

Carmel Valley Association

To preserve, protect, and defend the natural beauty and resources of Carmel Valley and the County of Monterey



CVA Newsletter ~ October 2009 through January 2010 www.carmelvalleyassociation.org

Coming Events

Oct 4, 11:30a-3pm
CVA Annual Picnic
Memphis-style barbecue
Music by *Cachagua Playboys*
\$15/person; \$25/couple
CV Trail & Saddle Club
85 East Garzas Road
Carmel Valley

Oct 11, 2-3:30pm
Carmel Valley Voices
Pat Regan
"Landscaping with Native Plants"

Nov 8, 2-3:30pm
Carmel Valley Voices
Art Historian
Peter Hiller
"Artist Jo Mora on the Monterey Peninsula and Beyond"

Jan 10, 2-3:30pm
Carmel Valley Voices
Youth Music Monterey
Live-music presentation by the county's independent music education program
Unless otherwise noted all Carmel Valley Voices Programs are held on Sundays, 2-3:30 pm, at Sanctuary Bible Church Faith Hall
8340 Carmel Valley Road (at Schulte Road)

FREE OF CHARGE

Report to the Association on future Carmel Valley Road traffic

By Tim Sanders

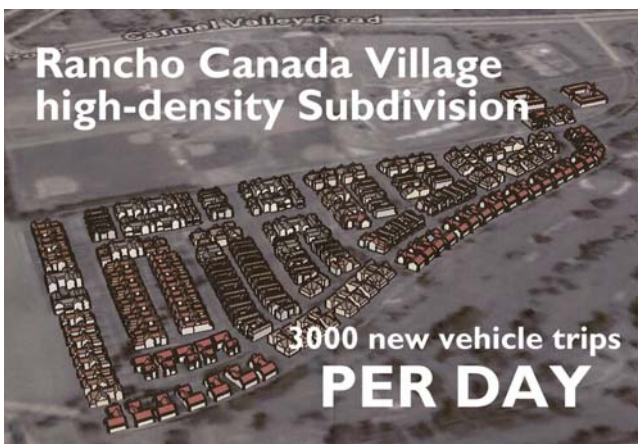
County Pressure to Weaken Traffic Standards. Carmel Valley Road and its main accesses, at Highway 1 and Laureles Grade Road, are under persistent and aggressive pressure from the County to weaken traffic standards. Three layers of protection have defended the Valley against unreasonable traffic increases during much of the past decade: **1)** a 2002 Supervisors' moratorium on subdivisions, based on inadequate provision for traffic on both Carmel Valley Road (CVR) and Highway 1, **2)** the Carmel Valley Master Plan with its specific policies on traffic, and **3)** regular semiannual monitoring data for CVR traffic over many years.

Attack on Subdivision Moratorium.

First, the moratorium is under direct attack, launched by the County more than two years ago in what was called the Carmel Valley Traffic Improvement Program (CVTIP). The Environmental Impact Report for that program included the sentence, "This EIR analyzes the lifting of the moratorium in the event that the Board of Supervisors decides to take this action." That was our first hard evidence of a direct effort to end the moratorium. The moratorium also would end with final adoption by the County of the still-pending 2007 General Plan Update (GPU5). The only way to secure it, or an equivalent, is through incorporation of the Town of Carmel Valley.

Attack on CVMP. Second, the Carmel Valley Master Plan (CVMP) provisions were written before traffic volumes were known (1986), and they were vaguely worded. (The County never

incorporated language from a 1987 court order to clarify them.) Nevertheless, the key phrase states an intention to avoid "a significant impact and worsening of traffic conditions as compared with the present [1986] conditions." Traffic volume standards, or "thresholds," finally were established in 1991 and have been used ever since. The County now has made clear its determination to replace this portion of the CV Master Plan with much weaker provisions upon adoption of GPU5.



Attack on Monitoring.

