

# **TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY DIGEST**

Thursday – October 21, 2021

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1. Agenda – Architectural & Site Control Commission – Monday, October 25, 2021
2. Agenda – Conservation Committee – Tuesday, October 26, 2021
3. Letter from the Mayor Derwin to the California Resource Board re Request for GHG Inventories for California Local Governments
4. Correspondence from resident Harriet Wrye re SB 9
5. Correspondence from Unidentified resident re excavation at Pinon Drive residence

## **Attached Separates (Council Only)**

*(placed in your Town Hall mailbox)*

1. HIP Housing “Thank you” for your support for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
2. NorCal Carpenter Magazine August/September 2021



# TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

4:00 PM – Architectural Site Control Commission Meeting  
Monday, October 25, 2021

**TELECONFERENCE DETAILS WITHIN**

## **SPECIAL ASCC FIELD MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

**2:00 PM** 333 Canyon Drive – **This site meeting has been cancelled.**

**2:30 PM** 460 Cervantes Road – **This site meeting has been cancelled.**

## **SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**Remote Meeting Covid-19 Advisory:** On September 16, the Governor signed AB 361, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet virtually during the present public health emergency. AB 361 is an urgency bill which goes into effect on October 1, 2021. The bill extends the teleconference procedures authorized in Executive Order N-29-20, which expired on September 30, 2021, during the current COVID-19 pandemic and allows future teleconference procedures under limited circumstances defined in the bill. Portola Valley Town Council and commission and committee public meetings are being conducted electronically to prevent imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. The meeting is not available for in-person attendance. Members of the public may attend the meeting by video or phone linked in this agenda.

**Below are instructions on how to join and participate in a Zoom meeting.**

### **Join Zoom Meeting Online:**

**Please select this link to join the meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83340820049?pwd=aXI0ZFZlWU1BMRk9SMDVJUEhZNzZ5QT09>

**Or:** Go to Zoom.com – Click Join a Meeting – Enter the Meeting ID

**Meeting ID:** 833 4082 0049      **Passcode:** 385614

### **Or Telephone:**

1.669.900.6833

1.888.788.0099 (toll-free) Enter same Meeting ID and Passcode

\*6 - Toggle mute/unmute.

\*9 - Raise hand.

**Remote Public Comments:** Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Please send an email to [planning@portolavalley.net](mailto:planning@portolavalley.net) by 12:00 PM on the day of the meeting. All comments received by that time will be distributed to Commissioners prior to the meeting. All comments received are included in the public record.

We encourage anyone who has the ability to join the meeting online to do so. You will have access to any presentations that will be shown on your screen and can easily ask questions using the “raise your hand” feature when the Chair calls for them.

**4:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioners Cheung, Koch, Sill, Vice-Chair Wilson, Chair Ross

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Persons wishing to address the Architectural and Site Control Commission on any subject not on the agenda may do so now. Please note however, that the Architectural and Site Control Commission is not able to undertake extended discussion or action tonight on items not on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Architectural Review of an application for an addition/remodel to an existing residence that would exceed 85% of the allowed floor area in the main residence, File # PLN\_ARCH0013-2021, 333 Canyon Drive, Portner Residence (J. Garcia)
2. Architectural Review of an application for first floor additions, a remodel of an existing barn, a new storage shed, and landscape improvements, File # PLN\_ARCH0016-2021, 460 Cervantes Road, Alfaro Residence (R. Robinson)

**COMMISSION, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. Commission Reports
4. Staff Report
  - a. Update on SB9

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5. ASCC Meeting of October 11, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

**AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**

For more information on the projects to be considered by the ASCC at the Special Field and Regular meetings, as well as the scope of reviews and actions tentatively anticipated, please contact Carol Borck in the Planning Department at Portola Valley Town Hall, 650-851-1700 ex. 211. Further, the start times for other than the first Special Field meeting are tentative and dependent on the actual time needed for the preceding Special Field meeting.

Any writing or documents provided to a majority of the Town Council or Commissions regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Town Hall located 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA during normal business hours. Copies of all agenda reports and supporting data are available for viewing and inspection at Town Hall.

**ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Department at (650) 851-1700. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Public Hearings provide the general public and interested parties an opportunity to provide testimony on these items. If you challenge any proposed action(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing(s) described in this agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the Architectural and Site Control Commission at, or prior to, the Public Hearing(s).



