



THE

Highlander

Nov./Dec. 2020

The Rural Bonny Doon Association Newsletter

RBDA Virtual Public Meeting *From the Ashes: Insight From Paradise and Sonoma Communities as We Rebuild*

Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Our community has been forever changed by the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires. There have been so many poignant and inspirational accounts of the wildfires on social media, and in local and statewide media. Together these stories illustrate the strength of our community as we responded to the wildfire with coordinated action, bravery, and compassion for our neighbors. Our hearts are with all our whole community, as each and every one of us are engaged in efforts to rebuild or restore our homes, support the needs of others, and work to preserve the spirit of our wonderful community.

At our December public meeting, we will be hosting two speakers from communities that have also suffered the devastation of wildfires, Jennifer Gray Thompson and Charles Brooks. They will share their experiences from living in the aftermath of a wildfire, the process of rebuilding their communities, and will be available to answer questions about what the next few weeks, months and years might hold. Ryan Coonerty, 3rd District County Supervisor, and Rachel Dann, 3rd District County Supervisor's Analyst, will also be participating.

Please join us.



Jennifer Gray Thompson is a lifelong resident of the Sonoma Valley. She graduated from Dominican University with dual degrees in English and History. After teaching high school AP English for 10 years, Jennifer went on to earn a master's degree in Public Administration from University of Southern California's Price School of Public Policy. Post-graduate school, Jennifer worked for the County of Sonoma from 2013 to 2017 for the Board of Supervisors. After the devastating fires of October 2017, she accepted her current position as Executive Director of Rebuild Northbay Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping our region rebuild better, greener, safer, and faster. Jennifer is a proud board member of La Luz Center, a resource and referral nonprofit serving primarily the Latino community in Sonoma Valley. She is also Vice Chair of the Springs Community Alliance.

Charles Brooks is a graduate of CSU Chico with a degree in Business Administration. Charles and his wife Jennifer have lived in Butte County since 1998 and lost their home in the Camp Fire of 2018. Brooks is an Eagle Scout and has been involved in several volunteer civic organizations including: Boy Scouts of America, Students in Free Enterprise, Butte County Search & Rescue, Paradise Citizens' Alliance and coached his boys' soccer teams for many years. Founding Rebuild Paradise was an easy choice and necessary step to assist the Butte County community to recover in a meaningful way over the many years to come.



Participating in the Virtual Public Meeting

Zoom (zoom.us) is a video conferencing platform that is free to use through either a web browser or application, and audio participation is possible through a dial-up connection on your phone. We selected this platform based on its widespread use and ease of accessibility. For this meeting, we will be utilizing all the available security features, including password-protection and waiting rooms managed by the host.

Here are details for accessing and participating in this meeting (these can also be viewed at our website rbda.us):

- Send your e-mail address to meetings@rbda.us to receive the meeting credentials and password. Your email will not be used for any other communication and will not be shared.

- Please call into the meeting between 7:10 and 7:20, so that we can begin at 7:30.

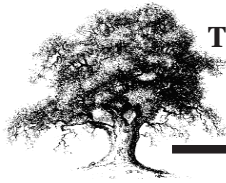
Call for Action:

Testimonials About PG&E Planned Power Outages

In March, the RBDA hosted a panel discussion on communication infrastructure problems in Bonny Doon. Since then, the need for better communications systems has become even more apparent. Because of COVID, more people are working from home, and the CZU fire and PG&E's planned power outages showed us again how substandard our phone and internet systems are.

Kate Beck, of the Public Advocates Office of California Public Utilities Commission, was one of the panelists at our March meeting. She was sympathetic to our plight and recently asked for testimonials from people who were adversely impacted by PG&E's planned power outages. You can contact her at Kate.Beck@cpuc.ca.gov. Kate also suggested that we report these issues to the Consumer Affairs Branch: appsssl.cpuc.ca.gov/cpucapplication. This link will take you to a web form where you can enter a formal complaint against PG&E, or against Comcast, Verizon, or AT&T for having inadequate backup power during the planned outages. This is an opportunity for us to convince the California Public Utilities Commission to require that the communications companies provide adequate backup power to keep their systems operating for several days instead of several hours.

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Bonny Doon's voice in preserving our special quality of life, The Highlander, is mailed free 6 times a year. RBDA Public Meetings are usually held the second Wednesdays of January, March, May, September and November. We encourage you to participate. Send correspondence to The Highlander at the above address.

Access the RBDA on the Internet at:

www.rbda.us

E-mail us at:

board@rbda.us

Facebook (RBDA Members Only):

RBDA, Rural Bonny Doon Association

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**Bonny Doon Resident
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Public Meeting December 9: Rebuilding after the Wildfires

Call for Action:

Plan for Cotoni-Coast Dairies Opening Nears Completion

The California Coastal Monument Management Plan for the Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument is nearing completion. After receiving comments on their Draft plan, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) made some changes and released the Resource Management Plan Amendment on Sept. 25, beginning a 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's Consistency Review.

In response, the RBDA joined in signing the protest drafted by Friends of the North Coast. Concerns include proposed parking areas with structures and facilities on inland areas on the upper terraces, which will bring wildlife habitat disturbance and fire danger inland, among other issues.

The next crucial part of this process is a Consistency Review by the Coastal Commission. That review will be informed by a staff report currently under development for presentation ahead of the next Coastal Commission meeting which will be held virtually on Friday Dec. 11. That meeting will offer the public a last important chance to voice their concerns and opinions of the BLM'S plans as the process leading to Cotoni-Coast Dairies public access nears completion. The Commission may or may

not concur with the provisions of the BLM's plans. Non-concurrence typically begins a negotiation process to bring the plan into conformance with Coastal Act requirements before it is finalized.

Please see the full article on our website for additional details on this important subject, a link to the BLM's plan, and any updates on the Coastal Commission consistency hearing date (rbda.us).

RBDA Board Nominations

The RBDA serves as a pipeline to the Santa Cruz County government to advocate for necessary public services and for strong land use regulations that protect Bonny Doon from negatively impactful development.

To continue to serve in that role, we need board officers. At our December 9 General meeting we will open nominations for positions on the RBDA Executive Board, and the election will be held at the January 2021 Annual RBDA meeting. You can nominate yourself, or somebody not present.

The terms of four officers, Andy Davidson (Chair), Jennifer Joslin (Membership coordinator), Lisa Ortiz (Vice Chair) and Martin Burmeister (Corresponding Secretary), expire in January.

If you are interested in serving as a Board officer, please contact board@rbda.us. To be nominated or to vote you must be a member in good standing.

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