

# Carmel Valley Association

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



CVA Newsletter ~ February 2011

[www.carmelvalleyassociation.org](http://www.carmelvalleyassociation.org)

## CRITICAL DEADLINES and DATES

**Feb 1, 2011  
12 noon**

**Hand delivery deadline  
for County Planning Dept to  
receive letters demanding  
Cottages of Carmel comply  
with approved landscaping  
requirements**

**Monterey County  
Planning Dept  
Attention: Carl Holm  
168 W Alisal, Salinas**

**Feb 23, 2011**

**California Public Utilities  
Commission (CPUC)  
public hearings on Cal Am's  
request for \$16M for taxes,  
pensions, insurance &  
operations**

**Oldemeyer Center  
986 Hilby Ave, Seaside  
2pm & 7pm**

**Feb 24, 2011**

**CVA Traffic Forum  
with Dr Tim Sanders  
FIGHTING TRAFFIC  
CONGESTION**

**What can WE do?  
Carmel Middle School  
Gymnasium, 7-8:30pm**

**Mar 27, 2011**

**CVA Annual Meeting  
& Board Election  
Del Mesa Carmel  
(see Page 3, right column)**

## Are you willing to pay Cal Am 3400 % more for desal water?

By Ron Weitzman

Contrary to some recently published scare rhetoric, a public agency buying Cal Am would not delay the desal project. It would only take Cal Am's place at the desal table and do the splendid job for its ratepayers that publicly owned Marina Coast is doing for its ratepayers: \$148 per acre-foot for desal while Cal Am plans to charge its local ratepayers in the neighborhood of \$5,000 per acre foot. *Yes, you read that right!*

WaterPlus is in business to move local ratepayers out of that neighborhood. But at what cost?

According to the CPUC, the Cal Am 2009 rate base was \$102.5 million. That is the starting point for an appraisal. Assets would raise that value; liabilities (like San Clemente Dam) would lower it.

WaterPlus is taking that value as our current working assumption. About half that value is debt. The remainder, \$49.2 million, is shareholder equity. Shareholders are currently authorized to receive 10.2% of that equity annually. That amounts to \$10.45 on each monthly ratepayer bill.

The \$49.2 million equity is also the incremental component that a public purchaser of Cal Am would have to pay to purchase it because ratepayers are currently already paying the debt component of the \$102.5 million value of Cal Am. Financing the equity component, \$49.2 million, for

30 years at 5% would raise a ratepayer monthly bill on average by \$6.60. Subtract that \$6.60 from \$10.45, and you get a \$3.85 water bill savings on average each month as a result of the public purchase of Cal Am.

Of course, the savings would be greater because a public owner would not have to pay taxes (about \$5 on a monthly bill) and the relatively high interest rates on debt that a private owner does. Cal Am interest rates are elevated even further than the public-private difference by the requirement that they include a 10.2% return to shareholders on about half the debt if the debt finances a capital improvement, like removing the dam, replacing aging infrastructure, or ending illegal drawing from wells near the Carmel River. Clearly Cal Am is motivated to incur debt.

Ratepayers wishing to help WaterPlus in its effort to persuade or create a public agency to purchase Cal Am may reach us at 373-8450 or visit our Web site, [www.waterplus.us](http://www.waterplus.us). Help may take the form of donations by check to WaterPlus, PO Box 146, Carmel 93921, or volunteering in an upcoming petition drive seeking a vote to form a community water district to purchase Cal Am.

*Ron Weitzman, who lives in Carmel, has been heavily involved in area water issues and is working with a new organization, WaterPlus, which is promoting a public takeover of Cal Am.*



### President's Letter

By Christine Williams

A friend recently told me, "You know, I'm following what you and CVA are doing, and I like it! I actually voted against incorporation, but I can see I probably, uh, made a mistake." People up and down the Valley are beginning to "see" the wisdom of local decision-making, *rather than being told what is good for us by elected officials who don't live here, don't*

*answer to our voters, and think big development is always the answer.*

With the Cottages of Carmel development at the mouth of the Valley in egregious violation of their permits but being allowed to continue anyway, with cell tower approvals without a policy, with September Ranch approved and a traffic light coming at Brookdale, with Rancho Canada ready to re-vamp their big development, etc., the Valley is changing rapidly. CVA is facing multiple land use issues to research and respond to. (We could use some more volunteers...hint!)