Third, the information provided by the Master Plan's mandated annual reports on semi-annual traffic measurements and thresholds is an excellent tool for monitoring conditions and trends on CVR. The reports have played a major

role in keeping track of conditions in Carmel Valley, and should be retained. But Public Works and Planning officials have expressed their desire to eliminate the measurements. These are data that have provided the essential context in which public comments on EIRs can be anchored. Because of them we have been able to identify the weakening of standards proposed by the County – changes that would increase allowed traffic volumes on all existing two-lane segments of CVR.

County Program. The County proposes to construct passing lanes on portions of CVR, which would accommodate still further increases in traffic volume. Public Works staff members say that "four-laning" of much or all of the current two-lane roadway is the only alternative.

See *ROADS*, continued on Page 2

Carmel Valley Gallery



President's Letter

By Christine Williams

The big issue of the month...forming a town. Such an important issue! So much hangs in the balance.

We do know that a majority of Carmel Valley citizens are strongly against big development in the Valley. We all are vividly aware of the over-pumping of our River and are gearing up for water rationing. Traffic is always an issue. Without local governance the ca. 300 unit Rancho Canada subdivision, to be built on the flood plain behind the Middle School, will gain the approval of the majority of supervisors, regardless of our wishes. It will add up to 3000 new car trips a day on our roads. This subdivision is in the new General Plan (GPU5) **by name**. That plan will govern Carmel Valley unless we form our own town. Traffic will return to pre-Highway 1 climbing lane standards and worse. Will this happen in two years? Probably not. But give it 10 and we will have a Carmel Valley we don't recognize.

If we incorporate, together we will develop our own General Plan, which will guide our growth. In the campaign claims, whose voice should be listened to? One side has no specific plans for the future of a town nor a history of working on land use issues with the county and people of Carmel Valley. Town proponents and CVA have been consistently at the meetings and hearings representing the majority desire to maintain the charm and beauty of Carmel Valley for decades.

Wisely, many are asking to see the hard facts, and they are readily and easily available. Links to the LAFCO site, with the studies, fiscal analyses, and testimony can be found at www.co.monterey.ca.us/lafco/.

The League of Women Voters will soon have a complete analysis on their site: www.smartvoter.org/ca/mnt/.

www.citizensforcarmelvalley.com provides information, including a list of endorsements: Congressman Sam Farr, Supervisors Dave Potter and Jane Parker, Landwatch, Sierra Club, Republicans and Democrats, to name a few. To hear first-hand answers to some of the significant questions being asked, check out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seMDLmldvyI>. Most importantly: Be informed and VOTE!



Above, l-r: CV Voices guest speakers Mark Stromberg (of Hastings Reserve), story-tellers Walt Victorine, Ruth Peace and Roy Kaminske

Right: Jessie Azrilian shows off the new CVA tote, good for cash credit with purchases at Safeway and Save Mart

Below: 1963 high-altitude aerial photo of truly rural Carmel Valley (Photo courtesy Harrison Memorial Library collection)



ROADS Continued from Page 1

Maintaining approximately the present traffic volume is not an option from the Public Works perspective.

Why Is The County So Determined?

Why are they adamant about introducing weaker standards? They offer two sets of reasons. First is insistence on changing their current method of measuring traffic to one that is described in a standard traffic-engineering manual published in 2000. (Note that they have not been in compliance with that method for nine years and only now raise the issue.) The manual itself, however, clearly does not demand such a change. Retaining the current levels is consistent with the manual, but so far the County has steadfastly rejected that option.

Secondly, and far more revealingly, Public Works has asserted recently that retaining current traffic levels as standards for Carmel Valley Road would have the following results: "New development is postponed and rural character is preserved at the expense of ... deterrence of tourism industry growth [and] deterrence of business expansion."

County Goals: Development, Growth, Expansion; Not Rural Character.

In other words, the County's objective for Carmel Valley, as interpreted and expressed by Public Works, is to facilitate new development, tourism industry growth, and business expansion, at the expense of failing to preserve rural character. We have it in black and white.

Traffic on Carmel Valley Road is to be subservient to these aims.

