



Join us for the celebration!  
We are having a potluck luncheon in the Villa  
Chanticleer picnic area this year.

Our annual business meeting will be held before  
the luncheon.

Assignments for food are as follows:

A-F: veggies/green salad

G-L: fruit/fruit salad or dessert

M-R: pasta/casserole

S-Z: salsa/chips/nuts

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: JUNE 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DEL RIO DAM UPDATE

FITCH ASSOCIATION MOUNTAIN HISTORY

Drinks, hamburgers/veggie burgers will be provided by the association.

Bring your own table settings

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PLEASE

RSVP: Laura-(707) 433-9739 by 7/8/09

ann-and-laura@comcast.net

## President's Report

Welcome to summer! I am approaching the end of my first year as President of FMA. It continues to be a privilege to work with our Trustees and Officers. There were certain goals that I had hoped we would be able to accomplish and I am pleased to give you their updates:

- 1) At the January meeting we introduced a slogan that had been adapted from one written by Penelope LaMontagne, **“One mountain, one river, one community”**. We had group work that provided fodder for the creation of a FMA mission statement. The end result will be introduced at our July 12th BBQ/Meeting.
- 2) We all are aware of the push to “go paperless” and “be green”. The newsletters will now be available on line and will no longer go out in a mass mailing. If you are without access to a computer/printer, please contact me at [ann-and-laura@comcast.net](mailto:ann-and-laura@comcast.net) to arrange for a copy.
- 3) The January meeting included votes on by-laws revisions. The reasons were to tweak specifics to allow some flexibility for the board and to vote on a dues increase. Please remember the renewal rate is \$20 dollars per voting member and can be mailed in or collected at the July 12th meeting.
- 4) We are creating a blast e-mail list to allow quick dissemination of items of concern to the mountain. Please sign up! The e-mail addresses are not revealed with the blast messages.
- 5) An election committee headed by Don McEnhill is working on streamlining the election process and will be in place for our June 2010 elections.

6) The officer's and trustees had hoped to put on an organized Ludwigia clean-up with instruction from Fish and Game or the State Water Board. The current state budget is not allowing for that. The recommendation was to rake it up on the beach and allow it to dry out. There are also concerns that if not done correctly, you actually do more harm than good. Perhaps an organized trash pick-up or brush clean-up on the gravel portion of Riverview Drive might be a more feasible community service project. I will have a suggestion box at the BBQ.

Let us all remember that although we are separate individuals, together we make the community we live in. Let us be respectful of other's property and have concern for each other's safety. It is frustrating when the law is flouted by those without care. It is important that we all be aware and call the appropriate agencies when necessary. We have fire and law enforcement numbers posted in this newsletter. USE THEM!

I look forward to seeing you all on July 12th for a BBQ/picnic celebrating the 30th anniversary of the organization.

Laura Rodriguez

Skipping School  
@Penelope La Montagne

A young boy bends down to scoop up a smooth flat rock.  
As he crunches across the moist gravel of the receding river,  
his eye falls on another; the treasure hunt begins.  
When he's collected a stack that rests easily in his open hand,  
he fans the flat disks like a seasoned poker player, and fixes his  
gaze on the river shimmering by.  
He feels the adventure of its moving to places unknown  
and nudges his toes into the wet to be part of it.  
Wrapping his thumb and forefinger  
'round the perimeter of the rock, he charts a trajectory with his  
eyes,  
lowers his shoulder, cocks his arm back and at just the right  
moment, lets fly, his wrist whipping into the release.  
The rock launches low and level against the opposing water.  
Once, twice, it skims the surface, then flips over and buries  
itself in the flow.  
The boy takes another rock and prepares in just the same way.  
One after another they go—some sailing, others sinking.

When he's down to his last poker chip, he focuses on a fallen  
cottonwood branch on the distant bank where turtles sunbathe  
in the afternoon,  
and he propels the rock out over the curve of the earth.  
A small benediction goes with it into the air this time.  
It sails true, dipping to sample the water,  
rising again over and over, with lightening choreography,  
dazzling the fish who watch in wonder from below.  
With a crack, it meets the log  
and settles into the sediment...no glory for its feat.  
Ah, but the boy leaves the riverbank triumphant.

Years later, in the hallowed halls  
far from the scent of sweet water,  
a young man struggles to grasp the principle  
that made the stone spin and rise,  
spin and rise...and promptly forgets it again.  
But the knowing body still holds the boys who defied gravity  
through the power of his pure intention.  
Even a small river can be a great teacher.



