

EL PORTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING FINAL MINUTES

DATE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2022 (approved 3/8/22)
TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.
LOCATION: teleconference

1. Roll call:

Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe

Committee: Mark Abney, Alan Kunz, Kevin Shelton, Pinky Collamer, Paul Amstutz, Greg Magruder, Ryan Kelly, Cat Fong

Andre Sanchez – California Wilderness Coalition aka CalWild

7 Residents

- 2. A resolution** of the El Portal Planning Advisory Committee proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020 regarding an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as Covid-19), and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of the El Portal Planning Advisory Committee for the period February 8, 2022 to March 8, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the El Portal Planning Advisory Committee this 8th day of February 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: 8

- 3. Persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda**, but within the jurisdiction of the committee. These items will be discussed after the conclusion of other items listed on the agenda. No action will be taken by the Committee. The public will also be given the opportunity to comment before or during the Committee's consideration of the items that are on the agenda.

4. Review, correct, and approve minutes: November 9, 2021.

- No corrections

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021.

Kevin made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Alan seconded.

AYES: 8

5. Information Item- Board Clerk -Uniform Advisory Committee Guidelines

- Clerk of the board is developing consistent guidelines for the many county committees.
- Committee members and residents can submit comments, questions with Supervisor Smallcombe who will pass them to the clerk of the board.

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- Following that, county staff will share the updated policies with the EP PAC.

6. County Items

- Trailer Court Residents
 - Residents would like to express their concern about the impending March 13, 2022 eviction deadline for residents of the El Portal Trailer Court
 - Approximately 15 trailers in total
 - 3 are park service trailers (unoccupied)
 - 12 are homes for residents
 - Trailer Court Residents shared this general information about the area:
 - Lease agreement between NPS & Trailer Court Residents is the same type of agreement that NPS uses for park employees living in Rancheria
 - In the past, a trailer was crushed by an oak tree and NPS did not permit replacement despite available insurance funds.
 - Trailer Court Laundromat has not had hot water for four years.
 - Fire extinguisher has not been serviced since 2007.
 - Trailer Court Residents shared this information on the justification for the eviction:
 - Unsafe powerlines are cited as the reason for the eviction by NPS.
 - Trailer Court Residents argue that the powerlines should have been maintained to a safe standard because they pay NPS for their utilities including power.
 - Questions & Comments from Trailer Court Residents to NPS:
 1. Will the trailer court be used as a contractor staging area?
 2. Why are residents not being compensated for expenses related to the eviction?
 3. Why are residents not being compensated for trailers that cannot be removed from the lots?
 - i. Residents believe that bridge and tunnel restrictions limit the ability to move trailers.
 - ii. Residents state that the Mariposa Trailer Court requires a \$60K move in fee.
 4. Residents are having difficulty locating any available storage locations for their displaced property.
 - i. Only one 5'x8' storage unit in Oakhurst has been located.
 - ii. Without any storage unit options, residents will be forced to abandon their property.
 - iii. This will result in an additional loss of property.
 5. Trailer Court Residents request additional open top dumpsters to facilitate the disposal of their property required by the eviction.
 6. Trailer Court Residents request NPS staff join their 5:30 meeting at the laundromat in the Trailer Court.
 7. Residents may schedule a call with NPS by calling: 209-372-0496
 8. **Action Item: Supervisor Smallcombe** will communicate to NPS that this is a general topic of interest for all residents in El Portal and that residents would like to be invited to a group meeting with NPS.
 - A committee member made the observation that the powerline safety issue might be perceived by some as "red-herring" because there are several NPS utilities (lift stations etc.) in the Trailer Court that rely on the electrical system.
 - The committee member would like to see the residents compensated for expenses incurred due to the eviction.

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- A second committee member also expressed support for compensation.
 - Initial Review of Public Law 91-46 shows that it might apply in this situation.
 - This law addresses compensation required when relocation and displacement occurs due to a federal project.
 - **Action Item: Supervisor Smallcombe** suggests that committee members meet with NPS staff.
- Community Resources for Residents Facing Eviction:
 - Mariposa Heritage House:
 - Staff has resources and is willing to help residents of the trailer court.
 - Office Phone: 209-966-7770
 - Email: carrie@alliance4you.org
 - **Action Item: Carrie** to compose a letter about resources and information for making donations.
- Responsible Recreation Working Group – concept
 - Supervisor Smallcombe has met with Diana Kelly from Recreate Responsibly CA
 - Diana Kelly is willing to attend the March EP PAC Meeting
 - Suggested outreach to the youth via social media
 - Leverage influencers in the climbing world
 - **Action Item: Supervisor Smallcombe and Ryan Kelly** to organize and publicize a non-PAC meeting on the topic.
- Wildlife Safe Food Storage Requirements
 - No discussion.
- Foresta Bridges
 - No discussion.

7. Community Topics

- Approve Corrected 2022 Meeting Dates – Page 8
- Paul moved to approve the 2002 meeting dates, Pinky seconded.
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- Resident Observation:
 - Incline Road Increasing Visitor Use
 - Significant garbage in and around trash receptacles
 - Wildlife issue
 - Update for 2/8 - Camp host has been hired.
- California Wilderness Coalition
 - Organization now known as CalWild
 - Andre Sanchez presenting on his visitor information sign project.
 - Andre worked for NPS and DNC over several seasons.
 - His organization is leading a visitor information signage project on the river between Redbud and Briceburg.
 - Partnered with River Wild, Forest Service WSR office in Washington, DC
 - Impacts on the river canyon have been increasing over several years.
 - From NPS day use reservations
 - From Covid
 - Overall increasing visitation trends to public lands
 - Process:
 - Gathering Information
 - Carrying Out Sign Inventory

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- Number of signs?
 - Where are the signs?
- Determine if more signs needed and where.
- Content:
 - Regulatory: fire, fishing, etc.
 - Interpretive
 - Safety
- What languages?
- Will produce a report detailing their findings for the national forest section of the Merced River
 - Submit preliminary report by early March
 - Final report to follow.
- The report could be used to secure future grants or planning process to install new signs on USFS land
- Andre has met with:
 - Local USFS managers including Bass Lake District Ranger
 - David Greenwood from BLM
- Public Input Opportunity: Wed, February 16 – Phone Conference Call-in Session
 - Seeking public input on signage
 - Upcoming call-in session on the evening of Feb. 16 taking place from 6-7p.
 - Registration [link](#)
 - <https://www.calwild.org/want-to-help-improve-signage-in-the-merced-wsr-corridor/>
 - RSVP is required in order to receive the call-in number
 - If folks need any assistance email Andre directly
 - Email Andre comments by March 7 at: asanchez@calwild.org
 - Andre shared the attached flier.
- New Items Not Discussed:
 - Abandoned cars at Old El Portal YARTS parking area
 - No discussion
 - To be discussed at future meeting
 - Ambulance service in El Portal
 - Letter from resident submitted and attached
 - No discussion
 - To be discussed at future meeting

8. Next Meeting

- Next meeting – March 8, 2022
- Agenda Items- to be determined

9. Adjournment 8:25 p.m.