

Rio del Mar Improvement Association



Spring 2021 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Zach Friend, 2nd District Supervisor, Community Updates
- Flats Drainage Project Update
- CERT Community Update
- Sea Breeze Building
- Membership Matters

Spring 2021 Newsletter





Community Updates

From County Supervisor Zach Friend

Serving on County and Regional Commissions

Each year, the Board of Supervisors makes appointments of its members to local boards and commissions. In addition to serving on the Board of Supervisors I also serve on your behalf in a number of other capacities on local and regional commissions. Sometimes you may need help on speciality issues that are associated with these commissions so I wanted to give you an overview of these commissions and encourage you to reach out if you have constituent needs associated with any of them.

Criminal Justice Council - Chair

The CJC works with school districts, non-profits and others on intervention and prevention programs to reduce youth involvement in gangs. From supporting educational efforts, non-profit sporting leagues, conferences that provide viewpoints from those with lived experience, reviewing public safety agencies' policies and more, the volunteer-based CJC works to improve outcomes and relationships with public safety and the broader community.

Flood Control and Water Conservation District: Zone 7 - Chair

Zone 7 was formed for the primary purpose of improving the flood carrying capacity of the Pajaro River, Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creek system within the Pajaro Valley floodplain. Zone 7 capital projects are intended to limit the potential for flooding within the floodplain area. Much of the focus is on protecting (and rebuilding) the current levee system to protect life and property in the Pajaro Valley.

Library Financing Authority - Chair

Including members from the cities and county, this joint powers authority exists for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction and improvement of public library facilities.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) - Board Member

LAFCO was created by state law in 1963 to regulate the boundaries of cities and special districts. LAFCO's objectives are: encourage efficient service areas for services provided by cities, counties and special districts, to guide urban development away from prime agricultural lands and open space resources and to discourage urban sprawl.

Monterey Bay Air Resources District - Board Member

The Air District is responsible for air monitoring, permitting, enforcement, long-range air quality planning and education related to air pollution as required by the California Clean Air Act and Federal Clean Air Act. The District also provides rebates for fireplace conversions (to cleaner burning options) and electric vehicle lease or purchases.

Oral Health Access Santa Cruz County Committee - Co-Chair

This group of local health industry experts, community leaders, and education advocate improve the oral health of Santa Cruz County by creating data driven strategies that increase access to care and education.

Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) - Board Member

The RTC sets priorities for the transportation network including highways, major roads, bus and paratransit and the rail corridor. The RTC pursues and allocates funding for all of these transportation elements and adopts policies to improve mobility, access and air quality.

Santa Cruz County Consolidated Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board - Alternate

The Santa Cruz County Consolidated Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board oversees the activities of the five redevelopment successor agencies in Santa Cruz County.

Santa Cruz Mid-County Water Agency (MGA) - Board Member

The MGA is an 11-member board who oversee the groundwater management activities of the Mid-County Basin Area in Santa Cruz County. The basin management goals are: ensure water supply reliability for current and future beneficial uses, maintain water quality to meet current and future beneficial uses and prevent adverse environmental impacts.

Santa Cruz County Sanitation District - Board Member

The Sanitation District is responsible for the collection of wastewater within the district's boundaries and environmental compliance.

National Association of Counties (NACo) - Board of Directors

The National Association of Counties (NACo) serves as the primary advocacy organization for counties. They advocate county priorities in federal policymaking and allow for information sharing of model county policies and practices to optimize taxpayer resources and provide cost savings.

As always, I appreciate hearing your thoughts. If I can be of any help on these commissions or in my capacity on the Board of Supervisors please don't hesitate to contact me at 454-2200.



Sea Breeze Tavern

The Seabreeze Tavern at 101 Esplanade in the Rio Del Mar Flats was the oldest building in Rio del Mar, was constructed in 1926, and was the first sales office for Rio Del Mar Company.

One of its owners purchased the property in 1973. She opened a bar and ran a successful business until 1988 when she closed the doors and retreated to an upstairs apartment. She rarely left her apartment while the rest of the building remained vacant. She died on June 8, 2004.

The County of Santa Cruz administered her estate. It was sold in 2007 to a new owner and the Sea Breeze reopened as a bar and restaurant. It was open until 2016 when the owner lost his liquor license.

