

Las Posadas Camp Board

March 14, 2022

Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by David Firestone at 7:05

The secretary and treasurer's report were tabled to allow more time for the CEQA discussion.

We discussed possible use of camp supplies by counties using other camp facilities. There were no objections. David will continue to coordinate with Peter and CalFire to arrange a date to collect the supplies.

David introduced Alicia Cronbach, a 4-H parent from Napa County. Alicia is an attorney. Although she doesn't specialize in environmental issues, she consulted with attorneys who do. Alicia shared information about the CEQA process:

- Despite past practices, Las Posadas 4-H Camp is subject to CEQA.
- Camp is a project under CEQA guidelines.
- It is important that the camp board (or 4-H) controls the description and definition of this CEQA project.
  - We need to define our purpose.
  - We need to state specifically what we are asking for.
  - We need to "Speak for the trees and the kids."
- The project includes the camp facility and the use of the facility through the camp program.
- Alicia is willing to help us frame and draft the description and definition of the project.
- The process will begin with the establishment of a baseline, a description of the setting that can be compared to future changes in the environmental setting. The baseline can include details of historic use.

Alicia shared a flow chart of the CEQA process. She will share it with the board through David.

- CalFire is the lead agency.
- They will prepare an initial study which will be the product of 10 to 15 technical reports prepared by various public agencies. Some reports can only be prepared at certain times of the year because of changing environmental conditions.
- Cal Fire will circulate the draft report for 45 days for public response. They are required to respond to all comments which can take months.
- The circulation period for the final EIR is shorter.
- We will have no control over the time between the draft report and the final EIR.
- The entire process could take 18 months or longer.

The board will be responsible for hosting public meetings, especially in Napa County, but also in all the five counties. The purpose is to gauge public opinion and generate support.

Alicia suggested that 4-H would need to be on board with the camp board. Steven felt this was a lot for UCCE to take on. His role is to have a camp program no matter where the camp is held.

Alicia said that if we agree to start the CEQA process, we will need to work together and agree on a consistent message to share. She suggested we authorize a subcommittee to pursue this. The subcommittee could include non-board volunteers with interest, experience, and expertise.

David asked if we should continue to push for the walk through with Cal Fire. Alicia thought we should, as a first step to knowing what is ahead but she advised us not to commit to any projects.

Tammy expressed concerns about the deteriorating infrastructure at camp and our ability to do and pay for necessary repairs. Alicia advised that the EIR will have at least two components: environmental and construction. The construction report will include safety considerations.

Steven suggested that the board will need to embark on a capital campaign to raise money for maintenance and repairs.

Steven shared concerns that Peter may throw up more roadblocks to our return to camp. Alicia said that much of the process is out of his hands. She re-emphasized the importance of us taking a lead role in defining our purpose.

Jim Richards reminded us that we would need to generate support in all counties, not just Napa. Support for our position is important.

David said that Peter told him the timeline for the EIR would be about 12 months. Glenn Parks and Jim Richards suggested that some of the studies may have already been done in connection with the new fire station and the fire evacuation road and Peter is aware of this.

We agreed to postpone the tree work Fred Frye was scheduled to complete this year.

David will work with Peter to schedule a walk through and a day to pick up supplies to use at other camp sites.

David asked that counties take the information we got tonight back to our counties to see what support we will have.

David reminded us that we need volunteers to take on executive board positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22

The next meeting will be on the Monday, April 11, at 7:00PM

Submitted by

Margaret Close

Attendance: Alameda – David Fire stone, Jim Richards, Jim Bennett. Contra Costa – Devon Baldocchi, Kerry Dolphin. Marin – Glenn Parks, Matt Torrence. Napa – Tammy Hill, Alicia Cronbach (guest). Sonoma – Tara Camgros, Michelle Machado, Dan Lavell, Margaret Close

