

Sunol Community Foundation Updates

From Sunol Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings

12/16/10 update

SOS board members Pat Stillman, Derek Johnson and Neil Davies presented an historical overview of events since May 15th of 2009 when they were contacted by The De Silva Group, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Alameda Creek Alliance regarding these groups' expressed desire for SOS support of SMP-17 (Apperson Ridge Quarry). SOS would consider such support if the town of Sunol could enjoy some benefit from the quarrying operations. The town of Sunol has been impacted by mining operations in the valley for the better part of a century. SFPUC has committed to SOS that the town of Sunol should benefit. If a royalty were agreed on from ODS, then the SFPUC would be comfortable if that revenue stream were administered through a community foundation with the support of the SCAC. Supervisor Steele mentioned that the foundation board of directors could be representatives of established groups in town.

01/21/10 update

Ben Coplan and Neil Davies (incorporators) presented at the Sunol Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting on January 20, 2010. Ben and Neil had met with an attorney on December 17th to assist with the formation of the Sunol Community Foundation. It was mentioned that the formation of the foundation is a two step process (Non-profit status and corporation bylaws/procedures). He suggested that the 501(c) (3) portion could be done through Nolo in order to save some money. So far only the Articles of Incorporation have been created. He also mentioned that a slate of board of directors be appointed from the groups in town. The incorporators attempted have several of the town groups choose their own representative for the board. However, this was not communicated or implemented well so a formal process will be used. The Foundation concept was discussed as opposed to enabling the SCAC to administer the funds. At the conclusion of this agenda item, the SCAC encouraged the incorporators to continue the formation process.

02/17/10

Discussions continued regarding the relationship between the foundation and SCAC. The incorporators stated that the SCAC role should be advisory to the foundation much the same way it advises the Board of Supervisors and that the relationship should be one of collaboration. Some SCAC members expressed concerns that a Foundation Board with its ultimate authority over the dispersal of funding would undermine the authority of the SCAC.

Background: According to the Alameda Co. Board of Supervisors resolution of 7/14/09 which reorganized the SCAC, the duties of the Council [Committee] are: "The Council shall advise the Board of Supervisors on matters concerning the government by said Board of that area known as Sunol. Such advice to the Board of Supervisors shall be on matters concerning services which are or may be provided to Sunol by the County or other local government agencies including but not limited to advice on matters of public safety, welfare, public works and planning." When the SCAC took up the issue of SMP-32 funds, it did so in accordance with Surface Mining Permit-32 condition 14: "...The Planning Director shall be responsible for authorizing the use of these funds for the above purposes, subject to input and review by the Sunol Citizens' Advisory committee." The Foundation would likewise be responsible for authorizing the use of its funds subject to the input and review by the Sunol Citizens' Advisory Committee. Supervisor Steele suggested that a contingent from Sunol (Gerry Beemiller, Barbara Klein, Ben Coplan and Neil Davies) consult with the East Bay Community Foundation for ideas. Supervisor Steele will contact them to set up a meeting.

03/17/10

Meeting cancelled

04/21/10

Supervisor Steele set up a meeting on 3/19/10 in Oakland at the East Bay Community Foundation attended by the Supervisor, Gerry Beemiller, Barbara Klein and Neil Davies. Nicole Taylor (President & CEO) and Giles Miller (Director of Development) quickly understood that the situation in Sunol is very similar to Crockett. Folks in Crockett formed the Crockett Community Foundation with EBCF assistance to manage restitution funding. Nicole and Giles introduced us to consultant, Chris Sutherland who specializes in development of philanthropic organizations. A meeting is set up with Chris for the first week in May to develop a strategy for the design of our foundation. At the SCAC meeting on the 21st, these ideas were discussed and the proposal for a facilitator was positively received.