

Matt L Torrence

From: Matt L Torrence
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 6:51 PM
To: Wagenknecht, Brad; logan.pitts@sen.ca.gov; Peter.Leuzinger@fire.ca.gov; Marcucci, Mike@CALFIRE
Cc: dave@daveandlisa.net; Tom Baldocchi Jr; Devon Baldocchi; Matt L Torrence; Tammy Hill (nvna59@gmail.com); Michelle Machado; Randol, Joshua@CALFIRE; brian.ham@fire.ca.gov; Craig Machado; margaretclose@comcast.net; Jim Bennett - Alameda County 4-H Camp (jbennett@montague-inc.com); Jim Richards; jeremy.omelas@fire.ca.gov; Diopn Hock; kerry Dolphin; Dan Lavell; Denise Myers (myers.denise84@gmail.com); gaparks08@att.net; 'Steven M. Worker'; Tara Camgros; mrdavidfirestone@gmail.com; Sarah Macy; Lisa Bianchi; mftoma@comcast.net
Subject: Update on progress at Las Posadas 4-H Camp

Good evening:

I would like to update everyone on the direction in which we are progressing to move toward reopening 4-H camp at Las Posadas State Forest.

Between Las Posadas 4-H Camp Board, Mike Marcucci of CalFire, and Brad Wagenknecht and many other contributors we arrived at September 30, 2022 to hold a tour of the 4-H camp location to review the information from Cal Fire previous inspection in July 2022.

At this time I would like to thank everyone who was part of the inspection in July 2022 and everyone who continues to work to make camp happen at Las Posadas for the many 4-H youth.

In attendance for the meeting were the following people:

Mike Marcucci	Cal Fire Unit Chief
Peter Leuzinger	Cal Fire Las Posadas Forest Manager
Jeremy Omelas	Cal Fire
Josh Randol	Cal Fire
Brian Ham	Cal Fire
Logan Pitts	Representative for Senator Bill Dodd
Brad Waqenknecht	Supervisor District 1 Napa County
Matthew Torrence	Las Posadas 4-H Camp Board President (Marin County)
Margret Close	Las Posadas 4-H Camp Board Secretary (Sonoma County)
Jim Richards	Alameda County 4-H Camp Program Leader
Michelle Machado	Las Posadas 4-H Camp Board member (Sonoma County)
Craig Machado	Sonoma County 4-H Camp Program Leader
Tammy Hill	Las Posadas 4-H Camp Board member (Napa County)
Devon Baldocchi	Las Posadas 4-H Camp Board member (Contra Costa County)
Tom Baldocchi Jr.	Contra Costa 4-H Camp Program Leader (Contra Costa County)

At the meeting we were handed a report on the septic system which identified that there were many problems with the system. This report outlined the system would have to be replaced to comply with Napa County Health Department regulations.

Mike Marcucci stated his focus was getting camp back to Las Posadas and the three major items would be the septic system compliance, the bridge over Moore Creek near Burnside Circle, and dying trees from the beetle infestation. Mike Marcucci stated that Cal Fire would not be able to help financially tree removal or any of the other projects.

At the meeting Mike Marcucci did not have the Fire Marshall's inspection completed to share with the attendees at the meeting.

I received the Fire Marshall's report in an email on November 11, 2022 with the following information.

Here is the body of the email which I received:

"Good morning, Matt,

For your meeting Monday I have provided an outline/timeline of what CAL FIRE will need to begin the 4H camp CEQA process. Chief Leuzinger and I have established that to begin the archeological review and CEQA we will need the scope of work, mainly what part(s) of the camp will have the ground. I have also attached the Ca. State Fire Marshal reports for the parts of the camp that failed their inspection one year ago; I would caution you that there may be more parts of the camp that could fail as it has been a year.

