

RIO DEL MAR

Improvement Association

Fall 2022 Newsletter



RDMIA Semi-Annual Fall Meeting:
Rio Sands Motel Meeting Room
Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 6:30PM

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR 2023
Annual Membership Fee is \$30 (Use enclosed form or pay online)

Spring 2022 RDMIA Newsletter Highlights:

- Rio Del Mar History Corner: "GOLF: Gentlemen Only; Ladies Forbidden", First of two parts by John Hibble
- Zach Friend, 2nd District Supervisor, Community Updates
- Soquel Creek Water District Projects



Fall 2022 Newsletter

**The Semi-Annual meeting of the RDMIA will be held on
Wednesday October 19**

Rio Sands Meeting Room, 6:30 pm. Doors will open at 6:00 pm.

Speakers will include:

Matt Machado, Director Santa Cruz County Public Works

Matt will discuss transportation and other public works news and take questions from members.

Kieran Kelly, Santa Cruz County:

Kieran will provide District 2 updates on behalf of Supervisor Friend and take questions from members.

Bruce Jaffe and Rachel Lather, Soquel Creek Water District:

Rachel and Bruce will explain the range of initiatives designed to provide customers with a safe and reliable source of water and take questions from members.

Please RSVP in advance to rdmia1941@gmail.com.

Fall 2022 RDMIA Newsletter Features:

- Rio Del Mar History Corner: "GOLF: Gentlemen Only; Ladies Forbidden",
First of two parts by John Hibble
- Zach Friend, 2nd District Supervisor, Community Updates
- Soquel Creek Water District Projects

Rio Del Mar History Corner, Courtesy of the Aptos History Museum!

GOLF: Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden (first of two parts)

By John Hibble

The title is supposedly an acronym for where the name “golf” came from. I don’t like to be politically incorrect but, this is what is called an “old wives’ tale”. Women have been very involved in golf on the Monterey Bay. Marion Hollins, a championship golfer, developed the Cypress Point Club, and Pasatiempo Golf Club. Mary Pickford, famous actress and wife of actor Douglas Fairbanks, played golf in the early days of the Rio Del Mar Golf Course. There was a Rio Del Mar Ladies Golf Club group and, in the 1930s, a program was set up to entertain children on the beach each Thursday from 10 am until 2:30 pm so that their mothers would be able to play golf. So, how did the ladies get to play golf, along with the men, in Aptos?

Before Rio Del Mar, there was Aptos-By-the-Sea. On July 5th, 1922, Fred and Phoebe Somers of Pomona, purchased the 2,390-acre Aptos Ranch from the heirs of Claus Spreckels, financed partly by pre-selling parcels to investors and developers. Their plan was to develop the Aptos Beach Country Club, a golf course and to sell residential lots.



Above: The first clubhouse.

Right: Mary Pickford golfs at Aptos

In 1925, the Somers and their investors joined forces with real estate developers from San Francisco, Monroe, Lyon and Miller, who would eventually be known as Peninsula Properties. With an influx of new money, work started on the golf course and lodge in April of 1925 and the lodge opened in late fall with nine holes. The back nine was completed the following year.

The golf course was designed by Willie Lock, who supposedly invented the 9-iron. He designed the Los Altos Country Club, Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City and three others. The horseshoe-shaped entrance road to the golf lodge bears his name.



At that time, there were virtually no trees in the area. The Native Americans burned the coastal plain every year to provide pasture for deer and other game animals to graze. Over 4,000 Monterey Pine and cypress trees on the golf course and streets were planted by landscaper Luigi Duarte. He planted the trees from seed at a nursery he created along Huntington Drive.

The Aptos Beach Country Club and Lodge, as it was known, initially served as the clubhouse for the country club and it actually was a lodge. Guests and potential real estate customers were accommodated upstairs above the main room. The names Aptos Beach Country Club and Aptos-By-The-Sea were phased out in 1926 in favor of the swankier name, Rio Del Mar. In 1928, the former Spreckels mansion was used as the resort clubhouse for a very short time until it burned in 1929 and the new hotel became the clubhouse when it opened the same year, just in time for the Great Depression.

To be continued in our next newsletter!