The poem is printed with permission from Penelope. It appears in her book: *River Shoes*. Check your local bookstores to find a copy.

There is not another person who captures the essence and joy of living alongside the river like she does.

Penelope is poet laureate emeritus of Healdsburg and former trustee of the association. She now serves on the Del Rio Wood Recreation and Parks District.

**Neighborhood Watch-Sheriff's Bulletin Board**  
For many years now folks on Fitch Mountain have had an informal *Neighborhood Watch* established. In pure practice it is the idea that we observe what is happening around us and communicate events like break-ins, or suspicious behavior. It is a telephone call, or a quick e-mail to those around us. It may be a request by a neighbor to look after their home when they are away on a trip.

Community Officer, Jennifer Abrao, spoke to us about the electronic bulletin board offered by the Sonoma County Sheriff's office.

Some among us felt it conveyed an atmosphere of "Big Brother" exposing participants to the watchful eye of law enforcement to a degree not necessary. Others were concerned about identify theft, exposure of an e-mail address. Still others recognized a situation which could quickly become a complaint board that may target a neighbor with libelous statements. As the sponsoring association it could create legal problems for us.

What we have in effect now is a "blast list" to members who have given their e-mail addresses to our secretary. Communications are sent using blind carbon copy, protecting the e-mail address from other recipients. So we have come to the conclusion to continue using this messaging method. "If it ain't broke...don't fix it!"

We encourage you to continue looking after the area and your neighbor. If there is some urgent message or warning that needs dispensing to the entire Fitch Mountain area we urge you to send that message to Ellen Silge by phone or e-mail. [ellensilge@yahoo.com](mailto:ellensilge@yahoo.com)



Add your e-mail to our list!



The area remains true to its design: We have changed

Surrounded by the City of Healdsburg, we are an “Island” called Fitch Mountain. As a Sonoma County unincorporated area, we are dependent on both state (CHP) and local services (Sheriff) for traffic control and law enforcement.

Healdsburg is a popular “destination” garnering high praise and frequent traveler reviews on sites, *Fodors, USA TODAY*, and *The New York Times*. How many visit the Fitch Mountain area? How many are visitors from other areas of the county?

The collection of ads on the opposite page reveals ads from the 1900’s when travel was arduous- made by ferry and train to reach this area.

An internet search for vacation homes will yield many such offerings here on Fitch Mountain emphasizing the quick access to the river and river views. Some of these listings clearly state that TOTs are to be paid and those go into the county coffers. Visitors from all over the world come in large numbers and enrich the city/county coffers by sales and transit occupancy taxes. **Healdsburg dedicates a percentage of those taxes to support fire and law enforcement.**

**The county of Sonoma states this about the TOT. The Transient Occupancy Tax (Hotel, Motel, Campground or Bed Tax) is authorized under State Revenue and Taxation Code Section 7280, as an additional source of non-property tax revenue to local government. This tax is levied in Sonoma County at a rate of 9% for accommodations at lodging and camping facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County. TOT funds are discretionary, in that the Board of Supervisors may direct use of these funds for any legitimate county expense. The tax code does not require any specific use of the Transient Occupancy Tax (T.O.T.) Funds.”**

*The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has established a policy that the funds raised from this tax will be used, in part, to finance advertising and promotional activities in Sonoma County.*

There is no way to ascertain the numbers of visitors here with an official tally. We feel and view the visitor impact by the amount of traffic, the illegal parking.

Our history shows frequent contact with the law enforcement agencies, soliciting help for speeding traffic/parking/road problems. Those who can’t find parking squeeze into areas along the road. In some cases illegal parking is as a result of inadequate parking for guests of residents.

Communications with these agencies are helpful, but are met with the argument of limited personnel/funding and other roads/area priorities. Since there is a state/county budget crisis, we can assume the situation will not get better soon.

Memorial Day weekend is a case in point. We did contact CHP for extra drive throughs, hoping to keep the road passable for emergency vehicles. One member, Doug Johnson, wrote directly to Supervisor Kelley asking for more support.