After it closed it was purchased by a new owner in 2020. They planned to rehabilitate the building. On June 14, 2020 the building caught fire and was severely damaged. The building was then put up for sale again.

After the fire It was sold to a new owner. According to the County, the building was determined to be unsafe and was torn down as it was not repairable. Currently it is unknown what will be done with the property.

Flats Drainage Project Update

During the rainy season, the Rio Del Mar Esplanade area often sees flooding of roads and properties. The most recent flooding occurred as a result of the heavy rains in late January of this year.

The Rio Del Mar Esplanade was developed in the 1920's on a historic floodplain. Unfortunately, due to the elevations of the land after the area was graded and filled in, the drainage system has not been able to function properly during heavy rain events. The flooding can be caused by several factors. When water in Aptos Creek is high, the storm drain outlet pipe at Aptos Creek does not allow water to flow out of the pipe. This can also happen when the sandbar at the mouth of Aptos Creek builds up (essentially damming the creek), during high flows in Aptos Creek, or a combination of high tide with a storm surge.

County Public Works staff have been studying the area for many years to come up with a solution to seasonal flooding in the Rio del Mar flats.

In 2014, Public Works was awarded a grant from FEMA for approximately \$617,000 to further study and design a solution to help with some of the flooding issues. The design includes new drainage pipes and inlets in parts of Aptos Beach Drive, Venetian Road, Rio Del Mar Boulevard and Beach Drive which will be directed to a new pump station located on the triangular piece of land across Venetian Road from Bailey Properties and the Pixie Deli. From the pump station the storm water will be sent to infiltration pits located on the beach, approximately 50 to 100 feet east of the beach bathrooms.

The estimated construction cost for the project is \$4,802,704, and this summer Public Works received \$4,204,588 in grant funding from three agencies to help pay for the project. \$3,596,238 is from FEMA; \$8,446 is from Cal OES; and \$599,904 is from the California Department of Water Resources through an Integrated Regional Water Management program. The remaining funds will come from drainage impact fees which have been set aside for this project.

In order to comply with grant guidelines, project needs to be completed by April 2, 2023. Public Works is planning to get the project documents wrapped up by summer of 2021 in order to get the project advertised for bids. Award of the contract is expected for Fall 2021, with construction starting shortly thereafter. Total construction time is expected to take six to seven months.

Once the project is constructed, the pumps and infiltration pits will require annual maintenance which is currently estimated at approximately \$113,000 per year. There is currently not a funding source for the ongoing maintenance of the project so the County is exploring options for a new assessment to affected properties. The property assessments would need to be compliant with Proposition 218, which requires the assessment to coincide with those receiving direct benefits. Areas that do not benefit from flood reduction will be excluded from any new assessment, but the assessment will only be voted on by the affected parcel owners.

A survey link (<https://www.civicmic.com/county-of-santa-cruz/>) was recently sent to property owners regarding the project as well.

We anticipate more information about the assessment amounts to be available in the next couple of weeks, and a notice of a virtual community meeting to discuss the project and assessments will be mailed out to the property owners. The meeting information will also be posted in the link above.



Being prepared in this very uncertain world...

So here we are... fast approaching the one-year mark of life under COVID-driven, ever-changing, and often logic-defying stay-at-home directives. It's been a shocking reminder that life can change on a dime... just as it did for so many of our friends and neighbors in a more targeted manner during last fall's CZU Lightening Complex fire. The fact is, we live in a county that purportedly has more geological hazards per square mile than any other in the State of California and one plagued by serious power and water infrastructure issues. Every time your lights flicker... or you lose power for a period of time... ask yourself:

1) Am I prepared to "go it alone" and sustain myself, my family, and the pets in my house for an extended period of time? And,

2) Once I have determined that things are "OK" in my house, do I have the training, equipment, and organizational support to help some of my less fortunate neighbors in the immediate aftermath of a major disaster.

This is where the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept comes in. CERT provides both the training and the organizational support to help individuals prepare for, and respond to, anticipated disruptions and potential hazards following a disaster. CERT is about readiness, people

helping people, rescuer safety, and the credo: Do the greatest good for the greatest number.

Some of your neighbors have been hard at work to create a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in our Rio Del Mar Flats area and to date captains have been identified for six of the twelve designated "neighborhoods." We've acquired MURS hand-held radios and we conduct monthly radio checks. We've even recruited local licensed ham radio operators for our Rio Flats team to maintain lines of communication with the outside world should the need arise. And we're not alone. Thirteen other CERT teams have been established in neighboring communities. But if you think we're fully covered in the event of a major disaster, think again. We desperately need your help.

