

October 27, 2017

Dear Fellow Saddle Creek Residents,

This letter is an update to the one I distributed on September 18. As with the previous letter, my intention is to communicate information about the Saddle Creek Community Services District (CSD) to the residents that cannot attend CSD board meetings or struggle to find information posted on the CSD website. All information I distribute to the residents is fact-checked in advance by the CSD.

Road Maintenance

This past month, CSD awarded an engineering consulting contract to Willdan Engineering. With support from Willdan, CSD is evaluating whether to perform road repairs as a large, multi-year project or in smaller increments.

- Large, Multiyear Project

CSD and Willdan are considering an initial five-year road improvement project with a budget of approximately \$600,000 which would bring the construction project size to a cost-effective level and accelerate the road repair and maintenance efforts. The CSD Board is therefore considering securing a \$600,000 low-interest rate 10-year loan from the California Special District Finance Authority, a joint powers authority formed by CSDA specifically to fund public projects. If this approach is approved by the CSD Board, the debt will be serviced by a portion of the Measure A road maintenance funding.

- Smaller Increments

Measure A will provide annual road maintenance funding of \$130,000 per year, starting with this year's property tax season. Contracting road repairs on an annual basis at this level of funding would likely reduce the number of interested contractors and increase the cost for construction, engineering, and administration. This approach would also limit the pace of repairing our streets.

Common Area Landscape Maintenance

The CSD Board approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the services of a Landscape Architecture firm (consultant) to provide design alternatives for drought-tolerant landscaping along the road edges and median areas, including the large roundabout, from Little John Road to Oak Creek Drive. The CSD Board has placed priority for completion on the area from Little John through and including the roundabout. The scope of work includes irrigation control, landscape lighting, hardscape, and cost of construction.

The contractor will work with CSD staff and the Ad Hoc Landscape Committee, led by Lora Warner and comprised of residents from throughout Saddle Creek. The process will be transparent and welcomes comments and contributions from all residents of our community. To that end, I will distribute communications specific to this topic as we move forward.

For the short term, CSD recently removed dead grass and reseeded an area adjacent to the roundabout. Areas from Little John Road to and through the roundabout that still need to be repaired should be addressed over the next few weeks, and for the most part will consist of additional removal of dead turf and installation of bark and hardscape. If the CSD maintenance staff is consumed with other priorities, they are expected to hire contractors to focus on this task until it's complete. When completed, this short

term solution will remain in place until the drought-tolerant landscaping project (assuming the community views the plan favorably) is implemented.

Kudos and thanks to volunteers Nancy Dare, Meredith Monica, and Darlene Besst and to the CSD maintenance staff for acquiring the pumpkins, corn stalks, and bales of hay and decorating the entrance to our community!

Let me know of any questions or concerns, I'll try to answer them. Also notify me if you do not wish to receive additional or updated CSD information from me in the future.

Please don't "reply all".

Most Respectfully,
Dave Ehlers
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