

Public Comments from the
Los Trancos County Maintenance District Community Meeting
March 7, 2018, 7-9 p.m.

22 residents in attendance
including CAC members Amanda Lee, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer

I. Storm Water Management

a. Community outreach

- i. General agreement that DPW scheduling specific times to meet in the community would be more efficient than scheduling individual meetings with cohorts of residents interested in a specific project, which DPW has found problematic thus far.
- ii. Scheduled meeting times should be varied (e.g. weekdays, weekend, evenings) to accommodate all interested residents.
- iii. Residents would like to RSVP for specific time slots.

b. Carmel Way project

- i. Homeowner unaware of recent new drain pipe undergrounding possibility. Better and more timely communication could improve easement process.
- ii. Possible disconnect between SM County real property, DPW and residents.

c. Lower Ramona Road Project

- i. Large diameter pipes being installed will feed into 8" homeowner pipe. County support in evaluating existing homeowner system would improve ability to address increased burden.
- ii. Will Foxwood projects add additional water into this system?
- iii. Sewer manhole above grade. Can this be fixed as part of the current project?

d. Lower Los Trancos Road Project

- i. General agreement that notification timing process was adequate.
- ii. Based on feedback prior to the community meeting, the CAC shared that DPW plans to improve planning, communication and oversight for future projects by:
 1. Creating more detailed engineering plans
 2. Marking project area/features with orange paint
 3. Meeting with interested residents at project site prior to implementation
- iii. Resident Concerns and Comments
 1. **Cost.** Who pays for project revisions? Should not be the LTCMD funds, either County or contractor should pay to remediate problems.
 2. **Safety.** Multiple residents expressed serious concerns about road width, traffic safety and emergency access. One resident noted that

several accidents have occurred over the years at the curve at 1083 LTR. The curb will likely exacerbate this existing problem.

3. **Curbs.** Multiple residents suggested that all the Type A AC dikes (curbs) be replaced with rolled curbs. Several noted that the Schaff & Wheeler Stormwater management study (2013) study recommended only using rolled curbs. Transitions between the AC dikes and rolled curbs allow water to overtop the rolled curbs. Should all the rolled curbs be the same height throughout the project area? Should all future projects only use rolled curbs?
4. **Deep Ditches.** Multiple comments concerning the depth of the ditches for vehicle safety, especially at night or during emergencies. Depth determined by culverts. Suggestion that shallow U ditches would be preferable and that they work in other areas in the neighborhood. Grates over the ditches to prevent cars from going into them were suggested. County responded that they would be homeowner responsibility to install.
5. **Culverts. At 1051 LT Rd, why did the contractor choose** corrugated pipes? They are prone to accumulate silt and debris. Missed a homeowner gate/access that is now inaccessible.
6. **Drop Inlets. At 1035 and 1051 LT Rd,** the receiving box has no outlet and it traps 18" of water in the box. Will be a hazard and breeding site for mosquitos. Needs to be completely re-designed. Is it necessary to move the water to that side of the road? Why not retain the existing natural drainage on the uphill side (natural drainages on both sides of 1036 LTR should be used). Would eliminate need for V ditches and culverts.
7. **Contractor.** Many residents were concerned that the contractor was not given detailed engineering plans, were not properly supervised by county inspectors, and that they made decisions about the curb placement based on their equipment type. Several residents noted that the project still has not been completed with small parts of the job left undone and equipment/materials left scattered at the site. Residents felt that their concerns and suggestions discussed with the contractor went unheeded, and compromised the outcome of the work.
8. **General Comments.**
 - a. USPS mailbox access was compromised in several locations due to deep culverts or curb placement.
 - b. Improved contractor vetting and oversight critical for future projects.
 - c. County holds homeowners to a higher standard for plans, permits and oversight than they do for their own projects.
 - d. Simple solutions to drainage and features can be found in other areas, County/contractors should follow those examples.
 - e. Future projects should have engineered plans, more DPW supervision of contractor, on site meetings with residents to refine plans based on their knowledge of drainage patterns/issues.
 - f. Common definitions for curbs, culverts, swales, etc. would help residents understand what is being proposed.

- g. Entire project should be re-evaluated and fixed by contractor and DPW at their expense.
- h. Residents would appreciate a timely response directly from DPW to questions posed on the list serve regarding project concerns and questions. Is DPW open to this? Residents said they like WFPD's (via Denise Enea) postings, both informational and in answer to questions.
- i. Any fixes should be agreed to before proceeding in writing.

9. Summation

- a. General agreement that work on lower LTR should stop until solutions are found.
- b. Many residents in affected area want to meet with DPW on site prior to additional work being done. Suggest DPW set up several meeting times to accommodate varied work schedules.
- c. Residents would like to fully understand and reach consensus on fixes planned prior to any work being done.

II. Fire Safety

- a. Emergency Fire Road access on lower Los Trancos Road into Portola Valley Ranch needs gravel or other maintenance. Very muddy in the winter making access more challenging.
- b. During emergencies the detour should be more clearly marked especially for the left turn through the access gate coming via PV ranch.
- c. Old Spanish Trail Water Tank – Community Associations should work with CA Water Service to ensure this and all tanks are properly filled and the gauges work correctly.
- d. Fire hydrants – Community Associations should work with CA Water Service to encourage/compel to test all hydrants.
- e. There was a brief update about sirens and other emergency notification systems being evaluation by the CERPP.
- f. Large piles of chips from chipper days remain on the VV Way cul-de-sac. As they present a fire hazard can LTCMD funds be used to remove them. Perhaps relevant in other locations as well.
- g. Residents said they like WFPD's (via Denise Enea) postings on the list serve, both informational and in answer to questions.
- h. Overall, residents are satisfied and appreciative of the fire safety program.