

# *CUMMINGS VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION*

## *Quarterly Newsletter #16, October 18, 1994*

### \* SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ELECTION

There are many issues to consider when deciding how to vote for our County Supervisor. As a non profit organization, CVPA does not endorse any candidate for public office, but we have tried to determine where the candidates stand on issues important to our association goals.

The following information and impressions have been gained from the candidate forum we sponsored last February, personal interviews between the candidates and CVPA Board members, a forum for the two candidates on October 6, 1994, newspaper interviews with the candidates and other contacts. Here are the findings for the two candidates in alphabetical order.

#### STEVE PEREZ

1. Attended CVPA meeting of Nov. 1993 to hear the proposal for the Buddhist retreat. His question to the Buddhists' representative was, "Do you intend to shove this project through regardless of the wishes of area residents?" This reflects a point of view supportive of our philosophy.

2. In our personal interview his answers to our six written questions were very supportive of CVPA's goals and objectives. In particular he outlined his plan to form local volunteer planning advisory groups to advise him on local land use issues, and indicated he would look to CVPA to represent community desires in our area. In our forum, in the Bakersfield Californian interview and at the October 6 forum he supported a county planning commission as long as it is independent and not politically chosen or driven. In a discussion following the October 6 forum he said he still plans to have local planning committees as well as a County planning commission.

3. In the personal interview he expressed a strong belief in long range planning and avoidance of helter skelter leapfrog development.

4. At a function in Stallion Springs he told Chuck and Lorraine McCollough that although he favors economic growth for the Tehachapi area, "there is no justification for developing pristine areas such as Cummings Valley or Brite Valley". In the October 6 forum he mentioned Cummings Valley as a pristine area in which zone change proposals need to have good justification to be considered for approval.

**DICK RUTAN**

1. He supports a county planning commission as long as it is not funded by tax dollars (personal interview, newspaper interview and October 6 forum).
2. States that a primary goal of planning should be to maintain property values. Believes that high property values equate to quality of life. He twice expressed a belief in long range planning "we need to consider how our planning decisions will affect our grandchildren".
3. He was complimentary about CVPA as a good example of how people should look out for their own interests on a volunteer basis, although he did not show an interest in our goals.
4. He declined to answer our six written questions on the basis of not having adequate knowledge. We invited him to respond later in writing, but he did not do so.
5. During the October 6 forum he said "As for you Cummings Valley people, I support your objectives". This appeared to be perhaps in lieu of answering our six written questions.

**SUMMARY**

We found it difficult to evaluate Mr. Rutan's position on the kinds of land use issues that are important to CVPA. He lacks knowledge and understanding of our concerns which is understandable given his background. His strong focus on other types of issues instead of issues of concern to us made it difficult to communicate with him.

Mr. Perez is very knowledgeable about our area and our concerns. He communicates his support for our goals and objectives with a great deal of understanding and sincerity.

**\* BUDDHIST RETREAT/TEMPLE PROPOSAL**

We received an 80 page document from Kern County Planning summarizing this retreat/temple proposal and certain environmental investigations. An experienced team consisting of Ray Heit, Gloria Gossard, Joe Fontaine, Dick Weimer and Chuck McCollough developed a five page response covering deficiencies, errors and unaddressed issues in the document. This response was edited by Ben and Laurie Rude and Pete and Geri Hussman. Copies were sent to County Planning and Owen Menard, facilitator for the Buddhist group.

On October 5 the CVPA Board and the Board Advisory Committee met to finalize a public opinion survey on the retreat/temple. The survey will consist of two parts; an information sheet describing the project and listing potential problems, and a questionnaire to find out if people favor, oppose or don't care about the project.

We have mailed the survey to all CVPA members as well as residents of Brite Valley, Alpine Forest Park and surrounding area. CVPA's position relative to the project will be guided by the results of the survey.

