

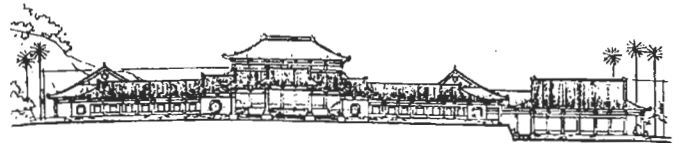
CUMMINGS VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter #17, December 28, 1994

SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISORIAL ELECTION

As most of you know, Steve Perez won out over Dick Rutan by a large margin on November 8th. We are looking forward to a good working relationship with Mr. Perez as he has shown a great deal of knowledge and sensitivity about land use issues of concern to the CVPA. He will take office on January 3rd so will be a decision maker on the Buddhist retreat/temple proposal now scheduled to be heard by the Board of Supervisors on February 6th.

BUDDHIST RETREAT/TEMPLE Results of the CVPA Public Opinion Survey



We sent out 280 information sheets and postcard questionnaires to CVPA members and 500 to nonmember rural box holders in the area surrounding the proposed retreat by Brite Lake. At the time of the cutoff for analyzing the results (November 5th) and submitting them to Kern County Planning Department, we had received a stunning response of 360 questionnaires. An additional 20 have arrived since.

The response showed very strong opposition, with 89% opposed, 8% in favor, and 3% not caring one way or the other. Ninety percent thought it would be inappropriate land use.

CVPA members were slightly less opposed than nonmembers, which may reflect relative proximity of their properties to the project site.

Reasons for opposition or support were as follows:

Category of Reasons for "Opposed" Response	% of "Opposed" Responses
Potential pollution or contamination of Brite Lake (sewage concerns)	30%
Size and architecture of the facility	30%
Traffic both during construction and operation	23%
Stated uses inconsistent with size of facility and planned parking	10%
Tax exemption and need for tax-supported infrastructure	12%
Environmental and wildlife impacts	9%
Negative visual impacts	22%
Inappropriateness in a "rural" community	17%
Moved from a city to avoid similar problems	4%
Question compliance and enforcement of conditions of use	8%
No specific reason expressed	14%

Of the 30 responses favorable to the Conditional Use Permit, 24 reasons were expressed which may be characterized as expressing property rights, freedom of religion and willingness to accept the Buddhist religion.

We were told by County planner, Kris Cardoza, that the results of our survey cannot be used as a basis for a negative recommendation from the Planning Department to the Board of Supervisors because it was conducted by a private organization. What she needs in order to make a recommendation against the project is a large number of letters from individuals, and especially from those owning property near the proposed site.

We placed articles in the Tehachapi News asking that people write letters and also compiled a list of 146 nearby property owners to whom we mailed an information sheet and a letter urging them to write. Some follow-up personal contacts have also been made.

All letters have an impact, and we urge members who have not written to do so. Something as simple as, "I am opposed to the Buddhist retreat at the proposed location because it will be an eyesore that will decrease my enjoyment of the scenic beauty of this area, which is important to the quality of my life" will do. Of course you should express your own concerns in your own words.

Letters should be sent to Kern County Planning Department, Attention Kris Cardoza, 2700 "M" Street - Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

Board of Supervisors Hearing

The hearing has been delayed until Monday, February 6th as of the last information on December 27th. We have met with Supervisor-elect Steve Perez, to find out what we can do to support him in making a recommendation that reflects community wishes while considering legal aspects. It was agreed that CVPA would continue the letter-writing campaign, would prepare a slide presentation illustrating the State of California designation of Visual Class I (prime) scenic beauty of the area, and would work to get a large number of people to attend the hearing. (Conventional wisdom is that the more bodies you have at a hearing, the better your chances are.)

We have made tentative arrangements with Knute's Express bus service of Tehachapi to transport two bus loads (90 people) to the hearing. This will be an easy and fun way to have an impact on the Board decision. You won't have to worry about weather problems, where to park, or where to go. On the way home we might have a bit of a party with some refreshments and nibblies. Preliminary cost estimate is \$8.00 per person including refreshments. Part of the cost may be paid from the CVPA treasury if our Board approves in January. Buses will be non-smoking for the one-hour trip. Of course those who prefer to go on their own should feel free to do so.

NOVEMBER MEETING

A record crowd of 107 members and guests packed the Belly Union Hall of Boomtown in Stallion Springs to hear geologist Don Lindsay's slide-illustrated talk, "Geology of the Tehachapi Area." The presentation was prepared by Geologists Lindsay and Chuck McCollough, with help from local journalist Jon Hammond and David Wood, a doctoral candidate in geology from CalTech.

The talk illustrated the major earthquake fault systems of California and the Significance of the Garlock and White Wolf faults that bound the Tehachapi area on the southeast and northwest respectively. The smaller local faults responsible for creating the four valleys of our area were illustrated by maps, a cross-section, and slides showing how they are identified.

Lindsay explained the origin and age of our local rocks and how they got where they are. The oldest rocks are the metamorphic marbles and quartzites, which date back approximately 220 million years.

Specimens of 14 different rock types were displayed on tables, with smaller pieces to pick up and examine. Six display samples of Brite Valley marble or rose quartz mounted on wood bases were given as door prizes, and there were free samples of Brite Valley marble for everyone.

FEBRUARY 3, 1995 MEETING

Our speaker will be meteorologist Miles Muzio of KERO TV in Bakersfield, who will speak on weather and the microclimates of the Tehachapi area.

If you are often perplexed by the wild variations in weather around our area and why it so often doesn't do as predicted, you won't want to miss this one. Miles will be prepared to answer all of your weather questions.

MEMBERSHIP

CVPA welcomes 23 new members from Brite Valley, Alpine Forest Park, and surrounding areas.

Our total membership now stands at 526 although 110 of these are in arrears on their dues. We expect to find that while some of these have moved away and others no longer choose to belong, the majority have simply put off sending their dues renewal. We will contact these people by phone early in 1995. If you don't know your status, look at the center top line of your address label. If it shows 95, you are paid up; any earlier year shows that you are in arrears. To renew send your \$12.00 check to CVPA, c/o Chuck McCollough, 17851 Tejon Dr., Tehachapi, CA 93561.

WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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