Historical research reveals that the first road was cut to go to the Camp Rose area in 1905, three years before the Model T. The road needed only to accommodate horse and buggy in the beginning. The road became public in 1921. Later, the road extended completely around the mountain. The first subdivisions were developed offering narrow lots which in many cases did not allow for space for garages or parking. (see opposite page)

So we have here a problem inherent in the designs of the subdivisions and the road versus 21st century traffic and increased county populations. Most importantly the area has transformed from summer homes to year round homes.

Additionally, we have a public recreation district in our midst. It offers only 20 spaces for parking. Physical limitations don’t allow for expansion of parking. Canoeist and kayakers no longer terminate their journey at the Del Rio beach. But the river trip is certainly an introduction of the area. Perhaps it is a stimulant to return.

Can we expect increased visitors with the threat of state parks closing? Past history has shown an increase in visitors here when Memorial Beach is closed. Solutions are not easily found. As an association we can promise a continued communication with all agencies.

In the meantime, remember that statistics count! You MUST call CHP and the sheriff to report the situation. **Service goes to the squeaky wheel!**

Donita Proctor



Photo courtesy: Healdsburg Fire Department

By NATHAN HALVERSON,  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Published: Sunday, May 17, 2009

The CHP is investigating a hit-and-run crash on Saturday evening outside of Healdsburg that led to a Chevrolet SUV bursting into flames and the driver running away.

The driver reportedly hit another vehicle coming in the opposite direction on [South] Fitch Mountain Road at about 7:40 p.m. Saturday and instead of stopping sped off.

The suspect accelerated into a blind curve, lost control and crashed through the guardrail and into a tree, according to witnesses. A couple of minutes later the vehicle burst into flames.

The suspect was seen fleeing the vehicle, and some witnesses reported he suffered facial injuries. The CHP said it was still looking for the suspect.

Healdsburg firefighters extinguished the fire.

*Note: This could have been more tragic had the entire mountain caught fire.*

*We give a hearty THANK YOU to the crews of Healdsburg Fire Department and Calfire.*

*In the past month they have responded to this accident, downed high voltage electrical wire, and illegal fireworks being used on the beach in the vicinity of 2600 North Fitch Mtn. Road. Sadly there was a call for an injured 18 year old at Redwood Dr.*

**Excerpts from The Road, The River, The Weekend Press Democrat article May 20, 2009**

**“The economy’s bad, where are they going to go? They stay close to home,” Baxman said....”**

“I can’t really say that one weekend’s busier than the other,” he said. On the highways, holidays tend to see more problems, however, and the CHP this weekend will be looking to hand out tickets or tow cars of people parked illegally along the river, said Officer Jon Sloat.

A hit-and-run on Fitch Mountain Road in Healdsburg last weekend emphasized the ongoing trouble between river-goers looking for access to the water and frustrated residents who already contend with limited parking. The illegal parking has led to blocked or partially blocked roadways, and that’s also a problem for emergency vehicles, should a call occur, Sloat said.

Still, it’s the danger of the surf and river that can pose the biggest problems....

Northern said his firefighters are called to the [Hacienda] bridge or to the river for rope swing injuries several times a summer. They expect to have one or two calls each year involving someone who becomes paralyzed because of their injuries.

**CHP: (707- 551-4100)**

**Sheriff: (707-521-6565)**

**Healdsburg Police: (707- 431-3366)**

**OFFICERS:2008-2010**  
**LAURA RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT**  
**COLIN JOY, VICE PRESIDENT**  
**ELLEN SILGE, SECRETARY**  
**MARY ANN MURRAY, TREASURER**

## Fire Protection update

The Chipper program deadline has been extended by Healdsburg Fire Department closing June 30,2009.

The department is co-sponsoring the services through FireSafe Sonoma, Fire Safe Fitch. It is a quick and easy way to dispose of materials you have cut while creating a defensible space around your property. **IT IS A FREE SERVICE.** You must make an appointment for this service through contacting [firesafefitch@yahoo.com](mailto:firesafefitch@yahoo.com) or Sonoma County Emergency Services staff person Caereleon Safford at [csafford@mcn.org](mailto:csafford@mcn.org).

We have contacted CALFIRE Battalion Chief Kim Thompson and Healdsburg Fire Chief Randy Collins regarding budget impacts.

Chief Collins reports that he must submit a balanced budget and is expecting a reduction of staff.

Chief Thompson reports the following:

“Here is the perspective on the State Budget and its impact on CALFIRE.

So far, it has not had an impact on firefighting resources.

Matter of fact, in May, Governor Schwarzenegger signed an executive order increasing our firefighting forces for the summer.

