

Carmel Valley Association

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



Coming Events

Nov 9, 2-4pm

Carmel Valley Voices
Craig Hohenberger,
Director, Hilton Bialek Habitat
Center at Carmel Middle School
will talk about the center's
projects including native
plant restoration and sus-
tainability. This local habitat
center won a Governor's En-
vironmental and Economic
Leadership Award for Excel-
lence in Children's Environ-
mental Education.

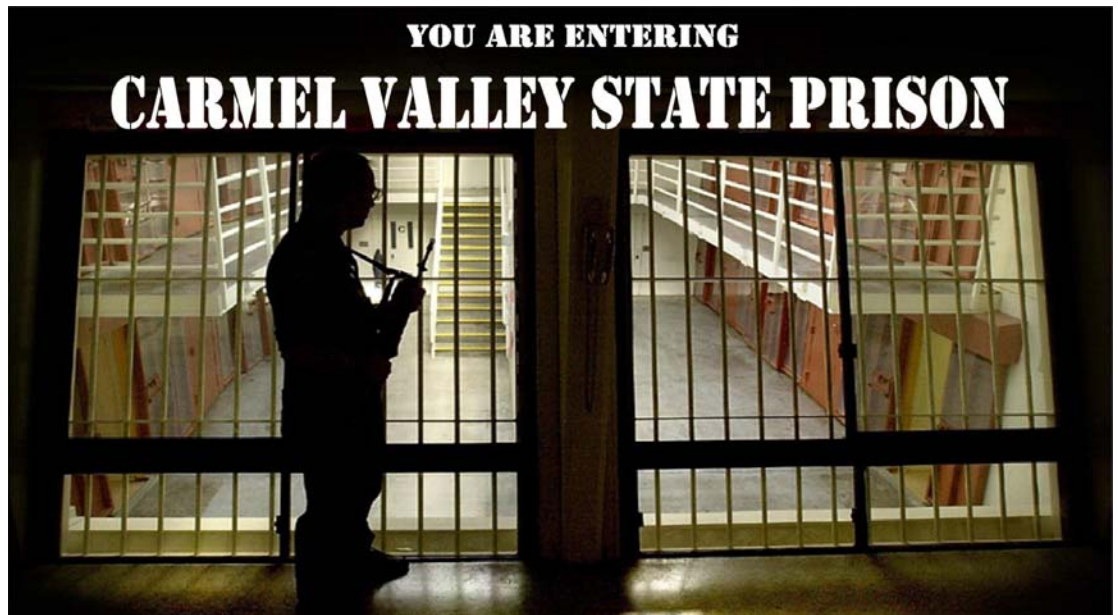
Dec 14, 2-4pm

Carmel Valley Voices
Elizabeth Robinson,
Children's author, will present a
holiday program on children's
books— for kids, parents and
grandparents. Other
children's authors will also share
what inspired them and how they
work.

Jan 11, 2-4pm

Carmel Valley Voices
Bradley Zeve,
Founder/CEO Monterey County
Weekly, speaks on the challenges
of newspaper journalism today:.
With so many information
alternatives available – espe-
cially on the internet – what
is the future of print journal-
ism?

Unless otherwise noted
All Carmel Valley Voices
Programs are held on
Sundays, 2-4 pm, at
All Saints School
8060 Carmel Valley Road
FREE OF CHARGE



By John Dalessio

Carmel Valley dodged a bullet last month. For how long is another question. Hopefully, we have learned that not having local control means that we have no control.

The problem: Monterey County was offered \$50,000,000 to construct a re-entry prison to house 500 inmates during their last year before release. Carmel Valley was the only location for the prison identified by name by members of the Board of Supervisors.

A bit of history: Originally the City of Salinas had been selected for the prison. But the supervisor from Salinas decided that he did not want the prison located in that city. Supervisors from South County and North County joined him to form a three-member majority of the Board and voted to exclude Salinas (or any other city) from consideration.

The New Dump Site: Supervisors from South County and North County also indicated that they did not want the prison in their districts. That adds up to three possible votes (a majority) for a prison location that is not in South County or North County, or in any incorporated city. When two supervisors mentioned Carmel Valley as a possible prison site, no supervisor raised an objection. Supervisor Dave Potter was not present at this meeting.

Where in Carmel Valley? If the prison were to be forced on Carmel Valley—it would take just three supervisorial votes to do this—mandates for transportation and outreach services for the prison likely would place it near the mouth of the Valley, close to Highway 1. Combined with possibly 300 densely packed units replacing part of the Rancho Canada golf course, it forever would change the rural nature of the valley.

