



YOSEMITE  
CONSERVANCY

June 14, 2019

Dear Yosemite West Neighbor,

I had hoped to meet you at your Memorial Day BBQ, but Mother Nature had other weather plans that postponed that event. I'm writing to introduce myself and Yosemite Conservancy as well as to provide initial information about our Yosemite West land purchase and upcoming fire protection work.

If you're not familiar with Yosemite Conservancy, our daily focus is to inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve Yosemite and enrich the visitor experience. For 95 years, we've provided grants to the park to restore trails and habitat, protect wildlife, provide educational programs, and more. Our donors have funded more than 640 projects like the restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, protecting vulnerable wildlife like peregrine falcons, frogs and bighorn sheep, and the Junior Rangers program. Being good stewards of our natural lands is part of our organizational DNA — and a major reason why we were chosen over other buyers for land in Yosemite West.

As you may know, Yosemite Conservancy purchased 356 acres of wilderness and vacant land in Yosemite West late last year. Thirty-seven acres of that total near the entrance is zoned for residential use. We know you have a lot of questions about our land purchase. Frankly, so do we. We haven't made decisions about land use because we're just beginning our exploration process. We need to find out what is possible and what is right.

A few important points and updates about the parcels purchased, including upcoming fire protection work:

- **Land Purchased: 320+ Acres Preserved.** We are excited that this purchase preserves huge portions of wilderness adjacent to the park.
- **An idea: Seek Solutions to the Local Housing Crisis.** We are in the very early stages of exploring ideas for the 37-acre parcel, including using the property for residences for Conservancy and Park Service staff that steward the park.
- **Upcoming Fire Protection/Fuel Reduction Work Starting June 17.** Prior to fire season, starting about June 17 and continuing for 3-4 weeks, we will be chipping logs and woody debris on the 37-acre parcel, and there will be a noisy wood chipper on-site. Our plans have been approved by Mariposa County and CAL FIRE. The chipping will occur 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. No chipping will occur on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Our contractor also will be monitoring the resulting noise, and we apologize for any disturbance this creates. For the safety of all, please do not enter the site during the chipping operations. We hope you will agree that this fire protection work benefits all residents of Yosemite West.

We look forward to listening and learning from you about what is important to the Yosemite West community and to help inform our future plans. Hopefully, we will meet you at your annual Labor Day weekend picnic on September 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Edelbrock".

Jerry Edelbrock  
Vice President

*Providing For Yosemite's Future*