The order added one additional firefighter per fire engine starting July 1.

This will bump up the staffing of a CALFIRE engine from 3 to 4 personnel (an executive order was signed last year with the same wording and results). As far as response to Fitch Mtn. CALFIRE’s response will be the same as last:

year—6 engines, 2 dozers, 1 helicopter, 2 air tankers 2 Fire Crews and a Battalion Chief.’

## Communication from members:

“I had a couple of thoughts after I read the message about the parking and speeding problems on the mountain. Last year Deputy Quacchia suggested that we contact the Healdsburg Police Department to notify them that they should watch for beach revelers leaving the mountain (probably between about 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) on both the South/North ends of the road. He said that they get incentives for catching drunk drivers, and we certainly have some of those speeding off the mountain during that time. I did see a p/u truck with about 10-12 people piled in the back with beers in hand a few weeks ago and called HPD. The woman was very interested and sympathetic, however it was the day of the Twilight Parade and all police were busy with that. But she did understand the problem and would be open to listening to us.

Sounds like someone has talked to the CHP. I do hope they patrol more because I sure see a lot of people parking where it says “No Parking (Begin)” - on the bridge on the south end, going up Madrone and last weekend at the end of Redwood Drive I saw 5 cars parked in a “No Parking” zone. Also, as always, folks aren’t parking all the way off of the pavement and blocking up to half of one of the lanes of traffic - and often on a curve.”

## About the dogs on the beach

“Last on my list is people letting their dogs run free on the beach and not picking up after them. I know of several residents who do this, and at the least, the residents should be picking up after their dogs. Of course, I realize that we don’t have control over visitors to the beach.”

## Member Louisa Yates wrote to us about the paralyzed youth:

“I would like to suggest that the Fitch Mountain Association take a role in raising funds to try to help. This could mean sponsoring a fund raising event, or just collecting contributions from members. I am sure a lot of us will be contributing anyway, and I think it might be helpful to have the FMA involved in this effort.”

Photos of the Del Rio Woods summer dam from the family album of Don McEnhill, Trustee

Top: 1950-Spillway

Middle: 1937: Diving platform

Bottom: 1940: Moe's Hole

## Memories of Del Rio Dam:John McEnhill

“The original Del Rio Dam (which was twice as wide as the present one), collapsed in the summer of 1944. It had been put up each year by the Del Rio Woods Homeowners Association, a volunteer organization. All the Del Rio Homeowners would voluntarily contribute money to raise the dam. The list of contributors was posted at the front entrance to Palomar. Bud Schwarz, with his kids, and some of us, would raise the dam and put in the diving platform at Del Rio Beach. When the dam collapsed, Kenny Schwarz and I, with Bud’s direction, took down the remainder of the dam. It was evident that the structure could not be rebuilt. All of us spent the rest of the summer hiking to Eagle Rock beach and swimming there.

This is when the Del Rio Woods Recreation District was formed. I don’t know the details of how it got formed but before the summer of 1945 some county agency(Corp. of Engineers) supervised the construction of the present dam. I remember seeing huge piledrivers pounding in the metal walls of the spillway and the wooden posts.”



## Del Rio Dam Update By Al Pucci

On April 28, 2009 a sub committee of the Del Rio Recreation and Park District (District), President Don King and yours truly, met at the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) offices in Windsor to discuss the status of the District's permit applications submitted in December of 2008 to the various regulatory agencies. Present at the meeting, from the regulatory agencies, were representatives from the RWQCB, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In addition to the representatives from the regulatory agencies, representatives from Congressman Thompson's office, Senator Wiggins' office, Assemblyman Chesbro's office, and the District's civil engineer (involved in the design and construction of the dam) and environmental planner (involved in the environmental impact report – EIR) were also in attendance.

Why so many individuals representing so many agencies in one room? Whenever several entities have regulatory authority over one project it is extremely difficult at best, and almost impossible at worst, to coordinate the tasks at hand. The District found itself mired in the bureaucracy of the many agencies and, quite frankly, was not making satisfactory strides to meet its goal of obtaining the necessary permits to proceed with the construction of the summer dam.

As a result of the April 8 meeting the District will resubmit all of the studies it has undertaken over the past several years, together with yet another biological study, to the various agencies. Once the agencies have reviewed the studies, the District will receive definitive responses, as was agreed to at the meeting, regarding additional conditions, if any, that must be met in order to obtain the necessary permits.