The mailing of surveys to residents around the proposed project was by Hwy. Carrier Route 51 (520 boxholders). We coordinated with the post office to eliminate duplicate surveys. CVPA members on HCR 51 should have received their survey by route delivery rather than by CVPA label.

We urge all members to complete and return the postage paid postcard questionnaire before October 31. It is vitally important that we be able to represent the wishes of our members and the residents living in the area of the proposed Buddhist retreat/temple. The results of the survey need to be included in the Kern County Planning Dept. staff report scheduled for November 16. The staff report constitutes the Planning Departments's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors who are scheduled to approve or disapprove the project on December 5.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE IT!!!!!!!!!!!!

\* SEPTEMBER MEETING

As many of you may recall, CVPA donated \$375 to help send five students from Cummings Valley Elementary to camp KEEP (Kern Environmental Education Program) in the Sierras. In order to assess the value received from our donation we asked Randy Schultz, sixth grade C.V. teacher and camp coordinator, to present a program showing camp activities. Randy presented an excellent slide show and talk, and was assisted by campers Christina Landon and Andrea Sharp who told us their impressions of the value of this learning experience to them.

The appreciation and understanding of nature and its ecosystems will stay with these youngsters for a lifetime. It certainly seems like money well spent. In addition, we got some good publicity from a nice article in the Tehachapi News and were presented with a framed group photo of the approximately 90 C.V. students who attended the camp this summer.

\* OCTOBER MEETING

Dr. Bill Thomas of College of the Tehachapis (COTT) was scheduled to tell us about the upcoming COTT programs as well as the Elderhostel and Senior Ventures programs administered by COTT. In addition, John Sammis of COTT was to demonstrate some innovative teaching techniques using multi-media PCs.

A week before our meeting we learned that a debate between Supervisor Candidates Steve Perez and Dick Rutan was being held at the same time. Because of the importance of the supervisor to our well being, we elected to cancel our program and to encourage members to hear the debate. As it turned out, it was not a debate, but a forum where, after opening statements, the candidates answered written questions from the audience. It was a worthwhile opportunity to learn more about the positions of the two candidates.

**\* UPCOMING MEETING NOVEMBER 3**

If you have ever been curious about earthquake faults, local faults, why our four valleys exist, what kind of rocks we see around us and how and when they got here, come to the November 3 meeting to hear guest speaker and geologist, Don Lindsay, tell it all. This will be the best talk on the geology of the Tehachapi area you will ever hear and see. You will be amazed at the diversity of rock types found in our area and you may win one of several display quality rock samples as a door prize.

The slide illustrated talk will begin at 7:30 PM and will last about one hour. It will be presented in the Belly Union Hall at Boomtown in Stallion Springs.

Across the Boomtown parking area in the Olde Opry House and Bowling Alley the Sky Mountain staff will be serving an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner including salad, bread and tea, coffee or punch, (hamburgers and hotdogs are also available). This is served every Thursday from 5:00PM to 8:00PM. Cost is \$3.95 per person. Here's a chance for a fun and inexpensive dinner out before the geology talk.

Quote

"Pure sunshine all day. How beautiful a rock is made by leaf shadows! Those of the live oak are particularly clear and distinct, and beyond all art in grace and delicacy, now still as if painted on stone, now gliding softly as if afraid of noise, now dancing, waltzing in swift, merry swirls, or jumping on and off sunny rocks in quick dashes like wave embroidery on seashore cliffs. How true and substantial is this shadow beauty, and with what sublime extravagance is beauty thus multiplied! The big orange lilies are now arrayed in all their glory of leaf and flower. Noble plants, in perfect health, Nature's darlings".

John Muir - "My First Summer in the Sierra".

**BULK RATE**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Tehachapl, CA.  
93561  
Permit No. 10

Cummings Valley Protective Association  
18835 Old Ranch Road • Cummings Valley  
Tehachapl, CA 93561 • (805) 822-3478 • (805) 822-1376