County Sustainability Update

From County Supervisor Zach Friend

The County has been undertaking a process for a comprehensive update to the General Plan and Local Coastal Program. Called the Sustainability Policy and Regulatory Update (Sustainability Update), it provides amendments to the County's current General Plan and Local Coastal Program, updates sections of County Code, adds new County Design Guidelines and provides amendments to the General Plan land use designation and Zoning maps. The goal of this update is to implement new policies and code regulations that support more sustainable communities in Santa Cruz County.

Over the last few months, County staff have held community outreach sessions and presented the draft to the Planning Commission over multiple study sessions for review. The draft will come to the Board of Supervisors soon.

The Sustainability Update involves work on three County documents:

- (1) It provides amendments to the General Plan/Local Coastal Program
- (2) Provides amendments to the County Code
- (3) Creates Santa Cruz County Design Guidelines

The Update aims to modernize codes (some which haven't been updated since the 1950s), look at how development occurs (in particular within the urban area and higher-density areas within the urban area) and incorporate design guidelines. The County's existing General Plan was adopted in 1994 with a focus on preserving natural and agricultural resources and limiting urban expansion outside the urban services line. While maintaining these core values, it's important that after 25

years the General Plan/Local Coastal Program be modernized to address current needs and even state law changes.

Specifically, revisions included in the Sustainability Update are intended to introduce housing options, mitigate climate change, support multimodal transportation and align land uses with transportation corridors, support local agriculture and preserve agricultural land, update commercial zones to support evolving business needs and local job creation, as well as modernize the land use permit framework and types of uses allowed within various zone districts. In addition to these changes that implement past policy efforts, the Sustainability Update incorporated updates to the County's 1994 General Plan/Local Coastal Program to align with recent state laws and new regional and local plans, as well as aligning the General Plan Land Use Designation and Zoning Maps.

What's Included in the Plan?

With a focus on the General Plan/Local Coastal Program, County Code and creation of Design Guidelines, the Update includes changes to the County's land use rules and regulations, in order to support sustainable development and meet the modern needs of the community.

How can you learn more?

The County has a website with a lot more information about the proposals in the Sustainability Update. The site, listed below, includes links to the entire plan, ways you can get involved and easy fact sheets to obtain overview information. More information can be found at:

www.sccoplanning.com/SustainabilityUpdate

If you have any questions about the proposed code changes, or any other matters in our district, please don't hesitate to call me at 454-2200. I'm maintaining regular updates on social media as well at www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend.

Attend the RDMIA Semiannual meeting to learn more!

Soquel Creek Water News:



Pure Water Soquel Construction Update: The Future of Water is Being Built Now!

Construction is underway on the Pure Water Soquel Groundwater Replenishment and Seawater Intrusion Prevention Project—and every day of work brings the community one step closer to a drought-proof, sustainable water supply.

Pure Water Soquel will put recycled water through multiple, rigorous, proven treatment processes, purifying it to drinking water standards. That purified water will then be used to replenish the overdrafted Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin, raising the level of the groundwater to create a barrier against further seawater contamination of the water supply, and providing a significant, sustainable supplemental source of water. This basin is the District's sole source of water for its customers and is also used by the City of Santa Cruz, Central Water District, other small mutual water pumpers, and thousands of private well owners.

The key components being built as part of Pure Water Soquel are: three Seawater Intrusion Prevention (SWIP) wells; treatment facilities at two locations, and a conveyance pipeline system to transport water between the treatment facilities and SWIP wells. Additionally, the project includes the construction of nine new monitoring wells at various locations, to expand and enhance the District's ability to carefully observe and analyze groundwater levels and water quality.

FACILITIES

At the Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility (SCWWTF), wastewater currently goes through treatment to make it suitable for disposal into the ocean. New facilities being built there will take 25% of the water being discharged into the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary and will recycle it for beneficial reuse. Construction of the new facilities at SCWWTF started in late 2021. To date, work has included concrete slab foundations, trenching, and pipeline installation.