For the 4H moving forward, we will need what the repair/replacement of the septic systems throughout the camp will entail. This will be at the expense of 4H and I am assuming will be an engineer's report outlining the scope of work that will be needed to bring the 4H camp septic system up to Napa County Code. CAL FIRE will grant access to the Las Posadas Experimental Forest for the report to be completed. CAL FIRE is working on a work plan for the removal of the trees that are posing a hazard to the camp and once complete we will share with the 4H as this report will also need to be a part of the CEQA and archeological review. Once the tree report is complete 4H will be able to assess the cost for the removal of the trees which will be borne by 4H.

Finally, as the walking bridge over Moore Creek is thought to be unusable as it is potentially unsafe it will need to be assessed, if 4H plans to continue having a walking bridge. If that is the plan, then we will need to know the scope of work to replace/repair as that will potentially need to also be included in the CEQA process. I also believe but am not positive that the bridge will need to be permitted by Napa County.

Once the project work plans are completed and the Archaeological review is underway, we can begin the assessment of impacts to other resource areas such as water quality, wildlife, botany, etc. As we work through this assessment the results will guide us as to what the appropriate level of CEQA documentation is required. CALFIRE's initial assessment is that a Negative Declaration may need to be prepared, but that determination is speculative until we complete the analysis of all resource areas; CAL FIRE will take on the role of lead agency under CEQA.

I am sure that this email will create questions and I am happy to take those questions and find answers as warranted."

Thank you.



Mike Marcucci

Unit Chief – Sonoma Lake Napa Unit
1199 Big Tree Rd., St. Helena, CA 94574



The Las Posadas attempted to schedule access to Las Posadas 4-H camp on December 13, 2022 and settled on January 5, 2023 to have BC Engineering Group attend the meeting at camp. That day was cancelled because we were expecting about 1" of rain.

The date of January 19, 2023 was finally decided on to have a walk through with William Billeter of BC Engineering Group Inc., the engineer for Las Posadas 4-H Board.

After the inspection with William Billeter he advise us that the cost to perform locating, pumping, and inspection of the existing septic system serving 4-H camp would cost approximately \$11,000. Based on the William Billeter observations during the inspection on January 19, the existing septic system components that were observed (primarily tanks and sewer lines from buildings to tanks) do not appear to be in conformance with County code. Further, though the exact locations of the leach fields are unknown, the approximate locations that we were shown do not appear to conform to the required setback of 100' to Moore Creek and tributaries. Some of the tanks likely do not meet the required creek setbacks either.

We requested the William Billeter look into an estimate to replace the septic system.

Here is the response from William on February 10, 2023:

“We would estimate approximately \$6,000-\$8,000 for our office to explore other areas onsite for septic suitability, and should areas be found, document those areas with the County.

We would estimate another \$15,000-\$25,000 for our office to develop topographic mapping of the septic suitable areas, and develop detailed septic system design plans and calculations. This estimated fee range is broad due the unknown extent of topographic mapping that would be necessary on the large parcel, and that the type of septic systems allowable, if at all, would not be known until after the site evaluations noted above are completed.”

On February 13, 2023 the Las Posadas Camp Board authorized pay BC Engineering Group Inc. up to \$8000 to explore other areas onsite for septic suitability, and should areas be found, document those areas with the county of Napa.

We have located a pre-engineered bridge to replace the bridge which is existing across Moore Creek at this time.

We are waiting on Cal Fire on information on the guidelines to remove the dead Douglas Fir trees in the central camp location.

The Las Posadas 4-H Board counties are committed to get back into Las Posadas State Forest to hold their camp programs.

Three of the five counties are continuing to hold summer camp programs. The summer camp programs are costing youth in excess of \$600 per camper, which mean many of the camper cannot attend. In some cases, we are spending \$20,000 a week for portable shower and toilets.

I will continue to update everyone on our progress to return to Las Posadas 4-H camp. Over the year that we have been holding 4-H camp at Las Posadas since 1928 we have help many youth become very productive members and leader of communities.

Thank you:

Matthew Torrence

Las Posadas 4-H Camp Board President

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