least 3 years of cold winter temps.
- c. **Mortality Prevention:** SPI, in its vast forest holdings, does nothing to prevent or reduce tree mortality. No methods are known effective and reflect huge expenses with little return. Dead tree removals are not required in these forests.
- d. **Mortality Trees:** Any tree on the SPI boundary that is shared by a home owner can have that tree removed by SPI at no cost. Call Aaron Smith at **209-536-2228**, a personal cell phone, to identify the problem tree and to begin expeditious removal.

## 9. Special Announcements: (2)

- a. **Bill Hunton** Memorial Service will be held on June 24, at 11:30 am. This will be at 2857 Quartz Drive, in Arnold. Bill will be missed.
- b. **St. Patrick's Corvette Raffle:** St. Patrick's Church is raffling a **2017 Corvette** or **\$40K** in cash or a **\$50K Gift Certificate** for **\$100 per ticket** (700 min must be sold). All tickets sold by July 30 will be included in a separate drawing for a 5-day/4-night Mexican Cruise. Drawing to be held **Sept 10**. Details are available at **209-785-6215** or **209-736-4575** or at [Stpatricks\\_acamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Stpatricks_acamp@sbcglobal.net).

10. **Closure:** Meeting was adjourned.

Robert Bragg  
EPPOC Secretary