How did we dodge the bullet this time? The super-

visors failed to locate a site for the prison in the time allotted, so the State withdrew funding for this year. But, the re-entry prison concept is part of a program of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The re-entry prison concept is alive and well. Sometime, someplace, the prison will be back.

Is this a one-time problem? Hardly. When Fourth Division (Marina/Seaside) Supervisor Edith Johnsen proposed placing 1,500 affordable homes and/or apartment units at the mouth of the Valley, CVA helped to stop this plan. (For the record, the folks who now claim to want to “Save Carmel Valley” or “Keep it Rural” did nothing to help defeat the 1,500 unit subdivision.)

How can we protect ourselves? Arbitrary decisions like the location of the re-entry prison result from having Carmel Valley's future decided by supervisors in Salinas, King City and Moss Landing. We can expect more such decisions in the future, especially if they provide additional revenue to our woefully broke County.

What's going on? With failed investments, like worthless shares in Lehman Brothers and other over-leveraged institutions, money means more to the County than does the “rural nature of Carmel Valley.” It is we, the people of Carmel Valley, who care about this place.

Why become a town? Incorporation will allow the people of Carmel Valley—not supervisors from Salinas, King City and Moss Landing—to decide the future of Carmel Valley. This latest shot—the re-entry prison—should be our wake-up call. We need to incorporate now, before saving Carmel Valley becomes a meaningless slogan. No one is going to “save” us. We have to do it ourselves.

County: More sprawl & traffic for Carmel Valley

By Glenn E. Robinson

Just as this newsletter was going to press, Monterey County has abruptly proposed lifting the moratorium on new subdivisions in Carmel Valley. County staff is arguing that, with the new General Plan and with several safety improvements on Carmel Valley Road (more turn pockets, lane widening, etc.), the moratorium is no longer needed.

The moratorium has been in effect for the past six years because of traffic congestion in Carmel Valley. Nearly all segments of Carmel Valley Road, Rio Road, Carmel Rancho Blvd. and Highway 1 up Carmel Hill are already at or near capacity, with levels of service dropping from “C” to “D” and even to “F” in some cases. You don’t have to be a traffic engineer to understand that this is not a good development for our roads.

There are specific criteria that must be met before the moratorium can be lifted. These criteria have not been met, and it is not clear how the County will justify skirting them. The most important criterion for lifting the Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 02-024 is the construction of “capacity increasing” improvements on Highway 1. The ‘climbing lane’ on northbound Highway 1 was explicitly built to relieve existing congestion, not as a ‘capacity increasing’ measure. Indeed, were it designed to increase capacity, it would have required an Environmental Impact Report. Since it was not designed to increase capacity, but only to relieve existing congestion, the EIR requirement was waived. The County appears to be acting in bad faith on its commitment to our community.

It seems ludicrous that the county would lift the moratorium in the absence of any improvements to enhance road capacity in Carmel Valley. The improvements undertaken in recent years and, it appears, now being proposed by the County, are safety related—to cut down on the number and severity of accidents, not to increase capacity. In the meantime, we continue to have the hundreds of legal lots of record in Carmel Valley developed at a rate of approximately a score every year. Ultimately, these existing legal lots of record will add another 4,000 or so daily car trips to our roads. Add on the previously approved but not yet completed projects and subdivisions, and we’re looking at 15,000 new daily car trips on our roads in Carmel Valley. That figure represents a doubling of traffic on an average segment of Carmel Valley Road.

Lifting the moratorium would pave the way for adding the 266 new houses proposed for Carmel Valley in the most recent General Plan draft (GPU-5), in addition to whatever else the Supervisors decide to build here. Two supes have suggested that Carmel Valley would be the ideal location for a prison.

Traffic congestion is not only a quality of life issue, but also a health and safety issue for residents who need emergency care at CHOMP, or for all of us if there is an evacuation due to fire or flood. Lifting the new subdivision moratorium under the current levels of traffic congestion simply makes no sense for our community.

County staff will make its proposal to eliminate the subdivision moratorium in Carmel Valley on October 29, 9:30 am at the Mid-Valley fire station. It is important to get a good turnout in support of the moratorium. Supervisor Potter will be at this meeting and he needs to hear directly from us. Any member of the public may attend. Please plan on it.



Clockwise from upper left: Some of the big and hungry lunch bunch at Janet Brennan in conversation with Michael Stamp (with Max Chaplin in the background); Elizabeth Barratt (r.) visits of the Boronda family in Carmel Valley; CV Voices guest

Water, Water Everywhere!

(at least on paper)

An update on future water plans—real, non-existent, and pie-in-the-sky—for CalAm customers.