#2

**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY  
Special Conservation Committee  
Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – 7:00 PM**

**Special Videoconference Meeting via Zoom**

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**SPECIAL VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA**

**Remote Meeting Covid-19 Advisory:** On September 16, the Governor signed AB 361, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet virtually during the present public health emergency. AB 361 is an urgency bill which goes into effect on October 1, 2021. The bill extends the teleconference procedures authorized in Executive Order N-29-20, which expired on September 30, 2021, during the current COVID-19 pandemic and allows future teleconference procedures under limited circumstances defined in the bill. Portola Valley Town Council and commission and committee public meetings are being conducted electronically to prevent imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. The meeting is not available for in-person attendance. Members of the public may attend the meeting by video or phone linked in this agenda.

**To access the meeting by computer, click on the link below:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87986346446?pwd=UTBiMndsZ0tCYVp1MWNUSkVrT0lDdz09>

**To access the meeting by phone, dial:**

1-699-900-6833

1-877-853-5247 (toll-free)

*Mute/Unmute - press \*6 Raise Hand - press \*9*

**Meeting ID:** 879 8634 6446

**Password:** 020957

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Oral Communications
- 3) Approval of Minutes for September 28, 2021
- 4) Old Business
  - a) Redwood Guidelines revision – Richards
    - i) Approved in August; slightly revised September for precision re microclimates. Sent to ASCC Appendix A
    - ii) Fee waiver for “stressed redwoods.”
      - (1) Criteria for approval. Subcommittee Heiple, Magill, Plunder and Walz.
      - (2) Does subcommittee need to see every one?
    - iii) Redwood Microclimate Map- Walz and Heiple
  - b) Ad Hoc Housing –input for our 2 representatives to Committee on Committees.
  - c) Committee/Town Cooperation
    - i) Fire AdHoc – Plunder
  - d) Tip of the Month – Magill (3 minutes)
  - e) What’s Blooming Now – Magill (3 minutes)
- 5) New Business
  - e) Membership for 2022
- 6) Next Meeting Tuesday November 23 7:00pm ?Zoom
- 7) Adjournment aspirationally 8:30, Hard Stop 9:00



# TOWN of PORTOLA VALLEY

Town Hall: 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028 - Tel: (650) 851-1700 Fax: (650) 851-4677

October 13, 2021

Rajinder Sahota  
Deputy Executive Officer for Climate Change and Research  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for GHG Inventories for California Local Governments

Dear Ms. Sahota,

The IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment is a stark reminder that we need to act urgently. Even the leading jurisdictions in California, that have adopted climate action plans and supportive elected officials, struggle to put their plans into action. Part of the impediment is that a disproportionate amount of time and effort is directed toward planning and evaluation, rather than direct implementation and action. Your agency has an opportunity to relieve some local data burdens, which would increase local government capacity for implementation, while simultaneously improving data consistency and utility.

We request that, as a first step, CARB conduct GHG inventories for all cities and counties in California. This statewide initiative would yield the following benefits:

- Comprehensive coverage across the state. According to your [CAP-MAP](#), 40% of cities do not have any GHG inventories on record. A GHG inventory is a precursor to developing CAPs and ensuring investments in climate action strategies and programs target local pollution sources. This is particularly critical for communities that are disproportionately impacted by poor air quality and with limited resources and capacity to mitigate GHG emissions. Filling the gap for these jurisdictions will enable them to get closer to taking action.
- Data and methodology consistency. Currently, cities and counties have different levels of access to quality data and use different methodologies to conduct their GHG inventories. These inconsistencies prevent meaningful cross-jurisdictional comparisons and aggregation for effective regional planning. A centralized effort led by CARB would address this issue and enable local and regional agencies throughout the state to plan, coordinate, and accelerate climate mitigation efforts in a more effective, data-informed manner.
- Visibility into patterns and progress. The State would gain visibility into the different emissions profiles across the state to identify key policy and programmatic opportunities for rapid and equitable climate mitigation measures. Tracking local

inventories over time would also provide insights into the effectiveness of targeted State investments and local programs to measurably reduce emissions.

Leading local governments have been conducting individual GHG inventories for over a decade, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars collectively. In addition to yielding the benefits listed above, centralizing inventories would allow these public dollars to be redirected toward action. Local governments want to be key partners in meeting the State's ambitious GHG emissions goals. As a recent reflection on [The State of Local Climate Planning](#) suggests, having a state agency take on inventories is an important step in evolving our collective practice. It is a critical part of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of climate action by focusing each level of government's efforts on their unique role, in concert with the other levels of government.

There are several existing platforms and tools that could be leveraged to support a statewide, State-led approach to conducting local GHG inventories, including tools developed by academics (UC Berkeley's [Cool Climate Network](#) and UCLA's [Energy Atlas](#)), nonprofits (ICLEI's [ClearPath](#)), the private sector (Google's [Environmental Insights Explorer](#)), regional public agencies ([Vital Signs](#) in the Bay Area), and other existing platforms.

