



Newsletter

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:**

- Supervisor Maynard's Update
- Santa Gertrudis Lane Legal Update
- SGL Legal Fund Update
- Palo Parado Makes the Stimulus List
- Palo Parado Project Overview

The Baca Float Coalition invited Supervisor Maynard to provide an update on Palo Parado:

**PROGRESS REPORT ON PALO PARADO FROM
SUPERVISOR JOHN MAYNARD**

In the last month we have focused our (county) attention on funding for both the bridge and rail crossing upgrade. Meetings have been held with state agencies, Congressman Grijalva and Congresswoman Giffords and SEAGO staff, mostly focused upon stimulus funds for this project. We have requested both stimulus funds and a federal allocation from this upcoming year's budget for Palo Parado. We are hopeful they will come through.

Meetings have been held with both First United Realty and Rio Rico Properties to discuss their commitments to this project. I think it is fair to say there have been both agreements and disagreements in different areas of discussion. We will meet again to see how we can close the gap on our differences and increase their support.

Union Pacific is still looking at commencing crossing improvements this summer, and then we can complete our part of the project on both sides of the tracks. I have scheduled a Board of Supervisors study session for April 8, 2009. It should start after our regularly scheduled weekly meeting around 10 AM, Wednesday morning. I hope members of the North Pendleton community will attend. *(ed. note—the study session has been rescheduled for 1:30 pm)*

Contact Supervisor Maynard at
(520) 375-7812 or jmaynard@co.santa-cruz.az.us

YOU'RE INVITED

DATE: April 8
TIME: 1:30 PM
PLACE: Board of Supervisors Mtg Rm
Santa Cruz Co. Gov't Center
N. Congress, Nogales

On April 8th after the regular Board meeting, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will be having a study session on **Palo Parado Road**. The Study Session will begin at 1:30 pm. Come and show your support for the County moving Palo Parado Road forward and obtaining Federal funding for the roadway and bridge. We need to let all of the supervisors know how important this access to I-19 is to us.

~~PLEASE ATTEND~~

SANTA GERTRUDIS LANE LEGAL UPDATE

We have obtained the services of a law firm in Tucson to determine if we have a substantial case and to assess our chances for success in getting the lane reopened. At this time, the reams of paper and past research that they have been filtering through appear to provide a great background on which to build our case. They are requesting a \$10,000 retainer and authorization to proceed. We must raise that money in advance of filing.

The attorneys have accepted our research and that of the former plaintiff's attorney for our case, however, we must now order a 'Litigation Title Report' for the most current and accurate chain of title on the Lane. The title company estimates from \$600 to \$2,500 for the report depending on the number of properties being searched.

If the necessary funds are not donated for us to proceed, we will have to drop the entire issue and refund a prorated amount to all prior donors, leaving the Lane closed forever. We cannot proceed with the case unless we have an economic base to draw on to see the case to closure with a written and recorded determination that the lane is there for our use. We cannot accept anything less than court recognition of our right to use the lane. This must be litigated and resolved once and for all.

*We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.
~Thomas Jefferson~*

SANTA GERTRUDIS LANE LEGAL FUND ~ UPDATE

The Santa Gertrudis Lane Legal Fund is still accepting donations from members, residents, businesses, and concerned citizens. Access to the Lane must be resolved through the civil court process.

The Legal fund has passed \$8,000 in two months. However, we are behind in the amount required to achieve our goal—recognizing our legal right to use the Lane. *Please keep those donations coming!* Remember that we need to continue collecting funds until there is a resolution.

To make a donation to the Legal Fund, send your checks to the Baca Float Coalition, LLC, note “Santa Gertrudis Lane Legal Fund” on the check.

You do not have to be a member to support this initiative.

~~PALO PARADO MAKES STIMULUS LIST~~

At the February 18th Board of Supervisors meeting, county staff presented the Supervisors with a list of twenty-six (26) proposed countywide projects that may be eligible for Federal Appropriations. The Supervisors were asked to prioritize the top three (3) of the identified projects in their district.

District 1 Supervisor, Manny Ruiz identified countywide road resurfacing projects, bridge re-decking, and the 1904 Courthouse renovations as his top projects. District 2 Supervisor, Rudy Molera identified the Chula Vista flood control project, countywide roadway resurfacing projects, and a Soccer Field at Damon Park his top projects. He also suggested that he thought that Palo Parado Road was important and should be addressed. District 3 Supervisor, John Maynard identified Palo Parado Road, countywide road resurfacing projects and property acquisition for borrow material as his top three projects.

