

COUNTY of MARIPOSA



Peter M. Rei
Director

4639 Ben Hur Road
Mariposa, CA 95338
Phone: (209) 966-5356
Fax: (209) 966-2828

June 5, 2012

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Divisions of:

Administration	Airport
Cemeteries	County Surveyor
Design & Construction	Engineering
Facilities	Parks & Rec.
Roads	Solid Waste
Transportation	Fleet Maintenance

Yosemite West Associates
c/o Dr. Jay Dickerson
19962 Via Escuela Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070

Re: Burn Pile at Yosemite West subdivision

Dear Dr. Dickerson:

As we discussed on the phone yesterday I would like to follow up with you and the owners of the property adjacent to the Yosemite West subdivision on the issue of a community burn pile.

As you know Mariposa County Public Works has been managing the historic location of a burn pile for many years. Recently, you specifically requested that the County cease utilization of that location. In my correspondence to you dated April 6, 2012 (attached) I documented to you that the County has in fact ceased operation of a burn pile at that location.

In that same letter I forwarded a copy of the original Subdivision Agreement approved by Mariposa County when the property which you and your partners owned was first subdivided. In that Subdivision Agreement in item 12 on page 3 of Attachment number 6 it clearly states that Yosemite West Associates is required to identify a 1 call your "set aside and dedicate a site for a dump areas to be used by the residents of this area ...". County records indicate that this provision has never been completed.

The current situation is such that the County and the subdivision have complied with your specific direction to cease using the old burn pile location. However, Yosemite West Associates have yet to identify the required site for a dump area as required in the original Subdivision Agreement. This is significant as the residents of the Yosemite West Subdivision no longer have a safe place to take their pine needles and small limbs as they have historically done in the past.

The lack of a community location to collect these pine needles and limbs is resulting in many small fires during the spring, when the chance of a fire escaping is greater, at many

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different properties by multiple property owners. This is in contrast to our historic practice of one managed fire in the winter, when the chance of a fire escaping is much less, managed by County staff. It is our position that the incidence of multiple fires by multiple individuals at this time of year actually increases the chances of a wildland fire rather than reducing that risk. It is for this reason that we urgently want to work with Yosemite West Associates to identify both a short-term and a long-term burn pile location as required by the original subdivision.

Short Term Request

It is the wish of Mariposa County to gain approval from Yosemite West Associates for the residents of the Yosemite West Subdivision to be allowed to bring their pine needles and small limbs to the old burn dump site for the season of 2012 only. This will facilitate the safe management and containment of these materials and reduce the overall risk of a fire getting away from individual residents burning. We are very open to any reasonable conditions that Yosemite West Associates may feel necessary in order to provide such approval.

Long Term Request

Mariposa County and the residents of Yosemite West Subdivision desire a permanent location where the burning of yearly pine needles and small limbs can occur. We are very motivated to work with Yosemite West Associates to determine the preferred location for such a burn pile and to agree to all reasonable conditions that Yosemite West Associates may feel are necessary in order to provide such approval.

You may reach me at 209-966-5356 to discuss this matter further. Alternatively, I and my staff are more than willing to meet on site with representatives from Yosemite West Associates to assist in the resolution of this matter.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this request. As the summer fire season is already upon us this matter is of considerable urgency and we would like to work with Yosemite West Associates to find an acceptable short and long term solution as quickly as possible.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter M. Rei".

Peter M. Rei
Director of Public Works
County of Mariposa

cc: Lee Stetson, Supervisor District 1
John Mock, Yosemite West Firesafe Council
Jeff Hornecek, Chair Yosemite West Maintenance Advisory Committee
Jim Middleton, Assistant Fire Chief, Mariposa County
Pam Brochini, Mariposa County Facilities Manager