

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
DIVISION REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: March 13, 2019

SUBJECT: Administration Division Update

PRESENTER: Rafael Payan, General Manager

REPORT: Two reports are presented below. The first report provides information on the “Sidewalk Vendors” Senate Bill 946 Legislation (SB 946). The second report provides a summary of the recent Carmel Valley Fire Preparedness and Evacuation Community Meeting hosted by Supervisor Mary Adams at Palo Corona Regional Park (PCRP). Action by the Board on these reports is not requested, at this time.

SB 946 – Sidewalk Vendors

As reported in The Carmel Pine Cone’s February 1, 2019 edition, “California’s new sidewalk vending law makes it legal for sellers to operate in many places, including parks **(ATTACHMENT 1)**. SB 946 stipulates that a ‘local authority’ can’t prohibit a vendor from selling food or merchandise in a park owned and operated by a local authority – unless an agreement grants a concessionaire an exclusive right to operate there. The law exempts state parks and federal properties.” Further, SB 946 only applies to cities and counties, not park districts.

This legislation does not require that any changes be made by MPRPD, therefore nothing has changed for the District. In the future, if MPRPD desires to change its current rules, thereby authorizing sidewalk vendors at District parks, Staff will present a report detailing the pros and cons, and the recommended revised park rules, for the Board’s consideration.

**Carmel Valley Fire Preparedness and Evacuation
Community Meeting Summary**

On January 31, 2019, Supervisor Mary Adams, Monterey County Board of Supervisors - District 5, hosted the Carmel Valley Fire Preparedness and Evacuation Community Meeting at PCRP’s Fiesta Room. The meeting focused on

what key agencies are presently doing and what the community can do to prepare for the next wildfire. A panel, representing the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services (OES), Monterey Regional Fire Protection District, CalFire, and the Monterey County Sheriff's Office gave brief but detailed presentations on their respective organization's responsibilities. The 6pm to 8pm meeting was attended by an estimated 280 citizens. MPRPD's Directors Potter and Lee, and personnel also attended.

A summary of the panelists' comments are as follows:

1. Every emergency's scenarios are unique and highly fluid/variable.
2. Listen for emergency alerts, check apps, and dial into news media for instructions during emergency events. These notices may still not be enough – as was the case with Paradise, California's recent Camp Fire which moved so fast that alerts were not always possible. If possible, notify your neighbors, friends and family with information provided by emergency alerts.
3. The 100-linear foot vegetation-cleared buffer/defensible space around structures may still not be enough because wind can carry embers well beyond that distance and tall trees can "rain flames" or drop flaming debris.
4. Have your "Go Kit" ready and store it in your vehicle's trunk so it is ready in case of an emergency. The County's OES provides a list of recommended items for your Go Kit.
5. Develop a plan well in advance as to where you will meet with your family's/party's members in the event you have to quickly evacuate.
6. Evacuate your property when instructed to do so. Take your pets. Everything else can be replaced.
7. The emergency response teams are likely NOT coming back to save you if you fail to evacuate when directed to do so.
8. Be prepared to shelter-in-place if instructed to do so. Have seven days of water, food and medications available.

A summary of the attendees' questions and comments are as follows:

1. Someone should purchase the Carmel Valley Airfield to protect it as open scape. This site has served as a

staging area during past wildfire emergencies for crews and equipment, including helicopters.

2. Ventura County has dedicated \$100K to help provide a 100-linear foot vegetation-cleared buffer/defensible space around structures. Monterey County will research this model.
3. Policies should reduce or eliminate onerous regulations.
4. Sports fields in the Skyline subdivision are not large enough to support too many displaced evacuees.
5. Does Monterey County have enough clout to require the consistent removal of vegetation PG&E cuts/clears around utility lines?
6. Inspection program to enforce defensible space regulations is sometimes done “through a vehicle’s windshield” by regulatory agencies.
7. Los Padres Dam should be kept, ensuring a reliable source of water to fight fires. Some homes in Cachagua have been saved three-times because of this dam’s water.
8. School Districts should incorporate “Ready-Set-Go” procedures in their curriculum at grades 3 to 5.
9. How can the public train itself on preparing to shelter-in-place?
10. Training and information need to be available, so folks can self-train on how to help the elderly, disabled, etc., in their neighborhoods.
11. Fuel load mitigation along roads needs to be enhanced. Fire along roads can make evacuation very difficult or preclude it. The county routinely mows along the shoulder.
12. Out-of-Town visitors: How can they be informed on how to reduce wildfire danger – especially during the height of the fire-prone season which coincides with peak tourist season?
13. Legislative should be “advanced” to require external fire sprinklers so that buildings can be “misted” as fire approaches. This provision may be required by insurance companies in the future.
14. An aqueous gel that goes by the commercial name “Barricade” is available. This gel may be sprayed on a structure’s exterior to potentially reduce fire’s impacts. Commercially available fire blankets may also be available via the internet.
15. Garland Ranch and other public lands’ fuel loads should be monitored and managed.

16. Fuel reduction is being done, to varying degrees, by the Santa Lucia Conservancy, MPRPD, and other entities to develop a “fire fence network.”
17. What was learned by Paradise, California’s Camp Fire? The alert/warning systems did not convey information/warnings quick enough.
18. Lack of water pressure, storage capacity and distribution systems in older neighborhoods may be inadequate and require costly upgrades.
19. Low water pressure may not allow several fire hydrants to be simultaneously activated, especially in older subdivisions.
20. Robles del Rio subdivision is upgrading its water distribution system from 2” galvanized to 8” PVC lines. Bids are due in April with construction running through 2019. Even so, additional water storage capacity may also be necessary as the 8” lines may still not fully address needs.
21. Some folks are willfully disregarding fuel load reduction/defensible space requirements on their residential properties. This causes concern for adjacent property owners. Organizations are working together to enforce the law (“P.R. Code 4291?”). Unfortunately, some property owners will pay the non-compliance fine rather than make modifications to their property. The disincentive of making the required modifications is that the fine may be less costly than addressing the required modifications. The fine does not solve the problem which, if the problem is not appropriately addressed, continues to exist.
22. Vegetation that is removed can be chipped on private property in many cases, and, if so desired may be hauled away.
23. Aguajito Road is subsiding. The rapidly encroaching vegetation along the road’s shoulders is “narrowing” the roadway. These conditions – along with many cul-de-sacs in the area and the residents’ age demographic may combine to make evacuation difficult in and around the Jacks Peak area.
24. Powerlines should be installed - or be reinstalled – underground whenever possible.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

FUNDING SOURCE: Not applicable.

FUNDING BALANCE: Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION: This report is for information only.

ATTACHMENT 1: [Senate Bill No. 946 - Sidewalk Vendors](#)