

BRIDGEPORT VALLEY

Regional Planning Advisory Committee

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Meeting of Thursday, May 17, 2012 7:00-9:00 P.M. Memorial Hall Bridgeport, CA

NOTES

1. Call to order / Pledge of allegiance

Meeting Called to order 7:06p.m.

In Attendance:

RPAC MEMBERS:

Benny Romero
Bob Peters
Dave Brillenz
Jeff Hunewill
Jan Huggans
Walt Lehman
Steve Noble

PUBLIC:

Rich Williams-BLM
Debra Hein-BLM
Grace Newell-USFS H-T
Bernadette Lovato-BLM
Esta Stifel-BLM
Lynda Pemberton-BP COC
Tim Fesko-No County COC
Howard Johnson
Lauretta Cochrane
Tim Hansen, Supervisor
Albert Paraguirre
Larry Primosch-BLM
Scott Burns
Richard Wight

2. Public comment for items not on the agenda.

Bob Peters-
Caltrans night closures for High Point project are complete as planned, as of this morning.

3. Approve minutes from 4/19 meeting

Moved Hunewill Second Peters, approved 7-0

4. Informational Items:

Supervisor Hansen

Report on WFN favorite fishing town contest, Bridgeport getting lots of votes.

Memorial hall upstairs is going to be closed b/c of fire hazards, according to the State Fire Marshal.

'Smart Meters' are being installed throughout SCE territory, folks can opt-out for a fee but they are being installed at this time. There is some controversy surrounding the meters, how they might impact rates and public health.

Code compliance-some complaints have been recently filed about defensible space in the twin lakes area.

MWTC-Dave Brillenz

June 5 Change of Command. Memorial Day weekend begins summer training season, activity will increase

Commissary under construction at this time. Next week will be some flight activities.

Question about partnering with MWTC on newsletter, how can MWTC contribute? Others are talking about what can be done, what should be done.

Closure of Old Masonic Road—proposed closure of Old Masonic Road to accommodate rifle range (BLM--Rich Williams)

Rich Williams—provided a brief history of the project—started in 1990 with a need to relocate travertine road firing range. Now about to open the new range. Mono County leases from BLM and subleases to the gun club. Old Masonic Road is within the lease area. The road will be gated at the bottom, and about 1.5 miles up the road, just below the intersection with Rock Springs Road. Access will be limited to lessees and permit holders.

Richard Wight—owns closest house to range, concerns about impact to private property values, stated that he uses the road frequently and does not want to lose access. Expressed concern over noise from gunfire, the noise study did not address intensity of use from CHP, Sheriff, and other users.

BLM--Noise study conducted in 1996 was in response to appeal, fulfilled NEPA requirements.

BLM will investigate the opportunity of connecting the next road south of Old Masonic to Rock Springs road to improve access.

Hunewill—could you connect Old Masonic and New Masonic above the gate closure?

BLM--Probably not, terrain would be a problem.

Howard Johnson-thinks it is a good idea, good safety measure

Fesko-Old Masonic is a vital trail for the Jamboree, four day event, will the gun club be closed during those times?

BLM--This will have to be worked out between the jamboree organizers and the gun club. Could be opportunities to communicate with radios and keep people out of harm's way.

MWTC/Brillenz-is Masonic Road safe? USMC runs regular convoys up Masonic Road.

BLM--Masonic is not 'down range,' not in the trajectory of the range. Runs parallel to the range for about .5 mile.

MWTC-The Marine Corps wouldn't run it like that. If MWTC is running convoys through there, what should we do to ensure the safety of the Marines?

Lehman- What about remediation of old site at Travertine? Will it include signage about where to find the new range?

Dublino-Is the range public?

BLM and Albert--Yes.

Dublino--Will the gates on Old Masonic road be open during the deer migration closure of the range?

BLM—No. BLM is re-thinking the closure for deer migration season.

Dublino--Are there any other changes beside the road closure and the deer migration season that are being changed from the original lease?

BLM--No.

When is it supposed to be open?

BLM-Memorial Day weekend is the goal.

The group discussed whether or not is should consider an action, supporting the gun range.

Comments-this is not an action item, not necessary b/c the process has already gone through. Discussion whether the group should consider an action item later, no motion or direction to include this on a later agenda.

Fire Safe Council—opportunities and process for developing a Council to fund fuels reduction projects on private lands in Bridgeport (Debra Hein)

Goals and Objectives of a fire safe council can be broad, specific to community needs—fuels reduction, fire resistant landscaping, proper signage and numbering, whatever the community needs.

Group can apply for 501c3, partner with a fire district, HOA, or other. Many examples of organizations-Twin Lakes, Devils Gate, Mono City, many others on East Side.

Pretty simple process, once formed groups can apply for grants.

Home inspections can assist homeowners in determining their individual needs—what IS defensible space, anyway?

Howard Johnson-enforcement is lacking. People abandoning fires and being careless with fires should be penalized. The sense is that people do not respect the enforcement tools that exist today. Also, children starting fires has been an issue and should be disciplined appropriately.

Hein--Agreement that more enforcement is necessary, education can increase but there is also some opportunity to provide for some increased safety for firefighters through defensible space and fuels reduction.

There are things that can be done before the formation of a non-profit and grant funding.

Brillenz-the RPAC has agreed that the Evans tract should be priority #1 for fuels reduction projects.

Huggans--Illegal camping on private property is also a problem

Peters-Were Evans Tract landowners contacted?

Dublino--Yes. All eastern property owners in Bridgeport were mailed an invitation to this meeting to discuss.

Brillenz--volunteered to organize the FSC and get the ball rolling.

Huggans--How is dust mitigated after removing native brush and scrub?

Hein—several methods, revegetation, putting brush in clumps, using fire-resistant species for re-planting.

5. Discussion / Action Items:

Resolution supporting BP Trails Plan, and requesting resources to deploy the trails plan as appropriate

Moved peters second noble approved 7-0, with request to forward to BOS as correspondence.

Suggested future agenda items

Bridgeport Main Street?

Where can dog owners walk dogs now that airport is shut down?

Bridgeport newsletter?

7. Adjourn to the May 17, 2012 meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:15