The centerpiece of Pure Water Soquel is the new Advanced Water Purification Center, where the water will be purified to drinking water standards. Located at the corner of Chanticleer Avenue and Soquel Avenue in the Live Oak area, construction of this facility got underway in December 2021 and is expected to be completed by late 2023. At this new facility, a state-of-the-art, multi-step advanced water purification process—including pre-treatment, microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation—will produce ultra-clean, purified water. Work taking place this spring includes concrete slab foundations and trenching for underground utilities and piping.

CONVEYANCE PIPELINE



Earthwork and excavation for underground utilities and site preparation at the Advanced Water Purification Center located on Chanticleer Ave.

In May 2021 construction began on eight miles of pipeline that are being installed under numerous streets from the SCWWTF to the Advanced Water Purification Center, and then to the three SWIP wells in Capitola and Aptos. So far, four miles of pipeline have been installed on various streets in Santa Cruz, Soquel, Aptos, and unincorporated Santa Cruz County. This work—expected to continue through 2022—is being done with multiple crews in multiple sites, so construction may be seen in several locations. The construction of the conveyance work is the most visible and potentially impactful to the public — motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists are advised to use extra caution when in the vicinity of pipeline construction.

SWIP WELLS

Earlier this year, a major milestone was reached when the third and final SWIP well was drilled. These three wells, ranging from approximately 510 to 870 feet deep, are where the purified recycled water will be stored underground to replenish the overdrafted groundwater basin.

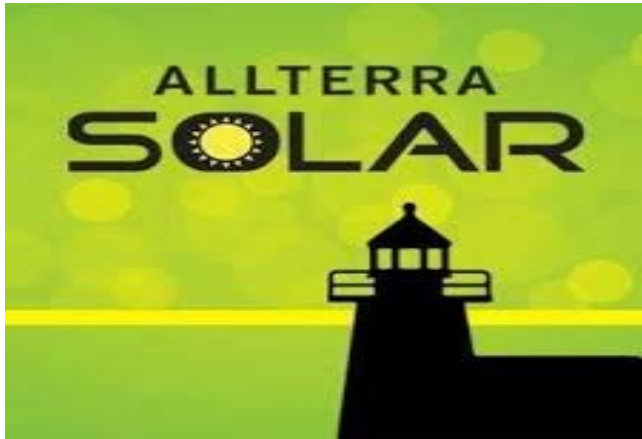
We apologize for any temporary inconvenience as we build for the future of our water supply. The future of our water supply and sustainability of the Santa Cruz Mid-County basin is getting closer and closer! For more details about these and other District construction projects, please

visit www.soquelcreekwater.org/284/Projects-in-Your-Neighborhood

NOTE: The District has actively pursued grants for these necessary projects to decrease the financial impact on our customers. To date, we have received more than \$70 million in grants from the State and Feds.

We must stop seawater from going further into our groundwater basins and polluting our water source. These projects are the foundation for stopping seawater intrusion and protecting our water supply into the future!

Thank you, Business Sponsors!



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Thank you, Aptos Chamber of Commerce & Aptos History Museum!



<http://aptoschamber.com/>



<https://aptoshistory.org/>

Thank you, RDMIA members and business sponsors!

RDMIA extends our our gratitude to the many sponsors who grace our newsletter with their advertisements. It is a win win for all. The community learns of our supportive businesses in the area and the community will, hopefully, return the favor by supporting those partners.

Thank you for sticking through the terrible Coronavirus, and welcome back!



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WELCOME to our new Members

Shakila Restoon

Bobbi Stek

Darlene & Larry Fromm

Nicole Webber

This space for rent! Become a sponsor today!

Please contact Barry Scott, website@rdmia.org to become a sponsor or place an ad in our quarterly print and online newsletter and be featured on our website and social media pages!

RDMIA Appreciates New Members and Renewals

Welcome to our new members and thank you for joining!



Thank You to those who have already paid their 2022 dues:

Renewal time is upon us for members to contribute for 2022. 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. 2022 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*

Current Board members:

President: Dan Rothenbush

Vice Pres/ Membership: Jerry Cannella

Treasurer: Sam Nazzal

Secretary: Christina DeLapp

Website / Social Media: Barry Scott

Communications: Joseph Foster

NEW member: Patricia Perry

NEW member: Linda Neuman

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