

## October 2021 Update

Dear neighbors,

October PRE news for you:

- **PRE Road Paving** – Petition for Paving Project Submitted. On October 8 the IRA-PRERAB Paving Task Force delivered to the Marin County Public Works Department for processing a Petition to Levy a Special Tax to fund paving in Paradise Ranch Estates. The Petition asks the County Board of Supervisors to hold an election among voters in PRE to approve a tax to support the paving of Drakes View Drive and short portions of the side roads in PRE. The 23 page Petition was accompanied by 98 signature pages containing signatures of 164 individuals, which represents approximately 75% of all PRE property owners.

Next steps are for the County to review the Petition and resolve an issue raised by a few owners, who believe that their parcels would not benefit from the paving and should therefore not be subject to the tax. After these steps are completed, the Petition will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

As a reminder, detailed information on the paving plan and petition is available at: <http://invernessridge.info/roadrepavingproject>.

- **IRA Firewise Committee reports** – Backed by Measure C money the Marin Fire Department will soon be thinning vegetation and limbing up mature trees along Sunnyside Drive. The object is to further secure a key evacuation route in case of fire or other emergency. We are happy that nearly all affected property owners have signed permission slips allowing work that may go beyond immediate roadsides.

One frequent question the committee has received relates to roadside fences. Will MCFD clear vegetation behind fences without specific owner permission? The answer is no. Will MCFD enforce various state and county rules regarding fence setbacks, materials, etc? The answer here is more complicated. Legally we are part of a Wildland Urban Interface, which means that defensible space requirements around structures are stricter (up to 100-150 feet around structures). Our roads, though private, should be at least 26 feet wide, with ten added feet on each side to allow for firefighting and other emergency traffic to access our homes when roads may be crowded with evacuees. PRE roads are substandard in these respects and some residents' fences are within ten feet of the roadway made with highly combustible materials.

The answer for now is common sense. While MCFD has not talked about enforcement measures, they've made it clear that an immediate decision to defend a particular home will depend on its accessibility and existence of space around the home that is clear of highly combustible materials. While the desire for privacy and security fencing is understandable, homeowners' decisions about placement and materials should be undertaken with this in mind.

- **PRERAB update** – PRERAB has recently received questions from residents about water bars on PRE side roads and the possibility that they pose crossing challenges for low clearance vehicles. In recent years PRERAB has undertaken maintenance work to locate and shape the water bars, so this will not happen. An inspection of all roads with water bars in the last week found no problems for vehicle

crossing even for Priuses, if driven at the PRE water bar speed limit of 5 mph. The Board wishes to remind all residents that we live on narrow country roads that do not meet standards of more urban areas. They should not be driven as if they were city streets.

- **2021 membership Dues** – If you have not paid your IRA 2021 membership dues, please do so right away. You may make payments via Venmo or Paypal (see IRA website [invernessridge.info for details) or by sending 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.

Be safe and keep well,

Tim Stanton  
IRA Board President