

4/18/17

Dear Big Sur residents,

It was mentioned at our Unified Command meeting that word is not always getting out to the residents on what is being discussed/decided at our meetings. I have tried to write about what we do in my Round Up article but here is a summary of what we have been doing over the past 8 weeks. (actually, several weeks before planning was being done)

The Unified Command was started because we knew from past experience that there would be issues after the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge failure that would need planning and decisions.

Next week we will now be on week 8 of our meetings. Initially the Command consisted of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade, State Parks and OES. We met and are continuing to meet once a week at the MAF/Big Sur Station. State Parks initially ran the meetings which consisted of the group who gathered there and a conference call for those who could not attend.

Almost two weeks ago after most of the pressing needs that involved State Parks were accomplished; they stepped back to what we call a "Cooperator" role. They, along with the BS Chamber of Commerce, CPOA, Carissa Chappellet and Heather Lanier as the "south side" rep, Ken Harlan as the south coast rep and all the other agencies that are or may be involved in the incident, like SO, CHP, PG&E, AT&T, CUSD, Health Center, USFS etc. give us a report or are available to answer questions for us.

We started with the focus on the trail and its completion, which would alleviate so many problems with a way to get from south to north. Just the planning and the waivers for those working the trail took time. That led to parking for the trail head and finding enough of it, still a challenge. Other issues/discussions that involved the trail were who could use it, passes, dogs on the trail, hours for the trail, (night time use still a discussion) bikes allowed (or not) and so on.

Trail head parking was and is still being discussed for the south side.

The turnaround for the north side took a lot of discussion; we are on plan "A" right now with the MAF being the turnaround/end of the road. CHP stops manning the closure. What kind of signage is needed, Pfeiffer beach cannot be reached due to the construction. How many signs does it take to keep tourists out of the work area if it is not manned. Next we need to decide where best to turn around traffic on the south side. The business's need to be able to get customers to them.

All the services like propane, garbage, gas, mail, food deliveries etc. needed to be planned for. Remember the road was closed from the southern end too. The school kids needed a plan, how to get prescriptions over, we planned for medical emergencies,

fires and rescues for both sides as well. We had "Media" on the agenda and how to respond to the many requests for articles and visits from the press.

Resupply, initially by air, for the south side was planned and successfully implemented.

Every week we start with any comments from the "electeds" and that is then followed by an update from CalTrans regarding their projects, i.e., Mud CK. Paul's slide, the road south of the bridge and the bridge.

Along with their report could be any other concerns that CT would be addressing. We are talking about the possibility of having a noon time opening at Paul's slide. We also review the time line for all the work that still needs to be done on the highway between the deli and Paul's slide.

The funding of the MAF and their personnel has been discussed. A book box was/is discussed for the south side. Should there be a bulletin board?

Phases of the trail use are ongoing, at some point there may be organized groups/events allowed over. How to implement that? The general public may have access; the businesses do need to have customers reach them. Where to park visitors? Start a shuttle service from Molera? Maybe a good time to look at how that might work to address the future of too many visitors on Highway One or going to Pfeiffer Beach.

A Big Sur Economic Recovery Task Force (BS-ERTF) has been formed and are meeting weekly as well at Supervisor Mary Adams office to talk about these things and how to get much needed business back in Big Sur.

As you can see we have had lots to consider and plan for and we are continuing to do so to try and make sure everyone's needs are taken care of! If you have any concerns at all please let us know!!

Martha Karstens BSVFB, Gerry Malais OES, Big Sur Unified Command.