

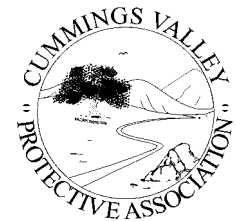
DON'T FORGET NEXT MEETING, SEPTEMBER 7th

Joseph McIntyre, the new facilitator for the Tehachapi Ag Futures Alliance, will give us his perspectives on the potential for preserving and stimulating agriculture throughout the Tehachapi area as a means of preserving a valuable food resource as well as maintaining the rural quality of life. He will by then have spent two days touring the area and meeting growers as well as sizing up the commitment of attendees at two AFA meetings.

September 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4 Labor	5	6	7 CVPA	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 BBQ

CVPA has invested \$14,000 of its treasury to fund the first year of the AFA process. Please attend this meeting to offer your thoughts about the AFA effort, and to let Joseph know that CVPA members are committed to the AFA concept for the benefit to the community of preserving agriculture and open space.



P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TEHACHAPI, CA
93561
PERMIT NO. 10

CVPA News

Published Quarterly by Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc., a Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation
Serving the Community Since 1990
P.O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581 (661)822-3478, Internet: cvpainc.org No 61; July, 2006

SEPTEMBER BARBECUE

Mark September 30 as the date for the annual barbecue at the beautiful Souza Ranch. Festivities will start at 4:00 PM and dinner at 6:00. On the menu will be deep pit beef and pork, rolls, cole slaw, potatoes, wine, beer, ice tea, lemonade and dessert - - all for \$20 paid in advance or \$25 at the gate. To get on the \$20 entry list, send your check to CVPA, P.O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581 before September 20. Tickets **will not** be issued. Come for succulent seasoned deep pit meats with all the fixings, social time with old and new friends, and music in beautiful ranch surroundings.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Election of officers at the June 3rd annual meeting resulted in the installation of long time members and previous officers of CVPA:

President	Chuck McCollough
Vice President	Jo Anne Huckins
Treasurer	Priscilla Mester
Recording Secretary	Barbara Zervas
Corresponding Secretary	Laurie Rude

We wish to thank outgoing president, Janice Armstrong, and outgoing treasurer, John Mester, for their outstanding service during the previous year.

The program for the evening was the showing of two DVDs produced for the Ventura County Ag Futures Alliance. They illustrated the compatibility of preserving agriculture within a rapidly growing society. Compact village-style residential developments, quality affordable farm worker housing and buffer areas between farming and residential areas were shown.

MAJOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEART OF CUMMINGS VALLEY?

Superior Sod owner and CVPA member, Dick Considine, would like to develop a major up scale residential development with commercial amenities, landscaping, and open space in place of sod on his land in the middle of Cummings Valley. He has been very open with CVPA in showing the kind of development he has in mind.

We have learned that Dick's plans include properties owned by Pacific Sod (Pacific Earth Resources of Camarillo) and another property owner for a total developed area of 1263 acres. We are convinced that approval of such a development would trigger a cascade of events resulting in the demise of agriculture and a filling of the valley with houses and strip malls.

CVPA has sent a nice letter to Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Pacific Earth Resources owners, to advise them that we will oppose any such development with every lawful means available. Copies were sent to Dick Considine and Supervisor, Don Maben.

The prime soils and cooler summertime climate are a precious agricultural resource for food production that we cannot afford to squander.

CCI SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

There appears to be confidence, by those in the know, that this time around the treatment plant will be built. With state of the art tertiary treatment, the effluent can be used to irrigate crops not for human consumption. This could provide low cost water for sod growers. However, it is said that the new treatment removes the nitrates, so the argument that the sod growers need to stay in business to grow nitrate-hungry sod loses validity.

ORGANIC PRODUCE SHED

If you haven't visited the Grimmway Farms organic produce shed on Bear Valley Road just south of Cummings Valley Road (open each Saturday from 10:00 until 4:00 during the harvest season), you are missing out on a real treat! The wonderful selection of reasonably priced fresh organic produce is getting rave reviews. After a little urging from CVPA, Grimmway decided to open the shed again this year to be a good neighbor by giving us the chance to buy the organic produce we see growing here plus some, like melons, grown in other places.

BUS TOUR ON JUNE 17 A SUCCESS

The CVPA bus tour of Cummings and Brite Valleys has been offered every odd numbered year since 1993. Because so many had been disappointed by the early sell-out in 2005, we decided to offer it in 2006. But alas, again the two runs of the bus sold out.