Specific provisions in the County's GPU5 and the proposed new traffic standards for Carmel Valley Road are designed to achieve this. Rescission of the subdivision moratorium by final adoption of GPU5 would seal the Valley's fate.

The County's determination to pursue development in Carmel Valley is considerable – in fact daunting.

Local Control Is Needed. Incorporation of the Town of Carmel Valley, however, would remove all of these threats, and place Carmel Valley Road under local control, where it belongs.

Incorporation Saga

a late-comer's personal view

By Rob Cooper

I spent some time at the Navy Post-graduate School almost 20 years ago and quickly came to love the Monterey Peninsula area. I decided that when I could, I would move here. Five years ago I finally made it to my new home in Carmel Valley. Having worked for the Federal government in Washington D.C., I had not been allowed to actively participate in party politics. When I arrived here I found California politics to be fascinating, sometimes arcane and even bizarre. I soon learned that the big local issues involved large development projects, water planning, the General Plan and Carmel Valley incorporation - i.e., local control.

It irritated me that the County Board of Supervisors seemed to be intent on blocking the residents of the Valley from voting on their ability to assume control of development planning. Clearly the supervisors had not been responsive to the concerns of many of my new slow-growth friends and never seemed to be able to disapprove anything. I also met some developers and learned a little about their views on property rights and pride in providing homes for families while establishing scenic and environmental easements to protect the environment.

Having been for many years involved in planning, analysis and decision making on large scale projects—everything is big at the Federal level—I started to learn about local government procedures. I knew about strategic plans, environmental analysis and cost benefit studies, but there was a lot to learn about how all this stuff worked in California.

I met people like Glenn Robinson, Larry Bacon, Karin Strasser Kauffman and May Waldroup and others who helped me relate the processes to the issues and the players. I went to some Board of Supervisors hearings and some Carmel Valley Forum meetings; and I joined CVA, Big Sur Land Trust and Land Watch. I am very impressed with the integrity and competence of the incorporation leaders.

I have also heard from new friends, who now live in the Valley, the success stories about incorpor-

ations in Woodside, Los Altos Hills, Lafayette, Moraga, Danville, La Canada-Flintridge and Monte Sereno—I know there are others—as well as their efforts to establish local control and battles to keep runaway development from taking over and crowding out quality of life. They all say it worked and is still working.

I appreciate that California law has defined a very careful process for making decisions about changes in governmental structures. In addition, the law establishes organizational entities (Local Agency Formation Commissions) to oversee the careful application of these processes.

LAFCO contracts with professional



Rob, and the horse he rode in on

and experienced consultant organizations to do the detailed analyses. These consultants are independent and unbiased. I think you can believe what they tell you if you can wade through their very detailed reports. LAFCO makes these reports available for public comment, holds extensive public hearings, and ensures that this input is appropriately incorporated into its final reports.

Further, the planning staff at the County is also very professional in overseeing the consultants and in analyzing and summarizing their results for the County Board of Supervisors. The Board also holds extensive public hearings, and the planning staff ensures that this input is incorporated into their final reports as well.

Political prejudices (and we all have them), life experiences and personal relationships now come into play—we have to vote. I have seen the beauty of the fields, forests, hills, and shores. I have seen the deer, bobcats, coyotes, eagles, hawks, Monterey Pines, lupine, poppies. I hope we can preserve space for them to continue to thrive. I believe that local control is the only way forward.

I'm voting YES on G, and for the pro-incorporation slate of candidates.

Pulse of Carmel Valley

By "The Doctor"

Good health is so important. The Doctor would like to thank Carmel Valley's own Barbara Quinn for her great efforts to promote good health throughout our community. A registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator, Barbara writes a delightful weekly column for the Monterey Herald about healthy eating habits. The columns are always interesting, informative, and fun to read, and Barbara never ever scolds. A tip of the stethoscope to Barbara Quinn for offering her neighbors friendly guidance on healthy lifestyles!