Thank you for your time in considering our request and comments. Please do not hesitate to contact staff at the Local Government Commission who is coordinating this group letter if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of our comments further: Julia Kim, Climate Change and Energy Program Director ([jkim@lgc.org](mailto:jkim@lgc.org)) and Michael McCormick, Special Advisor ([mmccormick@lgc.org](mailto:mmccormick@lgc.org)).

Sincerely,



Maryann Moise Derwin  
Mayor, Portola Valley

cc: Portola Valley Town Council  
Portola Valley Sustainability Committee  
Richard Corey, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board  
Annalisa Schilla, Chief, Community Action Branch, California Air Resources Board  
Samuel Assefa, Director, California Office of Planning and Research  
Erik de Kok, Deputy Director, California Office of Planning and Research  
Lauren Sanchez, Senior Climate Advisor, Office of California Governor Newsom

**Sharon Hanlon**

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**From:** Harriet K Wrye

**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 12:31 PM

**To:** Sharon Hanlon <shanlon@portolavalley.net>

**Cc:** Crane Sue; Barbara Creed; Kingdon Kirsten; Rob Hays; Tabor Kajsa Karin Eckelmeyer

**Subject:** SB9 Portola Valley

Dear Shanlon and the PV Town Council,

I regret having missed the opportunity to attend the PV Oct 13th meeting on SB 9, but as it is clear community engagement is important, I am writing in follow-up.

As a resident of the Sequoias, I love PV as it is, and I'm an avid horseback rider on our beautiful trails, but I'm very concerned about the lack of diversity and affordable housing here. I've become convinced that the best solution is to build more safe affordable housing. To an extent, while some concerns about the effects on evacuation and traffic may be used as NIMBY smoke screens, I am also convinced of the demonstrable risk of wildfire here, and the likely earthquake consequences of living atop the San Andreas Fault, having already personally experienced the destruction of the Santa Cruz Earthquake and Northridge quakes.

The main thing that I **don't** like about living here is the relative homogeneity of PV as to race, ethnicity, and economic status. I believe that more diverse communities are healthier for everyone. I published an article in [The Sequoian](#) last year about the history and causes of the lack of diversity in Portola Valley, and sent a copy to the PV Board. I offered to join the PV Town Council Diversity Committee, but have never heard back. With SB9 on all of our minds, I still hope to be invited to the Diversity Committee.

Thank you very much,

*Harriet K. Wrye*

**Dr Harriet Kimble Wrye**

*501 Portola Road,*

*Portola Valley, CA 94028*

**OPENING TO DIVERSITY**  
***THE SEQUOIAN*** ~ April, 2021

The Sequoias of Portola Valley is known for its open-hearted friendliness and welcoming spirit, as well as its beautiful campus and nearby hiking trails. Have you ever wondered, though, about the relative lack of racial and ethnic diversity in our community? Newcomers often ask that question, and apparently some prospective residents express disappointment and even misgivings about moving here from communities where there is more diversity. SPV is unfortunately unique in this regard compared to the other Sequoia Living communities which are more diverse. The answer has to do with residential development in San Mateo county.

Considerable local history is documented in *Life on the San Andreas Fault: A History of Portola Valley* by Nancy Lund and Pamela Gullard. In it is this story of an idealistic dream, and its demise. A Ladera story about real estate development is of particular interest in relation to deepening our awareness of local racial injustice and inequality. In the early 1940s, a broad-minded group of Stanford professors including Dr Murray Luck were inspired by his idea of forming an affordable multi-racial cooperative community. They came together, dreamers and practical folks who met, extensively researching and doggedly resolving conflicts and shaping their dream. Finally in 1945 these families, including mostly Whites but some Blacks, formed the Peninsula Housing Association (PHA), to locate and buy a tract of land where families of varied economic and racial makeup could build their dream houses, raise and educate their children, and live together in harmony. Wallace Stegner said they “had the spirit that used to animate barn raisings when democracy was younger and simpler.” They discovered available land on the old Ormondale Ranch, only four miles from Stanford, bordering on beautiful open space rolling hills with views in every direction. They hired an architectural firm to design a series of floor plans to blend in with the rural landscape, suitable for affordable housing for the more than 150 scientists, nurses, teachers, pilots, writers, and government employees who had already bought shares in the growing PHA. Over the next five years, Ladera, meaning slope in Spanish, was named. By 1949 roads were in, plans for a community center, school, and pedestrian pathways were designed, and houses were just beginning construction. Cost overruns alarmed many and by 1950, the Peninsula Housing Association, in financial difficulty, was unable to raise funds. Banks at the time still discriminated with “redlining,” refusing to lend to the PHA as the cooperative included African Americans. Heartbroken were the families whose dreams were dashed, especially



minority members who were reluctantly asked to withdraw, which they did, “not wanting to be the cause of their friends losing their investments.”