By Todd Norgaard

Household water used to be a basic human right. We turned on the tap and expected water to flow. Now, droughts, state orders, and high water bills have taught us that access to reasonably priced water is gone. Ever since The Del Monte Company began importing water from the Carmel River in 1921, our watershed has provided most of the water used on the Monterey Peninsula. Distribution has been handled by The California American Water Company (CalAm) since 1966. The company has expanded its services by purchasing additional well-based water systems serving Seaside, Marina, parts of Fort Ord, the Highway 68 corridor, and coastal neighborhoods south of Carmel along Highway 1. But Carmel Valley still provides 75% of the water used by the system. Both the Carmel River and Seaside aquifers are now severely over-drafted, meaning tapped out and can’t keep doing this much longer. Meanwhile, pressure by developers, arcane water rights laws and environmental constraints continue to put increased demands on our limited supply.

Water Conservation and Recycling

On average, Monterey County residents already use 40% less domestic water per person than the rest of California, 113 vs. 192 gallons per day. But there is a limit to how much water can be conserved. Water recycling holds great promise and is well underway. Treated water from sewage treatment plants is being used to irrigate publicly owned landscapes, golf courses and some agriculture. Capturing storm water from pavements and roofs is also being pursued by cities.

ley Gallery



the annual CVA family picnic at CV Trail and Saddle Club; cousins Sharon Bacon and Sam Farr; p and Karin Strasser-Kauffman; Tim Sanders and Todd Norgaard listening to Sam Farr's remarks s with Rancho Rio Vista POA president Judy MacClelland after Barratt's CV Voices verbal history speaker Pete Poitras at All Saints Day School with his stunning photos of the Basin Complex Fire.

Some individual property owners also have begun capturing this water, albeit in a modest fashion. In some areas, cisterns can be installed, capturing both rainwater from roofs, and gray water from washing machines, sinks and showers for reuse in watering landscapes or flushing toilets.

Stanford University is combining all of these recycling sources for its total campus. Redwood City is requiring dual plumbing systems (to make use of runoff and gray water) for all new construction except single family residences. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), which distributes water use permits and oversees CalAm, has formed a task group to look into possibly including recycling in our permitting process.

New Water Source Needed

We have a significant water deficit. In 1995 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) reviewed all of the legal claims to water from the Carmel River watershed. It found that legal claims to water from the Carmel River watershed greatly exceed the total amount of water the watershed produces. As a result it ordered CalAm to immediately reduce its pumping of Carmel Valley water from 14,000 acre feet/year (AFY) to the 3,376 AFY its current contracts allow for. Since then CalAm has reduced its pumping to 11,285 AFY. This year the State Superior Court issued a Cease and Desist Order against CalAm to comply with the 1995 order. Court proceedings have been completed, and we are now awaiting a final ruling

In 2006 the Monterey County Superior court ruled that CalAm must reduce pumping from the Seaside Groundwater Basin by 10% immediately and an additional 10% three years later (2009) in order to prevent irreversible damage to the basin by salt water intrusion. (This is the only other major aquifer available to CalAm besides the Carmel River.) To comply with the ruling, the MPWMD and

Outreach

By Donna Kneeland, Committee Chair

A golden Indian Summer day set the stage for CVA's Annual Picnic, held at the Trail and Saddle Club on Sunday afternoon, September 14. As always, the picnic was a great success, with a wonderful barbecue prepared by the **Higuera family**, owners of the **Village Market**. Tables adorned with flowers were set in the shade of giant sycamore and oak trees. Friends greeted each other and newcomers became acquainted.

Ably chaired this year by Sharon Bacon, the event included a welcome by CVA's Board President, John Dalessio, and informative remarks by Congressman Sam Farr. The afternoon concluded with a talk by local historian, Elizabeth Barratt, on "The Boronda Family in Carmel Valley," the third in our new monthly lecture series, Carmel Valley Voices. (See Coming Events for information on future talks, page 1). The Outreach Committee and the CVA Board wish to thank the following for their contributions to the Annual Picnic:

- Thom Crow, **Drought Resistant Nursery** for his donation of flowers
- Hubert Fabre, **Vineyard Brands**, for his donation of wines
- Jeff Cornell, **Trail and Saddle Club**, for his invaluable assistance
- **Sharon and Larry Bacon**, for donating all the drinks
- **Committee members and volunteers** for set-up, clean-up and everything in between! You were wonderful!

