

# PARADISE RANCH ESTATES ROAD ADVISORY BOARD

## Meeting Summary for November 6, 2021

- PRERAB Finances
- PRE Road Conditions.
- Water Bars and Speed Bumps.
- Fall dirt road maintenance.
- More below. . .

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### Minutes

#### Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board November 6, 2021

The Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board met on November 6, 2021, by video conference over Zoom thanks to John Levy. The meeting was attended by members Mike Ongerth, John Levy, Tamia Marg Anderson, Ron Bennett, Randy Merk, Jennifer Howard, Marcus Thygeson, Billie Rose and Ken Drexler, Secretary. Julie Merk also attended. Mike Ongerth led the meeting.

1. PREPRD Finances: Ken Drexler reported that in the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, PREPRD had received \$60,845 in income and had spent \$72,926, with \$34,635 spent on vegetation management and \$23,450 on dirt road maintenance. According to the County's figures, the road division started the year with \$116,055 in cash and ended the year with \$221,931 in cash.

2. Paving Task Force Status: Ken reported that the Task Force's Petition to Levy a Special Tax was now being processed by Jason Wong at DPW and that Jason was also reviewing and making decisions on claims by three owners in PRE that they should be excluded from the paving parcel tax because the project would be of no benefit to their parcels.

3. Road Condition Report: Mike Ongerth reported that the roads in PRE were "doing just fine," although there had been some minor slides on the dirt roads and some trees were endangering the roads and needed to be cut. Both John Levy and Mike noted that some potholes had developed on some of the dirt roads.

4. Policies re Water Bars and Speed Bumps. Mike led the discussion on water bars and speed bumps by noting that since at least 2002, PRERAB had been using water bars on dirt roads to divert water falling on the road into the roadside ditches thereby reducing

the rutting of the roads. He also noted that the water bars also served to moderate driving speed. Ken recalled that some years ago DPW had told PREPRD that it could not install speed bumps on the roads in PRE. DPW has since dropped this prohibition. Randy Merk reported that seven water bars had been installed in the last two years.

The discussion then turned to particular water bars and how to deal with them. Billy Rose who lives at the upper end of West Robert said that there was an issue with the asphalt water bar below his home. He explained that when trucks drove over it their tires dug out the dirt road immediately below the water bar. He asked if the water bar could be lowered. Mike suggested that if the paving project goes ahead that a 10 feet of asphalt could be added below the water bar. Another member reported on a complaint about the water bar on Sunnyside at a crest above No. 60.

Mike said that there were three possible remedies for troublesome water bars: First, they could be moved to another location. Second, they could be removed after the rainy season and reinstalled in the fall. Or, third, they could be replaced by a “rolling dip”, a wide depression in the road which would divert water into the roadside ditch. Tamia Marg Anderson noted that she had used rolling dips extensively on property she manages and that they were easier to drive over than water bars. She also said they were somewhat self-maintaining because sediment that would make a water bar ineffective would wash out of a rolling dip. Ken recalled that when Bob Lewis first began working on the dirt roads in PRE he had installed a number of rolling dips.

Another member commented that he liked water bars and that they were no problem if they were driven over slowly, but that trucks often drove over them quickly and tore up the road. Another member observed that the biggest problem with water bars was speed.

There was a consensus that it would be impractical and expensive to remove and restore the water bars in PRE each year. Mike suggested that on Sunnyside as a test, the two water bars between No. 190 and No. 200 be replaced by two rolling dips. He also suggested that the water bar at the above No. 60 be moved so that it was not at a sharp change of the slope of the road. Randy asked if other water bars which might be troublesome to drive over could be marked. Mike said he would review the water bars and mark ones that might be “troublesome” with small roadside flags.

5. Signage: John Levy reported that he had installed two mirrors to assist drivers to see oncoming traffic and that he had one mirror in reserve. Although there was discussion of various sign issues no conclusions were reached by the group.

6. Firesafe - Veg-Management: As to fire safety and vegetation management, Tamia Marg Anderson said that there was nothing to report and that we were waiting for the County to start its fire clearance work in PRE.

7. Fall Dirt Road Maintenance: Mike reported that he proposed two projects this fall: The first would be the clearing of roadside ditches and dropboxes. The work would include the cleanup of minor slides on the dirt road and the cutting of a few trees. He said that he would contact the Inverness Gardening Service about this work which he estimated would cost \$10,000. The second project would be to remedy the potholes that have developed on the dirt roads and to move or adjust some of the water bars on the dirt roads. A member suggested that Mike check sight lines near Tank #2.

Ken noted that because IGS has said that it no longer wants to do dirt road maintenance, PRERAB will need to identify a contractor to do this work. He said that he would contact the Marin County Open Space District and ask who maintained its dozens of miles of dirt road. He recalled the members that PRERAB had learned of Bob Lewis from the MCOSD.

8. Miscellaneous: Mike said that he may have a candidate to join as a member of PRERAB. He also noted that the list of PRERAB members on the IRA website had not been updated recently. Tamia agreed to arrange for an update of that part of the website, if someone sent her a current list of member. Ken said he would update and distribute a list.

NEXT MEETING (Tentative): January 8, 2022, at 9:30 AM.

KD  
11/14/2021