The Doctor, like all good practitioners, understands the importance of a thorough examination, and so has been listening carefully to the debate over Carmel Valley incorporation. Although both sides claim to want to preserve Carmel Valley, the fact is that Measure G has been endorsed by the Sierra Club, past presidents of the Big Sur Land Trust, prominent members of the California Native Plant Society, LandWatch Monterey County, Sustainable Carmel Valley, and, of course, CVA. Opposing is Pebble Beach development attorney Tony Lombardo, of the Rancho Canada Golf Club, where a massive 300-unit subdivision is planned—and where a major public anti-incorporation meeting was held recently. The diagnosis is clear: those who want to preserve Carmel Valley as it is should support incorporation. Those who like increased traffic and pollution should oppose.

For want of fresh reading matter in the waiting room, The Doctor was perusing the county's building and planning website, and stumbled across a curious thing. The Rancho Canada subdivision proposal was listed as the "Pebble Beach Project." The Doctor has been hearing rumors for some time now that the affordable housing component at Rancho Canada will not be reserved for those who work in Carmel Valley, as promised, but will instead be reserved for Pebble Beach Company employees. Did the County just reveal the secret to the public? (Late addition to the record: the title of the project page on the website has now been changed to "Rancho Canada Village Specific Plan," with a note that the page is being updated. But go to the Planning Department's website at www.co.monterey.ca.us/planning/, run a search for "Pebble Beach Project," and see what pops up.)

The Doctor takes great pains to treat everyone with respect, having been taught this important lesson at Mother's knee. Another lesson that Mother taught was that the words we choose speak volumes about our character. The anti-incorporation folks have posted signs around the valley announcing various meetings and debates, and listing those on both sides of the issue who will participate. The Doctor noted that although all the anti-incorporation participants are listed by their first and last names, pro-incorporation candidate Karin Strasser Kaufmann, who will be participating in two debates, is listed twice only as "Strasser Kaufmann." Mother would say that this is rude and disrespectful; The Doctor suspects that the mothers of the anti-incorporation folks would agree. Which reminds us all of the importance of listening to our mothers. It's good for the heart.



Carmel Valley Association
PO Box 157
Carmel Valley CA 93924

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Emergency Preparedness

By Dave Burbidge

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is coming. Mike Urquides, Chief of Salinas Rural Fire—interim chief for Carmel Valley—is organizing this training, to be held as soon as fire season is over. Participants should expect to spend two Saturdays and one evening to complete the 20 hours of training. Topics include Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, Disaster Psychology and Terrorism. I am putting together a roster to help organize the class. Please contact me

if you would like to participate in the CERT training by calling 831 659-5877 or by e-mail at

burbidgedj@netscape.net

A second topic important to disaster response is our ability to evacuate in case of a major fire, flood or earthquake. At this time the County is examining the possibility of downgrading our road rating so that more development can be approved, thus allowing more cars on the road. As we have only one way out in case of an evacuation, this increased traffic load will be dangerous. Please think of this when voting in the November election regarding whether or not to incorporate and assume local control.

Timely Reminders

60th Anniversary CVA Picnic Sunday, Oct 4, 11:30am-3pm

Memphis-style barbecue; music by the Cachagua Playboys; guest speakers include former CVA presidents \$15/person; \$25/couple. RSVP 659-0815

Incorporation Election VOTE Tuesday, Nov 3

Jamesburg Players Reunion Dinner, Show & Dance

Nov 14, Hidden Valley, 3pm-11pm \$30-35. Reservations Required See: www.jamesburgplayers.com

Bring your neighbors to the
Carmel Valley Incorporation
TOWN HALL MEETING
Thursday, Oct 8, 7pm
Tularcitos School
35 Ford Rd, Carmel Valley Village
Sponsored by Carmel Valley Forum, Carmel Valley Association, Sustainable Carmel Valley

Accept the CHALLENGE!
We could DOUBLE our membership If EACH member recruited ONE more member!
Can we do it? Yes we can!
Please contact Loren Steck
626-8761/Lorensteck@aol.com
with your friend's address and Loren will mail out a membership envelope