Then Supervisors listed their top five (5) countywide priorities. They identified:

1. Chula Vista Flood project
2. Palo Parado Road
3. 1904 Courthouse Renovations
4. Public Safety Radio System
5. Countywide Roadway resurfacing projects.

County staff will be submitting this list of projects to our congressional representatives Raul Grijalva, District 7 and Gabrielle Giffords, District 8 for possible funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Thank you to Supervisor Maynard for making the Palo Parado Road project his top priority. Having that support is important to District 3 residents that live and do business in the Northeast area of Rio Rico. Now the real challenge begins, resolving the funding issues attached to this important project.

Supervisors go to Washington DC

Two weeks ago Supervisors, Ruiz, Molera, and Maynard went to Washington D.C and met with our congressional representatives to discuss issues facing Santa Cruz County.

At last weeks board of supervisors meeting Supervisor Maynard reported that the meetings with our representatives were positive and he is hopeful that funding will be coming to help move the Palo Parado Road project forward.

Supervisor Maynard asked Rep. Grijalva for support in finding full funding for the Palo Parado Road project, but in the worst case would hope to receive \$1 million for Palo Parado Road to get it shovel ready.

COLLINS EXCAVATING & PALO PARADO ROAD

Thanks to Collins Excavating, those of you that use Palo Parado Road have noticed that maintenance work has been done to improve the road surface.

Collins Excavating spent two days adding road material and grading to improve the road. These efforts to improve the road are greatly appreciated. Mike Collins has been doing the work at his own expense.

In an effort to support Mr. Collins' efforts the Baca Float Coalition handed out flyers requesting financial assistance from those that use Palo Parado Road. To date, we have received \$200.00 in donations for the road maintenance and those donations came from two individuals.

Palo Parado is currently not part of the county road system, therefore, the road receives no maintenance from the county. The only maintenance is currently being provided by Collins Excavating.

Remember the washboard surface and huge holes before the maintenance started? During these tough economic times, Mike Collins is volunteering his time, equipment, and materials to improve Palo Parado.

Next time you drive down Palo Parado, remember how bad the ride used to be, and how it could be bad again. A small donation and driving 15 mph will help keep Palo Parado's road surface drivable.

Call 520-313-4291 (Kathi Campana) to make a donation to Palo Parado Road Maintenance.

**~~ FOR SAFETY AND ROADWAY STABILITY ~~
PLEASE SLOW DOWN TO 15 MPH ON PALO PARADO**

PALO PARADO PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Palo Parado Road project is listed on the County staff priority list. The project is to be completed in three phases.

- **Phase I** is the railroad crossing upgrade construction and safety improvements that may cost up to \$600,000.00 to complete. The ADOT 130 funds would cover the cost of the railroad approved safety improvements at about \$350,000.00. The cost of the road upgrade work has now been estimated at about \$250,000.00, a cost the developer (First United) may not agree to pay, since the initial estimate was approximately \$20,000.00 when the original agreement was signed.

Over time, the agreement has not changed, the scope of work has. Caballero Court has now been identified by the County as the preferred crossing alignment. Avatar, the property owner, may not support that change, but has agreed to investigate the impact to their development and what changes can be made to help mitigate the new permanent alignment at Caballero Court. Union Pacific Railroad has required engineering changes to the road construction at the crossing, which increased the cost of construction for the developer.

- **Phase II** is listed as the bridge design, engineering, environmental work, and permits. Before the project can move forward plans for the bridge, road, and environmental work need to be completed, and permits obtained. That may cost as much as \$600,00.00 to get a shovel ready project. No funding source has been identified to complete this phase.
- **Phase III** is listed as the bridge and road construction, and construction administration of the full project. That cost is estimated to be about \$7,000,000.00 for the completed road and bridge. The county has not identified full funding, but may use Flood Control District funds for part of the work.