We highly encourage you to participate in the free CERT training program. If nothing more, this training WILL prepare you to respond to the next crisis that could be right around the corner. Know how to operate and properly aim a fire extinguisher? Turn off a gas line? Fashion a temporary splint? Pack an adequate "bug out" bag? You will, after you complete this training.

The training is a two-step process with a 12-hour online course of instruction and 16 hours of hands-on training. The online portion may be taken in any order and at your own pace and convenience. Following successful completion of the online segment, you advance to a 16-hour hands-on training with CERT instructors on procedures necessary to receive your CERT credential. This will all be done using COVID-19 precautions. You will receive a free backpack containing personal protective gear (PPE) at the beginning of the second training. Find out more at www.santacruzcountycert.org. You'll be glad you did!

Once you have completed the training, consider joining our Rio Flats team. We currently have six neighborhoods in need of a captain: #2 (bordered by Treasure Island, Moosehead, and Spreckels), #4 (bordered by Winfield Way, Aptos Beach, Moosehead, and Marina), #6 (bordered by Aptos Beach, Venetian Rd., and Stephen), #8 (bordered by Stephen, Marina, Aptos Beach, and Venetian Rd.), #9 (Lake Court neighborhood), and #12 (Glen Drive neighborhood).

You might also decide to join with us during a CERT activation in response to a disaster— like your CERT-trained neighbors did in response to the CZU fire... first at the evacuation center that was established at the County Fairgrounds in Watsonville and later at the Fire Resource Recovery Center established at Kaiser Permanente Stadium (Warriors Arena) on Front Street in Santa Cruz.

Questions or interested in helping us with this work?

Please contact us: Lori Nielsen lorinielsen2000@yahoo.com

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Chuck Melton chasmelton@hotmail.com

Tim Barroca timbarroca@msn.com

Bill & Betsy Hare billhare48@gmail.com

Wanda Bagnall wcbagnall@aol.com

Rita Slobodian r_slobodian@yahoo.com

Rio del Mar Improvement Association Members


An important new proposition was recently approved and went into effect on April 1st, 2021. Why do I care about Proposition 19 you may ask; because it reduces the taxable value of a new home for certain homeowners when they sell. That combined with record-high sales prices in Rio del Mar makes it a fabulous time to sell your home.

Eligible homeowners will be able to transfer the taxable value of a primary residence anywhere in the state within two years of the sale of the original primary residence. This could be a huge help for people on a fixed income who fear the increase in property taxes if they purchase a new home and use the equity in their existing home. Eligible homeowners could use the special rules to move to a more expensive home. Their property tax bill would go up, but not as much as it would for other buyers.

So who is eligible: Homeowners over 55 or who are severely disabled may transfer the taxable value of a property up to three times in their lifetime. Natural disasters and wildfire victims will be allowed a transfer once in their lifetime. Also, all reassessment exemptions for inherited properties apply if the property is used as a primary residence by the child (or sometimes grandchild) or used as a family farm.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like information on how Proposition 19 could affect you. Liz Foster 831-345-6476

Comunitty Contact Information

Noise	Santa Cruz County Sheriff	24-hour non-emergency: 471-1121
Abandoned Vehicle Please provide:	Santa Cruz County Sheriff	www.scsheriff.com/Home/AbandonedVehicles.aspx 831-454-3139
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location and Color• Make and model• License plate number• How long it has been since it was last moved, if known		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Car Blocking the street• Parking in a no-parking zone• Non-injury accidents	California Highway Patrol	831-796-2160
Animal Control/Barking Santa Cruz Anima Shelter		www.scanimalshelter.org/complaint_process
Code Compliance	Santa Cruz County Planning Department	www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/CodeCompliance.aspx
Graffiti	Graffiti Hotline	(800) 526-1185
	To report some of the above and other neighborhood concerns, use the Citizen Connect App: sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us Includes Pothole Reporting	

Rio Del Mar Community Contacts

Santa Cruz County Offices	2nd District Supervisor, Zach Friend	831-454-2200
Central File Fire District	Fire Chief,	831-685-6690
Sheriff's Sub-Station Aptos Center Center	Sergeant Jordan Browniee	831-454-7765
Seacliff State Beach	Park Office	831-685-6442 or 831-685-6500

Aptos Chamber of Commerce

Executive Directors: John and Karen Hibble

831-688-1467

RDMIA Appreciates New Members and Renewals



Welcome to our new members and thank you for joining!