A good example for the reason why the District needs a definitive list of problem areas, if any, is the probable, not possible, requirement of a fish ladder at the Del Rio dam. This requirement

was stated by the supervising representative of the DFG. This notwithstanding the fact that the Memorial Beach Dam's fish ladder is not functional when the dam is up and hence any fish migration stops at Memorial Beach. The requirement of a fish ladder was never communicated to any member of the District, either in writing or orally, before the April 8 meeting.

For those of you who would like to see construction begin this summer, I wish I could say it will, but I can't. We'll have to wait for the results of the District's next submission of documents to the agencies. Once the District receives an affirmative response or a definitive list of conditions to be met, a realistic timeline can be set. In the mean time, the Del Rio Beach area will be operated as it has been since the last time the dam was in place.



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

**As you celebrate the holiday, please remember that fireworks are illegal in Sonoma County!**

Some people assume that the beach is a safe place to use fireworks. That is not true as we have entered into the fire season as of June 1, 2009.

Randy Collins, Fire Chief Healdsburg, has advised us to keep our eyes open and to pin-point the location of fireworks being used before reporting it to law enforcement.

We encourage you to go to the American Legion show at Healdsburg High School.

## Highlights of association history

Year	Organization	Event	Public Agency	Persons/Outcome
June 22 1973	Camp Rose Conservation	established club	mountain residents	
1-Aug-1973	2nd Annual Tube Race	club members		
4-Jul-1973	Traffic Count	So. Co. Public Works	2,183 cars	
1-Jul-1973	Rummage Sale	nets \$150.00	club	club members
1-Jul-1973	drowning person	saved	club	Robert Hager
1-Jul-1973	House fire	California Dept. Forestry	neighbors helped	
1-Jul-1973	petition to keep CDF/Lytton open	California Dept. Forestry	132 residents signed	
1-Nov-1973	voted Measure B fire protection	on ballots	So. Co. emergency service/CDF	passed .35 per \$100.00 assessed value

**5-Dec-1975 Fitch Mountain Association Name change to Fitch Mtn. Assoc none by member vote**

1-Jul-1975	So. Co Public Works	fire road access		
1-Jul-1975	K-rails placed on ends of Fitch Mtn Road	So.Co. Public Works	road safety/car accidents	
1-Dec-1975	discuss incorporation/association	Secretary of State	begin process	
12-Jan-1975	special mtg discuss Centennial Committee findings	outlined finding/depts	met with	
Public Works, Sups, officers of assoc.	Letter to Board of Supervisor Johnson		help to establish independent fire district	
15-Oct-1975	Press release CSA24 formation	Fitch Mtn. Association		
Nov.23, 1976	So.Co.Election CSA24	Fitch Mtn. residents	passed 63.9% yes vote	
23-Nov-1976	Establish Water, Sewer, Fire Committee	Lafco, Board of Supervisors		
Centennial Committee				
23-11-1976	CDF/Lytton Closed winter	CDF		
26-11-1976	1st discussion with Toomey		to discuss transfer of water system to CSA24	
summer 1977	low water flow advisory	North Coast Water Quality Bd	members water conservation	
1-Oct-1977	Meeting HFD Relyea	Healdsburg Fire Dept	explore fire contract with City with Council	
August 6,1978	Camp Rose Rd is officially a fire access road	So. Co. Public Works	needed for equipment turn around	
1-Aug-1978	Beach Nudity: Press Coverage	Camp Rose Beach	bay area t.v./Alice Hinton	
March, 1978	Fire Contract established	Healdsburg Fire Dept	under auspices of So. Co Emergency Service	
25-Jan-1979	Del Rio H.A	notifies members of disassembly	Del Rio Homeowners members join FMA	
1-Jul-1979	Fitch Mountain Association	incorporated	Secretary of State	
first Board of Trustee appointed				
1-Jan-1980	water service upgrade	CSA# 24	reduction in insurance for homeowners	
2-1-1981`	severe mud/water problem	Del Rio Rd.	So.Co. Public Works	request for repair/discussion/public/private road
1-Feb-1981	report of suds in river:Redwood Dr.	So.Co.Health Dept	check result of algae/not pollution	
7-May-1981	Healdsburg bus service to Fitch Mtn.	City of Healdsburg	weekends/during school vacation	
7-Jul-1981	complaints Del Rio beach	DRWRPD	reported to DRWRPD	
9-Aug-1981	liability insurance	City of Healdsburg	for meeting City of Healdsburg	18.00 for six months
10-Feb-1982	no road for public access to beach	So.Co.Public Works	road by store is public though not accepted or maintained by county	
10-Feb-1982	drainage problem	Del Rio Road	DRWRPD	has fund to install culvert after dam install
1-Aug-1982	five year contract for fire=HFD		summary report	
1-Aug-1982	purchase fire truck-CSA24	CSA#24	Healdsburg Fire Dept	
1-Aug-1982	installation five fire hydrants	Fitch Mountain Water Co.		

