



PB NEWS: Last Day of Summer, 09-22-17

Wow, Summer ends with a whimper: Rain here and Ebbetts Pass is closed with snow. Good thing tomorrow is only the first day of Fall and not Winter but you might want to winterize early.

1. Pinebrook Activities

- . We had a very successful Labor Day weekend with the BBQ and Dance event along with excellent weather. We had a high level of exuberant participation all summer in the recreational area and at the events.
- . During the weekend of September 9th/10th we had a break-in at our pump shed near the RV area and several tools were stolen. If any of you noticed suspicious activity that weekend please send in the information and make sure your places are secured. In this case they busted through the door at the lock location.
- . Thanks for your support at traffic safety through our recreational area this summer as with Murphys Drive being closed the traffic increase was significantly higher. We did not have very many incidents and most drivers were cautious and courteous.

2. Attention Needed

- . Pinebrook property owner annual assessment dues are delinquent now and will move into the penalty phase for any dues not paid/postmarked before October 1st.
- . CalFire has not completed the inspections of the (6) remaining improved property lots. EPFD inspections and citations on bare lots continue. We all probably have dead and dying trees of all sizes on lots by now as each month more trees give it up. Winter is a great time to get these trees down and the debris removed or burned. Do not wait until the next inspection in June.
- . There is no additional news regarding the Murphys Drive repair at Moran Creek. The county indicates 2 to 3 years to replace the bridge. The county has been provided with needed improvements on Murphys, Douglas and Flanders drives in the meantime in order to manage the road conditions and safety. There has been no response yet. Evacuation routes have been evaluated from BLS 14,15,16 down to Love Creek Road. Activity continues on this important safety effort.
- . The drainage ditches and culverts running by your lots may have debris and blockage that will cause flooding during the winter. For those 50% of you who cleaned this area for fire safety – thanks. Now we need a full 100% effort to clean this area for the winter months. Don't wait for the first major storm.
- . We have significant increases in CC&R violations this year along with many situations created due to a lack of knowledge about Pinebrook, it's services and operating rules. All information and services are on the website (www.pinebrookhoa.org), take the time to read all the available information. We do not have a staffed office and while there is an attempt to check and answer phone calls, email is the more efficient communication process.

3. Need Insurance?

- . We have provided through the NEWS in the past summary status and contacts for getting fire and liability insurance for properties in Arnold. The Fire Safety efforts are crucial for achieving support from Insurance Companies. Below is a contact to try if you are having problems getting insurance at all or are paying a high rate.
- . DELOS Insurance Solutions specializes in Wildfire/Brush regions.
 - DELOS is an independent brokerage that helps all homeowners find coverage regardless of location or brush score. Contacts:
 - . www.getdelos.com/calaveras
 - . contgact@getdelos.com
 - . 415 935-3244
 - . Tom Pratt – 209 206-3390, tom@getdelos.com

4. EPPOC 09-06-17 Meeting Minutes: See Below

- . Read below the Ebbetts Pass Property Owners Council meeting minutes. The items, while not conclusive, affect all of you.
- . The primary speaker was our District 3 Supervisor, Mike Oliveira who presented the status of County wide issues including the marijuana initiative and Public Works status and plans regarding winter damage plans and road conditions. Mike will be using Tom Sullivan as a conduit for area feedback so send your notes to Tom (tomjackies@comcast.net) with CQ in the subject line before the topic.

1. The meeting was called to order by President Eric Davis at 0930 at the EPFD Conference Room.
2. **Treasurers Report:** Jill Holstein reported an increase to \$422.51 in the EPPOC Account.
3. **CCWD, District 3:** Bertha Underhill introduced her General Manager of CCWD, Dave Eggerton.
 - a. Dave announced that Reach 3A was within 75 feet of completion. General paving and improving the roadways affected will ensue.
 - b. Senior of the Year Nominations: Volunteer services wish to honor a Senior who lives in Calaveras that can be recognized for significant public service contributor. The nomination form is attached. Deadline for nominations is Friday, September 29.
4. **COG:** Tim Muetterties: discussed the emergency escape routes and mentioned the Stop Light problem at Murphys had been resolved. This was a major traffic blocker during the evacuation of 2015. It also created a problem for leaving Vacationers this last holiday. Hwy 4 continues to be a sole route to safety for the Ebbetts Pass corridor.

A brief summary of the Council of Governments (COG) meeting last night:

- a. Reviewed and discussed the 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Funding Options.
 - b. Reviewed the 4th Quarter Report of the FY 2016/17 Overall Work Program.
 - c. Considered grant Applications for FY 2017/18 SB1 Caltrans Planning Grant Program Upcoming Call for Projects.
 - d. Discussion on long term and short term mitigation of safety issues at the Valley Springs Elementary School.
 - e. Discussion and request for 'direction to staff' to consider and identify possible alternative operational options for Transit program which currently rests with Public Works.
5. **Ebbetts Pass Fire Commissioner:** Tom Sullivan is the designated Contact for District #3 Supervisor and Chairman, Mike Oliveira. To provide questions or suggestions to the Supervisor use Tom's Email:
- tomjackies@comcast.net use Subject: "CQ" to direct attention in Tom's Email as specific to this purpose.
6. **Fire Protection:** Pat McGreevy and Pete Padelford discussed the Grants needed to be written for more State and Federal money to continue the Fuel Reduction and Escape Route work needed for the Arnold community. Both Pete and Pat are requesting that Priorities of NEEDS be suggested to direct the future Grant proposals. A \$200K grant has been recently awarded to Blue Lake Springs for a total of \$475K. To support the continued success, Grant writers are requested to contact Pete Padelford immediately:

Pete's phone is [795-2172](tel:795-2172) and email is jopad@comcast.net

7. **Fire Insurance:** Tom Pratt, Delos Insurance Solutions, is an independent broker that helps find fire insurance coverage regardless of location. Submit a request by website, email, or phone:

www.getdelos.com/calaveras, contact@getdelos.com, or 415-935-3244. A more personal contact: tom@getdelos.com or 209-206-3390.