Volunteers Needed

Carmel Valley Association activities are expanding, especially those of the Outreach Committee. We need volunteers who are willing to help with the monthly Carmel Valley Voices talks. Extra assistance is needed to man the sign-in tables, direct people from the parking lot to the auditorium, set up chairs for the talk and help put them away afterwards. If you would like to help regularly, or even just once, please call me at 625-0929 or send an email to crmlndonna@AOL.com.

Other Carmel Valley organizations are invited to hand out event information at our monthly talks. If you, or a member of your organization, wish to distribute flyers, please bring them to the talk. You may sit at the sign-in table to answer questions and oversee the handouts before and after our CVA presentation of Carmel Valley Voices. If you wish to have this information included under Coming Events in our regular quarterly Newsletter, please forward the information, with "CVA" in the subject heading, to BreakingRecords@sbcglobal.net. Be sure to include a contact person and phone number.

The Outreach Committee continues to meet monthly and is addressing a variety of issues. For more information on these topics and on-going updates, please visit our website (see the link below) and find out about the people and priorities of the CVA. We've been around since 1949 and our mission statement—which you can see on our Page 1 masthead—is *to preserve, protect and defend the natural beauty and resources of Carmel Valley and the County of Monterey*. The Carmel Valley Association also brings additional benefits to our thousands of members throughout Carmel Valley. Please join us in these vital activities.

www.carmelvalleyassociation.org



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Priscilla Walton 659-1519
Christine Williams 659-1307

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Emergency Preparedness

By David Burbidge

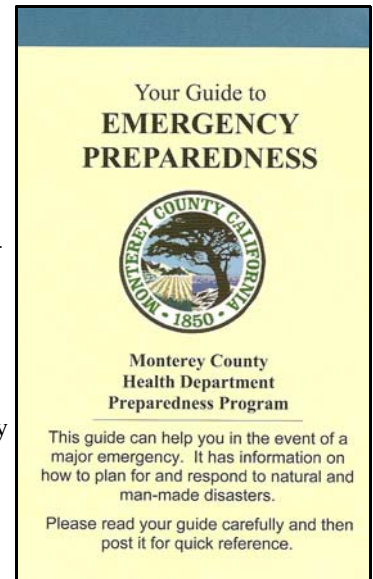
Well, we have survived the fires, but who knows what is in store for us when the rains come? Hopefully, the near disaster this summer has made us realize that we MUST take the responsibility to be sure that we are prepared! Every home should have 72 hours worth of food, water, clothes, medicine and anything else to get us and our families through an emergency.

The Carmel Valley Fire agency, in conjunction with several other public service agencies, has been working to develop a county-wide standardized Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course. Plans are being developed to provide CERT training for residents of Carmel Valley, Cachagua and Big Sur as soon as the agencies agree on the course format.

This course includes Fire Safety, Disaster Medical, Light Search and Rescue, Organization, Disaster Psychology, and

Terrorism modules. The basic purpose of CERT training is to prepare volunteers to be able to respond to emergencies in their area and to help their neighbors. Officials are working to bring CERT volunteers under the Disaster Service Worker program, sponsored by the State of California, which provides limited liability insurance in case of activation during a disaster.

For more information you may contact me at burbidgedj@comcast.net, (831 659 5877) or the Carmel Valley Fire Department.



WATER, *continued from Page 3*

CalAm have begun testing an Aquifer Storage Recovery program, which will pump excess water from the Carmel River during winter excess flows to recharge the Seaside Aquifer. It is hoped that this pumping can begin in December 2008.

What about desalination?

CalAm has proposed a desalination plant at Moss Landing using cooling water from the power plant and producing approximately 12,000 AFY of fresh water to Monterey Peninsula users. This would replace the current deficit from the Carmel River and help in the Seaside Basin, but would not provide water for new users. That plan went to the California Public Utilities Commission in 2005. There are many hurdles to be cleared, including the State Lands Commission which may rule that cooling water will not be available for the desalination facility.

Poseidon Resources has also expressed interest in building an even larger desal plant at the same location; the MPWMD is evaluating the

feasibility of a desalination plant in Seaside to produce 8,000 AFY; and The Marina Coast Water District has built a new water desalination plant that will produce 300 AFY. None of these plans promise immediate relief. A group calling itself Water for Monterey County (formerly known as REPOG) and made up of representatives of over 40 local water agencies and other government and environmental groups is calling for regional solutions to the county's water problems.

Focusing on recycling, desalination and aquifer recharge, it has received enthusiastic response from some cities, citizen and environmental groups, but has yet to find major sponsors willing to fund such far-sighted goals.

Are we dreaming?

Meanwhile, the newest version of the Monterey County General Plan assumes for planning and development purposes that a major new desalination plant will be operational by 2015, and will provide enough water to handle growth through 2030.