1-Aug-1982 started Neighborhood Watch Fitch Mountain Association  
 23-4-1983 Road clean-up, pancake breakfast Fitch Mountain Association bags to Camp Rose Inn  
 July 28, 1983 debris removal/winter slides So. Co. Public Works request of association  
 July, 1983 sought relief flooding at Del Rio CSA# 24-\$18,000-20,000  
 request for drainage culverts/fire road access  
 1-Jul-1983 donation from Pacific Sanitary garbage bins Camp Rose Beach officers of assoc.  
 1-Jul-1983 road cave in Riverview Dr. So. Co. Public Works promised to repair soon  
 1-Jul-1983 CPR Classes at HFD Healdsburg Fire Dept 8 people took classes  
 6-Nov-1983 purchased disaster planning kits Healdsburg Fire Dept Fire Chief Handley/association  
 \$500.00  
 16/6/1983 established tow-away zones Board of Supervisors request of association  
 3-Jun-1983 Sphere of Influence meeting Ed German City of Healdsburg  
     51% of residents Fitch mtn voted no  
 6-Mar-1983 Sphere of Influence meeting Ratchford Atty: Wil Johnson request support support sphere  
 1-Jul-1983 expansion of bus service to Fitch Mtn. City of Healdsburg association/finance  
 director, Fire Chief  
 8-Jul-1983 City places Fitch Mtn in Sphere City of Healdsburg on LAFCO recommendation  
 7-Jul-1983 purchased emergency # Stickers Fitch Mountain Association given to all members  
 12-Aug-1983 Appreciation Dinner Sups, Toomey, Public Works held at Camp Rose Inn  
 1-Feb-1984 mtg Corp of Engineers Esposti, Rio Linda Academy solutions erosion Redwood Dr.  
 1-Feb-1984 lead fight in river reductions Fitch Mountain Association /Mulgrew  
     explore joining 22 other protestants  
 1-Jan-1984 repair N. Fitch Mtn Rd, near Scenic So. Co. Public Works request of association  
 1-Jun-1984 invited P.D. to attend meeting Press Democrat bring attention to violence at Camp Rose  
 Beach  
 2-Oct-1984 Fma joined Russian River Water Rights Protective Association RRWRPA objective to  
 fight river flow reductions  
 18-12-1984 So. Co. resolution upgrade water system Board of Supervisors  
 17-6-1985 Request County get grants/loans water system So. Co Public Works  
     request of association  
 13-12-1985 Economic Survey of Fitch Mtn. residents qualification for state loans  
     request of association  
 3-Aug-1985 support fight water diversion Russian River Protection Fitch Mtn personal donations  
 \$836.00  
 4-Feb-1985 feasibility Winzler-Kelly water system Board of Supervisors request of association  
 5-Jan-1986 meeting with engineers, Esposti Winzler/Kelly/Esposti Sup.  
     details to be discussed in plan  
 1-Jan-1986 Petition to buy water system Board of Supervisors meet with Toomey  
 250 signatures on petition to Sups  
 1-Jan-1986 Flood damage SBA 2 homes disqualified CSA 24 verification team to review  
 8-Jun-1986 Decision 1610 Water Quality Control Board maintain 185cfs flows-VICTORY  
 19-Sep-1987 Annual cleanup/dam party bring your own bags Potluck meal  
 1-Sep-1987 Riverview Dr. being used a trash dump So. Co. Public Works write letter to dept head  
 1-Oct-1987 HPD asking for police protection Esposti declares no money adding police coverage will  
 have to be on ballot and take two years per Esposti  
 11-Dec-1986 Negative declaration So. Co. Health Dept develop water system CSA 24  
 9-Mar-1986 1st dam "busting party" DRWRPD Fitch mtn residents  
 Nov 11-1987 State loan/grants \$2,354,000 Fitch Mtn. Water Co. loaned at 3.5%  
 1-Oct-1987 Ann Devinchenzi resigns as advisor CSA#24 10.5 years of service on the CSA  
 1-Jan-1988 inquiry of Toomey FM Water Co. City of Healdsburg hookup report the status of the tie-in