It's time to let your supervisor know how important the Palo Parado Road project is to you and your family. Give him a telephone call; send an e-mail or letter expressing your concerns and support to keep Palo Parado accessible and safe. We need to let our supervisor know that this project should be funded and moved forward.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SUPERVISORS:

Government Center - 2150 North Congress, Room 119 Nogales, AZ 85621

(520) 375-7812

District 1, Manny Ruiz mrui@co.santa-cruz.az.us

District 2, Rudy Molera rmolera@co.santa-cruz.az.us

District 3, John Maynard jmaynard@co.santa-cruz.az.us

COMMUNITY CORNER

In an effort to keep residents informed about the community a new feature has been added to the BFC Newsletter, the Community Corner. Each month, on a space available basis, upcoming events will be posted. Here is our first:

The Rio Rico Chamber of Commerce
presents

**The First Annual
Rio Rico Fiesta Festival and Expo**
April 25th and 26th

Guy Tobin Trailhead (Rio Rico Drive)
Entertainment, Kids Area,
Beverage Garden, Food Concessions

Vendor and Expo Booths and much, much more!

Vendor Booths still available
For information call (602) 284-2378

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE ADDITIONAL TRAVEL COST IS FOR THE AVERAGE RIO RICO RESIDENT WITH SANTA GERTRUDIS LANE CLOSED?

AT 58.5 CENTS PER MILE, AND 2 TRIPS PER DAY, 5 DAYS A WEEK, THE AVERAGE COST IS \$128.70 OR
\$514.80 PER MONTH.

ISN'T THERE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO WITH THAT MONEY?



**B A C A F L O A T
C O A L I T I O N , I N C**

P. O. BOX 4467
RIO RICO, AZ 85648-4467
E-mail: bacafloatcoalition@yahoo.com

The BACA FLOAT COALITION, INC is committed to keeping the crossings over the Santa Cruz River, which provide access to Northeast Rio Rico, open and available to the residents and businesses that depend on them.

The larger our membership, the greater our influence on the county, and the more representative we are of those we serve. It is essential that we expand our membership to as many of our residents as possible. You are invited to join the Baca Float Coalition, INC and lend your voice to our efforts.

**It's Official
We are now officially an Arizona
Non-Profit Corporation**

The Arizona Corporation Commission has officially accepted and approved our application for non-profit corporation status. The effect will be to simplify our tax reporting and to provide an additional layer of liability protection to our Board and members. We are now Baca Float Coalition, Inc.

VOLUNTEERS~~NEEDED

The Baca Float Coalition has reserved a booth at the upcoming RR Chamber of Commerce 1st Annual Fiesta Festival on April 25 & 26. Volunteers are needed to help out in the booth.

Come and educate folks about the crossings, help get the facts out. We could use your help!

If you can help out, please call Kathi Campana at 520-313-4291

TREASURER REPORT: 3/18/09

Wells Fargo Bank-balance on 01/21/09	5,472.81
BFC deposits between 01/22/09 & 03/18/09	<u>625.00</u>
	Balance: \$6,097.81

Organization/Operating Expenses

01/26/09 Postmaster-Box Rent 4467	42.00	
01/30/09 Reimbursement Rio Rico Fiesta Festival Booth	25.00	
02/07/09 US Treasury-501C4 Filing	300.00	
02/07/09 ACC filing Articles of Incorporation	155.00	
02/09/09 Reimbursement for research expenses	34.50	
02/10/09 Account Debit for bank deposit receipts	5.99	
02/12/09 Philadelphia Insurance-Liability Insurance Board	804.00	
02/12/09 Hartford Insurance-Liability Insurance Members	<u>350.00</u>	
	Total Expense: \$1,716.49	
	Total Operating expenses:	-1,716.49
	Bank Balance:	4,381.32
	Petty Cash Fund Balance:	<u>53.50</u>
	Net Balance:	\$4,434.82

Commerce Bank – Santa Gertrudis Lane Legal Fund balance on 01/21/09	7,200.00
SGLLF deposits between 01/22/09 & 03/18/09	<u>1,500.00</u>
	Balance: \$8,700.00

Legal Fund Expenses

02/03/09 Reimbursement for Attorney Consultation	300.00	
02/03/09 Waterfall Economidis-Copies of legal file John Escher	537.31	
02/23/09 HSP Law Offices-Retainer legal file review & opinion	2,500.00	
02/26/09 Reimbursement for copying maps	<u>44.85</u>	
	\$3,382.16	
	Total Legal expenses:	-3,382.16
	Net Balance:	\$5,317.84

For questions regarding the Treasurer Report, please contact Ron Campana, Treasurer, at 520-313-4153