Thus, overt racial discrimination destroyed the dream of Ladera as an integrated, inclusive and affordable community. Neighboring communities of Woodside, Westridge and many others throughout San Mateo were similarly shaped by the same discriminatory practices including Covenants, Codes and Restrictions (CC&Rs) written into deeds prohibiting property ownership by people of color, even requiring those who worked as gardeners and maids to vacate by 5PM daily.

As it turned out, when Ladera was about to go bankrupt in 1950, the PHA turned to Portola Development Company, including SPV's **Shirley Kelley**'s liberal minded husband as a principal, to rescue the Ladera project. The story becomes more personal, as the Kelley's raised their family in the new housing project. Shirley suggested I talk with her son, Bruce Kelley, now Editor in Chief of *Reader's Digest*, who grew up in Ladera. What an interesting long conversation we had! Bruce told me as a young boy, he already felt so strongly that segregation was wrong that rather than attend all-white Woodside High School, he volunteered to be bused across town to an experimental program in integration with Ravenswood High, a nearly all black school in East Palo Alto. He said it changed his life in a positive direction. He has many lifelong friends from Ravenswood who inspired him to become an active voice against discrimination and injustice of any kind. Interestingly, **Sue Crane** reports that her son Russell also opted for bussing to Ravenswood and felt his life course changed for the better.

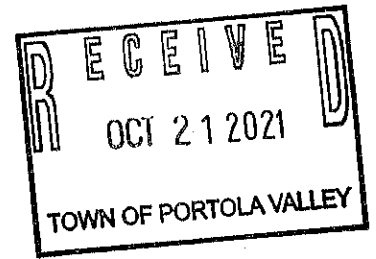
Bruce Kelly sent me a link to an apropos New York Times bestseller: Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (2017). It helps illuminate how the residual shadow of those 1940s CC&Rs have colored (or discolored) our own Sequoian relative homogeneity. Another recent book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Pulitzer prizewinning author Isabel Wilkerson, sheds additional powerful light on the history of the problem.

In 1963, the Rumford Fair Housing Act aimed to end such egregious racial discrimination, but only a year later, via California Prop 14, Californians, overwhelmingly voted to defeat the Fair Housing Act, privileging landlords, developers and homeowners' property rights over racial justice. In 1966, the California Supreme Court declared Proposition 14 unconstitutional supported by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

De facto discrimination, however, continues even today, exemplified through the foreclosure crisis, in which people of color were disproportionately affected by predatory subprime loans. Moreover, Blacks and other racial minorities have been

limited by education, restrictive employment opportunities and investment in real estate from intergenerational accumulation of wealth, thus perpetuating the cycle. The point for our privileged Sequoian community is that by having been thus restricted, Blacks and other ethnic minorities are still unable to afford to live here. Today, there are still only 11 known Black homeowners in Portola Valley. Hopefully, in this time of greatly heightened awareness of the inequities and injustices suffered by racially and ethnically diverse people, we can, as a welcoming community, begin constructive conversations on fostering diversity.

*Harriet Kimble Wrye*



October 18, 2021

Mr. Jeremy Davis  
~~Town Manager~~ *Town Council*  
Portola Valley Town Hall  
765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

Re: 127 Pinon Drive, Portola Valley, CA 94028

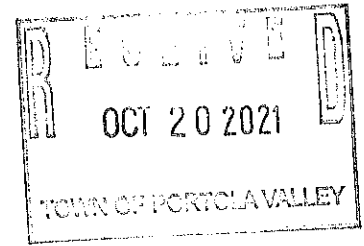
A road has been bulldozed and a 10 foot excavation is being constructed today on the north hill at this location.

It can be seen from the road on public land on Ramoso Road.

There is a bobcat and heavy equipment continuing the work.

cc: Westridge Architectural Supervising Committee (WASC)  
3130 Alpine Road #288, PMB 164  
Portola Valley 94028

October 19, 2021



PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO:

Mayor  
Members of the Town Council  
Town Manager  
Commissioners of the Architectural and Site Control Commission (ASCC)  
Planning & Building Director

Has a Site Development Permit been applied for and approved?

There is major excavation on and road being cut into the hill at 127 Pinon Drive including the following:

- Grading
- Vegetation removal
- Excavation has already exceeded fifty (50) cubic yards
- Excavation has already exceeded four (4) feet in vertical depth at its deepest point
- A significant oak tree is and has already been affected which would tend to injure, destroy, or kill the tree. Its roots have and are being further ripped up

Did the Town know?

Will the Town act?