1-Jan-1988 request for 5,000,000 liability ins HFD, Chief Handley county will not provide the ins  
 1-Apr-1988 water mtg to discuss purchase of system CSA 24 County will notice all residents  
 1-Apr-1988 legal debts \$28,000 Russian River Water Protection suit will solict more donations  
 1-Apr-1988 CSA advisory cmt.negotiating new fire contrat Healdsburg Fire Dept/CSA24 3 yrs-\$12,200each  
 Aug 12 1988 Fitch Mountain Association filed complaint CWQCB California Water Quality Control  
 Mendocino exceeding water use  
 2-Nov-1989 Fitch Mtn Water system 95% complete  
 29-Aug-1989 Fitch Mountain Association Groundbreaking for rehab water sytem CSA 24  
 \$130,000 to owner Toomey  
 August6 1989 Del Rio Court Road paved CSA 24 complaint stopped short of 6 houses  
 3-Sep-1989 homeowners insurance rating 5 Insurance rating bureau result of upgraded water system/  
 hydrants  
 3-Sep-1989 FMC water rights loaned to Healdsburg 50 year contract  
 Nov 2,1989 \$140,000 change order Co.Sonoma/CSA24 road resurface,more fire hydrants  
 June 6,1990 Del Rio well is too shallow So.Co. Health Dept suggest hookup with Healdsburg-\$250,000  
 27-Jun-1990 CSA 24 Advisor Mulgrew protest was not consulted about hookup with Healdsburg So. Co.  
 Public Works final unauthorized cost \$240,000  
 1-Mar-1991 CSA 24 FHLA of \$225,000 added to contract Fitch Mountain Water Co. secured by Nick Esposti  
 26-Apr-1991 CSA 24 loan repayment set \$340. annual Sonoma County Assessor Debt service on loan  
 26-Apr-1991 So. Co. Puplic Works Del Rio well is unsuitable Fitch Mountain Water Co.  
 Water rights transferred to County  
 Year Organization Event Public Agency Person/Outcome  
 1-Dec-1993 Fitch Mountain Association CSA advisory approves contract Russian River Utility maintain  
 the system/read meters  
 may 1 1994 Fitch Mountain Water Co. new telemetry and Scada sytstem CSA24improvement/maintenance  
 1-May-1994 Fitch Mountain Water Co. main input line feeding Fitch Mtn CSA24will be replaced  
 1-Jun-1994 Fitch Mountain Association special mtg public official CHP/Traffic/Open Space  
 discuss more no parking-towaway  
 1-Jun-1994 Memorial Beach opens Memorial Day DRWRP opens June 7 adding police coverage have to be  
 on ballot and take advising residents of more traffic/  
 1-Sep-1994 no parking signs on Rio Linda Ave So Co Public works request of association  
 Summer 1994 Fitch Mountain Association split cost of deputies/DRWPRD So Co Sheriff 3 days six hour  
 shifts:association/donations  
 Fitch Mountain Association deputy cost \$954.14 donations=\$700.00  
 1-Aug-1994 Sonoma County Open Space District acquires 182 acres Forever Wild Ratchford property  
 Cost:  
 July 27,1994 Sonoma County Open Space District Press article on buying 180 acres Fitch Mtn article protection  
 from developers  
 1-Aug-1994 CSA24-changes to CSA41 advisors phased out(gov.reorganization) officers of association will  
 monitor  
 1-Nov-1994 Guest lecturer Friends of the Russian River co-founder  
 Jan. 1995 FLOOD OF 1995 Impact on entire county erosions problems, flooding Fitch Mtn.  
 5-Mar-1995 Riverview Drive youths, garbage, loud music will contact the county  
 July 2,1995 CHP/radar patrolling mtn CHP  
 July 2,1995 So.Co. Sheriff here May 24th Cost of deputy 350.00 a day  
 2-Jul-1995 Riverview Drive closed to winter damage/discussion private/public road  
 2-Jul-1995 Redwood Drive residents have spent \$100,000 due to erosion from flooding  
 3-Sep-1995 Redwood Drive residents restoring river access at end of road  
 2-Sep-1995 Camp Rose subdivsion Neighborhood watch formed  
 invite to be part of Fitch Mountain Association committee  
 3-Mar-1995 Fitch Mountain Association newsletter production \$525.00

