

## February 2023 Update

Dear Neighbors,

I have lots of news this month – please read on.

- I'm very pleased to let you know that in response to our persistent questions the County has reviewed and will be changing its loan interest rate policy for public road divisions, such as ours. The new policy will likely result in a substantially reduced interest rate from what had been proposed, that will enable the Paving Task Force to maintain much of its paving plan that would have been eliminated under the prior policy. Approvals still need to be obtained for this policy change, but we are optimistic that it will go through. I wish to thank Supervisor Rodoni and the Finance staff members for listening and responding to our concerns and Randy Merk (PRERAB) and Jennifer Howard (IRA Board) for their articulate and tactful engagement in this process.
- We had a very informative **Annual General Meeting** on January 21st. If you missed the meeting, I strongly recommend that you view the video recording on the IRA website (scroll down on front page). Two concerns were raised by community members at the meeting, for which I can convey further information. One was whether the fact that PRE is a recognized Firewise community means property owners here can qualify for a reduction in their property insurance premiums. One PRE resident has reported that he was given a \$400 reduction in his California Fair Plan policy premium. David Wilson, who chairs IRA's Firewise Committee, has provided this link, <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/105-type/95-guides/03-res/Insurers-Currently-Offering-Discounts.cfm>, which contains the State Insurance office's guidelines on this topic. PRE's Firewise certificate can be found on the IRA website under "Wildfire."

The second concern was whether there is a good alternative to Horizon Cable in PRE for internet service. Richard Dillman offered the following (edited) response. "Horizon provides reasonable service, but the primary issue is that their service drops offline whenever there is a power outage. They install portable generators along DVD and up at their tower to try to keep things going but it's not optimal. I have a backup broadcast and communications facility for KWMR at my home (335 DVD), which requires Internet service to function. So, for me a reliable Internet connection is more than just a convenience. I have Horizon Cable as my primary Internet Service Provider with backup provided by [Tomales Bay LAN](#). They use wireless connectivity to provide service so it may not be available in all parts of PRE. But their service remains online when PG&E power fails. Of course, the router in the subscriber's home must remain powered, typically by a generator or UPS. But their service has never failed during power outages we have had in the last year."

- Tomales Bay State Park officials are planning to manage vegetation in the 2,400-acre park to mitigate fire danger and improve tree habitat. Some of this work will likely take place in park land adjacent to PRE. For further information see:

<https://www.marinij.com/2023/02/18/tomales-bay-state-park-managers-plan-tree-cutting-burns/>.

• From Christian Winslow, PRE Area Coordinator for Point Reyes Disaster Council and IRA Board Member:

- We have heard from PRE residents asking about the process for reporting downed trees and power lines along our roads. Who do they call for assistance? Here's the answer: the person observing the incident or someone nearby who has direct knowledge of the incident should always call 911 first. If the caller can't reach 911, contact Christian Winslow by cell/text: 415 231 4398 and he will attempt to reach the appropriate authorities.
- PRE has access to a grant for enhanced home signage visibility at no cost to homeowners. Promoted by the Marin County Fire Department the project aims to enable emergency responders to see home signage better at night or during a fire event. If your home signage is hard to read, please consider requesting a new sign. The attached photo of the white metal sign is what is offered and would be posted by the Fire Department. Please notify Christian Winslow [winslow.christian@gmail.com](mailto:winslow.christian@gmail.com) and include a photo of your current house signage so the Fire Dept. can assess the need.

• From IRA Board Member Leah Light: A fox recently died from distemper in our vicinity. Dogs and cats who encounter sick foxes are vulnerable. Vet recommends close supervision of pets outdoors.

• **2023 membership Dues** – If you have not paid your IRA 2023 membership dues, please do so right away. You may make payments via Venmo or Paypal (see IRA website [[invernessridge.info](http://invernessridge.info)] for details) or send a check to: IRA, P.O. Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937. Questions? Contact Treasurer Patty Wimpfheimer at 415-722-9355 or at [invernessridge37@gmail.com](mailto:invernessridge37@gmail.com). Thank you for your ongoing support.

Thank you for reading.

Tim Stanton  
IRA President