The real purpose of the tours is to give members and non-members an appreciation of the history, flora and fauna, geology, and beauty of the area, but it doesn't hurt if we add a little to the treasury. This year we came out ahead \$737 including ticket sales, donations and also dues from 12 new members whom we welcome to our association.

We have received a very graceful note of appreciation of the tour from one of our existing memberships, new to the tour. Such warm responses make us feel the planning and preparation effort may actually be worth while. Thank you, B & B, for those kind words.

AG FUTURES ALLIANCE UPDATE

As reported earlier, CVPA is sponsoring a Tehachapi Ag Futures Alliance (AFA) to build community-wide support for the preservation of agriculture throughout the Tehachapi area. At the third meeting in June, two committees were formed; One to deal with issues faced by larger growers and another to try to stimulate more agricultural diversity and participation by smaller growers and offer assistance, if requested.

The CVPA Board would like to determine if enough members are willing and able to promote these objectives. Please read side one of the insert in this newsletter, and then consider the possibility of helping to carry out some of the functions on side two.

If we can help retirees, hobby growers or those with a serious interest in making money be successful, they will be helping us preserve our rural quality of life.

Please be sure to review the article on the back cover of this *CVPA News* about our upcoming September 7th meeting featuring program speaker Joseph McIntyre, the new facilitator for the Tehachapi Ag Futures Alliance.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY BLUEPRINT

On June 28 Jo Anne Huckins and Chuck McCollough attended a meeting with several hundred others in Fresno to hear speakers and engage in work sessions relative to an effort to bring eight San Joaquin counties together for planning growth in the valley. We had been told that Supervisor, Don Maben, had insisted that East Kern be included, but in the work sessions we found we were not on the map. This could change, and also, there may be much to be learned from how those counties plan to control growth. The number one issue from all those present seemed to be the need to preserve agriculture.

OTHER ISSUES

We examined a proposal for a residential wind energy system on the north side of Cummings Valley Rd. west of Hwy 202. The turbine size (10 Kw) and total height (104 feet) are well within the limits for a permitted use.

A proposed equestrian center and riding school in Brite Valley seems to have potential for dust, traffic and road degradation problems resulting from large numbers of vehicles and horse trailers in and out of the facility. We have written to Kern County Planning to recommend that dust mitigation measures be considered and that the applicant be made responsible for maintenance of any dirt roads damaged by visiting vehicles in wet weather.

Speaking of Weather

I can't remember when we have had such high minimum (often called overnight low) temperatures as we have been having, or at least as Longhorn Lane in Stallion Springs at 3960 feet altitude has "suffered" of late. To check if those impressions were correct, I reviewed the data recorded by a weather station installed here since the spring of 2002. These are bit and pieces of what had been recorded up to 27July2006:

1. Highest minimum temperature was indeed this year: 73.2°F., 07/18/2006 with relative humidity of 37%, 06:22 hrs.
2. Previous highest minimum temperature since 2002: 72.3°F., 07/29/2003 with relative humidity of 62%, 06:17 hrs.
3. Highest maximum temperature this year so far: 101.5°F., 07/25/2006 with RH less than 20%, 14:53 hrs.
4. Highest maximum temperature since 2002: 104.0°F., 07/09/2002 with RH less than 20%, 12:15 hrs.

Until this review, I had also been under the mistaken impression that August had always been our warmest month. Apparently July holds that honor. You know, some people claim that the cricket's chirping frequency is directly related to the night time ambient temperature. If true, reckon the locals must be "plumb wore out 'bout now". *jm*

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If your mailing label shows a year earlier than 07, it is time to send your check for one or several years at \$12 per family per year.

We need your support now more than ever as we face challenges to the rural qualities we came here to enjoy. CVPA may again find it advantageous to provide some financial support along with other contributors to continue the Ag Futures Alliance into the second year. Member numbers and money may be critical as we strive to preserve the integrity of the area.

Please complete the membership form and return it with your check. We would hate to lose you, if you haven't kept up with your dues, but we feel we should drop members who are more than two years in arrears. A check for the current membership year (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007) will put you back in good standing.

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.				
Membership Application - July 1 through June 30				
Name(s) _____				
Local Address _____				Phone () _____
Mail Address _____ <small>(If not same as local)</small>				Phone () _____
Check Appropriate Area				
<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Knolls	<input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs	<input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi
<input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon	<input type="checkbox"/> ? _____
e-mail addr: _____				
Annual dues are \$12 per family.			Mail with payment to:	
Please check one:				
<input type="checkbox"/> One year \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> Two years \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> Three years \$36	Cummings Valley Protective Association	
			P.O. Box 1020	
			Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020	