*Continued Page 2, column 1*

# Carmel Valley

Continued from Page 1

If you didn't read our guest editorial in the Herald about why CVA, Land Watch and Open Monterey Project have sued because of issues in the General Plan, find the link to it (Guest Editorial) at our website:

**www.carmelvalleyassociation.org.** The litigation against the County is now at the mediation stage. If mediation doesn't work we go to court, and we will need SIGNIFICANT donations to our Defense Fund. At the minimum we have to pay for our percentage of the records to be transcribed, which could run as high as \$20,000. **If you are able to donate to our Defense Fund please contact me at 659-1307.**

I want to thank our amazing Board and committees for all their hard work on behalf of the Valley, those who have donated already to the Defense Fund, as well as Paola Berthoin for donating a portion of the proceeds of her book, *Carmel River Watershed ~ A Year in Paintings*, to CVA.

Tim Sanders is going off the Board, and will be greatly missed! He will continue helping with land use and traffic, though. We have already accepted Robert Greenwood's resignation. He served the Valley well for over 30 years and deserves the thanks of all Valley residents.

Carmel Valley Association is sending a letter on behalf of CV residents regarding the decision coming up before the CPUC. The following is from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's website:

In January 2011, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will likely make a decision about the funding for the MPWMD Carmel River Mitigation Program and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. This required program reduces adverse impacts to the Carmel River that result from community water use. For more than two decades, a MPWMD surcharge on the California American Water Company (Cal-Am) water bill has been the source of funding for the Mitigation Program. This practice was questioned in 2008 and the MPWMD User Fee was temporarily removed in late July 2009. In January 2010, Cal-Am submitted Application No. 10-01-012 to reinstate the MPWMD User Fee. In May 2010, Cal-Am, MPWMD and CPUC's watchdog entity called the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) signed a Settlement Agreement that supported the MPWMD User Fee and Cal-Am application (Motion and Agreement). In December 2010, the assigned Administrative Law Judge issued a Proposed Decision denying the application for the MPWMD User Fee. The CPUC will decide on the Cal-Am application in a public hearing as soon as early February 2011.

Please be sure to attend one of the two CPUC public hearings at Oldemeyer Center in Seaside, Feb 23.



Upper left: Tularcitos School kids caroling at the Village tree lighting  
Above: Linda Yamane on Rumsien culture, CV Voices last November  
Left: Where have you seen this?

## Focus on Carmel Valley Business

### Do Re Mi Music & Video

By Scott MacClelland

When Do Re Mi opened in 1976 at The Barnyard, the vinyl LPs and cassette tapes were the way to go for record collectors. Those technologies have long since slipped into legend, the reminiscences of old-timers who still love their old gold. Also gone are the big retailers of yesteryear, like The Warehouse and Tower Records, even though they flourished through the age of the digital compact disc (CD). Do Re Mi owners Nancy and Charlie Costanza freely acknowledge that today's download industry, Ipod & MP3 players, presage the demise of the CD in turn. Having been located on Carmel Rancho Blvd since 1999, the Constanzas have reacted to this changing reality by revamping their product line to now include musical instruments, gifts, and even casual attire. But as their existing—and loyal—clients know, it's the Constanzas' customer service that matters most. While maintaining a steady stream of new CDs and DVDs (music as well as movies), Do Re Mi remains the go-to choice of those who have that rare and unusual product in mind. Even if a title is hard to find, Charlie will pursue those haystack needles until he makes that awaited phone call to the starving collector to announce that heaven has delivered. Sometimes, the gods disappoint, of course, but Do Re Mi's institutional memory of recorded music is as long as it is deep. (Occasionally, this writer gets a call from Do Re Mi with a customer's particularly obscure classical question, but inquiries like those usually go in the other direction.) If your search for that elusive recording has proven fruitless, it's probably time to call Do Re Mi.



# Gallery



Above: Rancho San Carlos bridge getting its roadbed replaced, and repainted, by end of May, 2011

Right: Temporary substructure between bridge and river



Left: Winter harvest of chanterelles for sale along CV Road



## For your information...

### CVA is currently following and/or taking action on:

- Cottages of Carmel, 64-unit, 78-bed assisted living complex at the mouth of the Valley that is now asking to get out of having to landscape, to avoid putting in a gray water system. Both are required conditions of their permit. PC hearing, Feb 9.
- AT&T Holman Cell "Tree" to provide area cell coverage, 40' high, 20' above a stand of trees. Visible from sections of Holman Road near Ford. Neighbors in its view-shed have voiced concern. PC hearing TBA. Probable CEQA review.
- CV Airport Development: 18 homes, 6-unit apartment building, 11 acres of open space. Probable CEQA review.
- Coming: Rancho Canada Village development. Plans in the works.
- Water: Public Utility Commission hearings on the future of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District funding, San Clemente Dam removal, Regional Water Plan.
- Traffic: Educating residents on the traffic counting methodology (PTSF), as all parts of the County are susceptible to its being used. (Learn more at our Traffic Forum, Feb 24.)