Don & Katherine Genesy
Rosanne Tedesco
Mark Johannessen

Dave Wardle
Catherine Ferron & Paul Roberts
Marian Zeilder

The Officers and Board of Directors Welcome Barry Scott as our newest Board Member
Current Board members:

- President: Dan Rothenbush president@rdmia.org
- Vice Pres: Jerry Cannella vicepresident@rdmia.org
- Treasurer: Sam Nazzal treasurer@rdmia.org
- Secretary: Christina DeLapp secretary@rdmia.org
- Websit / Social Media: Barry Scott website@rdmia.org
- Communications: Joseph Foster communations@rdmia.org
- Directors: 2 Openings

We continue to seek those members who might be interested in volunteering and sharing your expertise on the Board. Please contact the Board at info@rdmia.org or email Director above.

Your membership matters!. Renewal time is upon us for members to contribute for 2021. RDMIA is most grateful for our neighbors and friends who continue to support RDMIA's community interests.

Dues enable RDMIA to maintain area landscapes, improve local parks and engage in community interests. 2020 RDMIA highlights in the community;

- *Improved solar lighting*
- *Tree trimming for solar lighting enhancement*
- *Continued landscape care – renovated median landscapes*
- *Donation towards Hidden Beach Park playground Jett Ramsey Tribute*
- *Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller Heroes Fallen Fund*
- *Ongoing communication outreach*



Annual Membership

The Rio del Mar Improvement Association annual membership per household is \$30 by check or \$32 by PayPal (includes \$2 PayPal fee).

A \$500 Lifetime membership is also offered. And the BOD has approved the wording to read "LEGACY MEMBERSHIP" thus the membership will pass on your membership to a resident family member.

Ways To Join

- Complete membership form online at www.rdmia.org and pay via PayPal (\$30 + \$2 = \$32)
- Complete membership form online at www.rdmia.org and mail check payable to RDMIA (\$30)
- Print out membership form, complete along with check payable to RDMIA (\$30) and mail

Membership Information

Please print legibly – thank you

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Rio del Mar Address (if different) _____

Primary Email _____ Secondary Email _____

Telephone number _____ I have no computer access

____ New Member ____ Renewing Member Referred by _____

Please send the RDMIA Newsletter by email to save printing/mailing costs Yes ____ No ____

Please mail to **RDMIA, P.O. Box 274, Aptos, CA 95001-0274** along with your payment. Your contact information is used solely for newsletter and RDMIA communications, and is not shared with any other member or 3rd party.

Get Involved?

____ I want to volunteer or contribute (time, \$, or in-kind) for RDMIA projects. Please call or email me

____ I am interested in becoming a RDMIA Board member

What do you value most about RDMIA? (check all that apply)

Community Outreach

____ RDMIA newsletter membership ____ General membership semi-annual meetings

____ RDMIA website ____ Presenting interesting speakers

Community Advocacy

____ Interfacing with local government ____ Updating RDMIA Facebook

____ Information concerning local issues such as transportation/roads

Beautification

____ Public area landscape improvements and maintenance



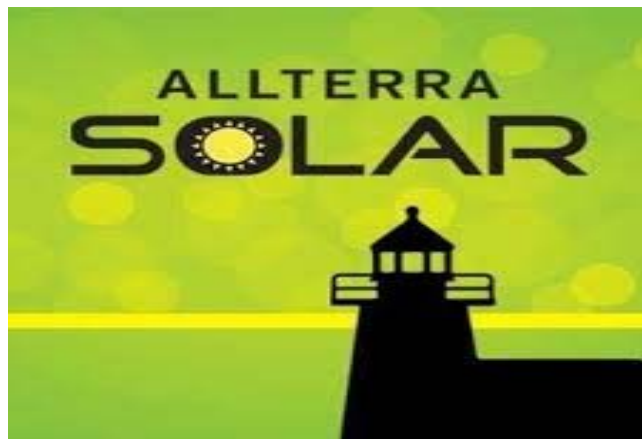
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