8. **Arnold Rim Trail:** Activities are continuing that can be found at the www.Arnoldrimtrail.com website. Noted there is a September 16 for a work day and a later star watch (dark New Moon).
9. **District #3 Supervisor: Mike Oliveira,** also Supervisor Chairman, was the featured speaker for a number of Hot Topics:
 - a. **Again: Email Tom Sullivan with Subject "CQ" to relay comments and questions to the Supervisor until further notice.** Supervisor Oliveira also maintained that the response of the County agencies will improve under the new CAO who has only been in office for 4 months. The needs of the County outweigh the available resources. It was suggested that the County should hire a "Grant Writer" at a top level to accomplish the many Grant supported tasks. The counter to that was that such a "Writer" would have to be familiar with each objective detail. But the details could be added by department heads thus preserving the form of the Grant and saving department heads much time. No action resulted.
 - b. **Storm Damage:** Jeff Crovitz reported that damaged roads from last Winter are in need of constant repair. It was noted by Tim Muetterties that San Francisco County/City has a similar number of road miles with a budget of over \$45M for maintenance. Calaveras County has spent its budget of \$700K after having survived countless logging trucks operating on County roadways.
 - c. **Blagen Road Bridge:** This saga continues unabated. No repair is in sight. Now that FEMA is involved with all its subtler agencies having to complete reports, the temporary bridge solution is also in Question with blockage from archeological and historical requirements remaining. The good news that the \$350K to 400K temporary bridge could be ordered and installed within 10 days once clearance is accomplished. The permanent, 50-foot bridge can be installed in 2 days with a completion cost of \$2-3M with all the government interference. Consider also that FEMA priorities are changing daily with newsworthy national disasters occurring.
 - d. **Butte Fire:** Recognizing the failures of the Office of Emergency Service (OES) from 2015 and previous fires, this agency has been restructured to provide improved service.
 - e. **Murphys Road:** the final repair is delayed for need of Environmental clearance. Meanwhile, the access to those homes is limiting fire and emergency services by adding response time to emergency vehicles.
 - f. **Tree Mortality and Future Pine Needles:** PG&E has done a good job of removing dead trees that endangered their power lines.
 - i. However, many adjacent residents have suffered lot damage from residual tree bark and incomplete clean-up of downed trees by PG&E. Many of these trees were also put into drainage ditches that have since disappeared, also in need of clean up before next winter storms. BTW: PG&E has not committed to next year's tree management.
 - ii. At this point, it was noted by Pat McGreevy that future Grant Proposals should be written for this problem and more Global clean-up and fuel reduction.
 - iii. Future pine needle and brush (Green Waste) disposal remain critically limited. Cal-Waste still maintains a disposal for 2 cubic/yards per week at Red Hill, and for residents only. Additionally, a 3-cubic yard bin is available which is included in the \$150 annual fee. Call Cal-Waste for delivery of these bins. More later, as the fire burning season comes around.
 - g. **Marijuana Initiative: Mike Oliveira** has not chosen his position on the most effective decision to yet be made on the County's future of marijuana production and processing.
 - i. **He would ask your input to this complex issue.** (Contact Tom Sullivan.) The crux of the issue revolves around funds required to enforce any restrictions or laws. The many issues will be presented October 17 for the five Supervisors to mull over. The final decisions rests with this Supervisory Board and hopefully with a public,

countywide election for approval. Those who would want a total ban present this underfunded County with large law suits by growers with paid permits and the four dispensaries that have been in operation for some time. Any regulation or implementation of a total ban must come with support money for enforcement. With insufficient enforcement, the new laws are meaningless. Under the Emergency provisions, “fees” were collected which must be returned with a new Ban. The 784 participants paid \$5K for their applications (\$3.9M). With Prop C passing last year, the Sheriff collected \$6.8M from the permit of the \$2/sq.ft for outdoor growth and \$5/sq.ft for indoor growth. This money was a “tax”, therefore not refundable, except this money went into the General Fund which has already been spent on road repairs and the many other costs within our County.

- ii. **Even with Enforcement Money** being available, the Environmental costs also must be factored. A marijuana growth requires large amounts of water which becomes severely polluted by residual pesticides and residues. This fact and other costs become tax payer concerns.
- iii. **A total ban** would theoretically limit environmental damage if it could be enforced. However, it is generally recognized that illegal growth will continue in spite of the Sheriff’s efforts. This is further frustrating in that California Prop 64 become effective January 2018. And 80% of MJ grown will be trucked out-of-state to the more lucrative markets on the East Coast for 5 to 10x the profit compared to the California market.

10. President Eric Davis closed the meeting at around 1200. Many side meetings then immediately occurred. It was a morning well spent.