Find out much more at our website  
[www.carmelvalleyassociation.org](http://www.carmelvalleyassociation.org)

## CVA Annual Meeting Election & Mixer

March 27, 2pm  
 Del Mesa Carmel  
 Library

In keeping with our bylaws, the slate listed here is member notification of the nominees for the next term.

Any member in good standing may nominate other candidates, by gathering 15 member signatures and submitting such by February 23.

If other candidates are submitted, postcards will be mailed out by March 1, with voting due back by March 15. If there are no other candidates, the slate as presented here will automatically be appointed. The new Board and Board-designated officers will be introduced at the Annual Meeting. Please join us!

Nominees	Term Expires
Donna Kneeland	2014
Margaret Robbins	2014
Nancy Souza	2014
Dick Stott	2014

### Continuing Directors

Max Chaplin	2012
Rod Mills	2012
Loren Steck	2012
John Walton	2012
Christine Williams	2012
Dale Agron	2013
Rich Fox	2013
Mibs McCarthy	2013
Sandy Schachter	2013
Edward Surprenant	2013
Glenn Robinson,	

President Emeritus

### Guest Speaker:

**Amy White**

Executive Director, LandWatch

Share ideas ~ Ask questions

Meet other CVA members

Meet the new Board

Meet our Attorney

Ron DeHoff



Carmel Valley Association  
PO Box 157  
Carmel Valley CA 93924

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**Board of Directors**

Christine Williams, President 659-1307  
Rich Fox, Co-Vice President/Co-Chair Membership 659-1123  
John Walton, Co-Vice President/Water 659-1519  
Sandy Schachter, Secretary 659-5877  
Edward Surprenant, Treasurer 659-0815  
Dale Agron, Land Use 624-3038  
Max Chaplin, Chair Land Use 484-0244  
Donna Kneeland, Outreach 625-0929  
Mibs McCarthy, Land Use 659-1115  
Rod Mills, Chair Roads and Trails 659-3745  
Margaret Robbins, Land Use/Water/Roads 624-1153  
Glenn Robinson, President Emeritus 659-1152  
Tim Sanders, Land Use 625-4324  
Loren Steck, Co-Chair Membership 626-8761

Eleanor Avila, Historian 624-1156  
Dick Stott, Webmaster 624-9048  
Scott MacClelland, Newsletter Editor, 624-7268

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

***Carmel Valley Non-Profit Profile***

**Hidden Valley Music Seminars**  
By Peter Meckel

Hidden Valley moved to the peninsula from Southern California in 1967, and to its Carmel Valley campus in 1972. Its abiding philosophy focuses on talented young artists, performing arts students of all ages and outstanding faculty. Masterclasses, original operatic productions, presentations by great musicians and HV's dance program have enjoyed a distinguished reputation over the years.

A visit to the Hidden Valley website offers a hint of the many activities planned for the coming months, events and shows to which the public is invited.

By way of snapshot, jazz flutist Ali Ryerson and composer Charles Loos arrive Feb 1 for an artists' residency. The Fearless Minds Theatrical will read three new theater pieces, Feb 11-12, while the Next Level Recorder workshop runs from Feb 25-Mar

1, with advanced recorder players invited to participate.

Mar 11-15, the 60-strong Golden Gate Chamber Players (strings) will attend coaching sessions and perform concerts. Mar 25-27 it's the annual Smoldering Uke workshop for ukulele fans.

On Apr 3 the Hidden Valley String Quartet performs the second of its six-part series of the late Beethoven quartets, with Scottish conductor Stewart Robertson's introduction and dinner served in the HV Theatre. The annual Tularcitos Art Show hangs in the theatre Apr 11-15. Call Tularcitos School or Hidden Valley for public viewing hours.

It's all hands on deck at Hidden Valley by the end of April as we prepare to host the annual Flower and Art Show, May 7-8.

Information for all of the above workshops, performances and events can be obtained by calling 659-3115, or by visiting our website [hiddenvalleymusic.org](http://hiddenvalleymusic.org). Hidden Valley's facilities are also available for community functions.

*Peter Meckel is founder and general manager of Hidden Valley*

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