3-Mar-1995	Erosion,half bridge F.Mtn.Rd.	Euphrat predicted collapse	
3-Mar-1995	Riverview Drive	Euphrat says culvert should be pulled/replaced	
2-May-1999	Fitch Mountain Association	Revival of association;Moore/Seventy/Morril	last mtg
11/3/1996			
2-May-99	Speaker Paul Kelley	bridge/viaduct-repair Fall	
1-Aug-99	CHP Cox	gave report on traffic problem/solutions	
1-Aug-1999	Bylaw committee formed	committee will make recommendation	
	Traffic committee	bridge repairs week after Labor Day	
18-May-2001	\$54,944. in kind grant urban fire interface	fire inspections/training/chippers	
8-Jul-2001	Massive slide on North F.Mtn.Rd	k-rails installed	
2-Jul-2000	Introduction of trustees	new bylaws approved	
2-Jul-2000	Fire education CalFire HFD		
14-Jan-2001	So.Co. Permits Resource speaker	answered questions buildings/septic tanks	
2-Mar-2002	So.Co.Water agency presenters	Potter Valley/water rights discussion	
July 7,2002	Healdsburg Mutual response team	fire ed/emergency escape plans	
July 7,2002	RiverKeeper-McEnhill	explained Friends of Russian River activities	
7-Jul-2002	King, DDRWPRD	no taxing power since Prop 13-dam status	
12-Jan-2003	Joint mtg:DRWPRD	public forumn/dam	
22-Mar-2003	Forever Wild Easement purchased	Franz, LTD-\$2.6 Million	
July 8,2003	Cluster mailboxes-vandalism		
January 8,2004	Franz, LTD: Ed Wilson	plans of the group who bought the top of the mountain.	
January 8,2004	Curtis Assoc.	discuss septic systems	
July 18,2004	Marta Williams/community	septic systems how to set up sewer districts	
16-Jan-2005	J. Murray-DRWRPD	status of dam	
5-Apr-2005	Leadership workshop	Water strategies Proctor,Murray, Pucci	
3-Jul-2005	Lilly Verdone,Laguna Foundation	history Ludwidgia/removal techs	
2-Jul-2006	Kim Batchelder/Open Space District	Healdsburg Ridge Open Space	
Jan.14 2007	Circuit Riders presentation	disposal invasive species	
Jan. 14, 2007	RiverKeeper-McEnhill	Santa Rosa sewage into river	
8-Jul-2007	Healdsburg Tribune-Dugan	water issues history	
20-Jan-2008	Wilson-DFG	impact of dam on the river	

**NOTE: These are highlights of association activities taken from 36 years of records-minutes, agendas, committee notes, newspaper articles. In some cases the dates are defaulted to the first of the month if the exact date could not be found. You will note that the association was incorporated and recognized by the State of California in 1979. We are fortunate that the recording keeping of the association is so very thorough. This history charts many years of civic activity in working with many Federal/State/County/City agencies.**

**Report any errors to: donitaproc@comcast.net**

**We can proudly say:THIS IS WHAT WE DO!**

**Many of the original founders have passed on, leaving a rich legacy of advocacy on behalf of our community.**

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”  
Margaret Mead

## INTRODUCTION

Fitch Mountain is one of Healdsburg's greatest natural assets, but it also presents a significant fire danger to the area. In 1995, the state of California designated it as a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. To protect lives and property, the Healdsburg Fire Department, along with CAL Fire and the County of Sonoma, are working together to enhance your fire protection.



A Mutual Threat Zone has been established, that automatically dispatches up to 10 fire engines, along with a helicopter, air tankers and bulldozers in the event of a fire, depending on fire weather conditions.

The agencies also worked on a brush removal and chipping program, construction and maintenance of fire breaks, residential fire inspections, and yearly education programs. These activities are effective, but even the most aggressive program will fail without your help. This brochure outlines the nine most effective things you can do to protect your life and property in a wildfire.

## 1. DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Sweep your roof clear of debris, cut away branches that hang over buildings, stack woodpiles away from buildings, mow dry grass or weeds at least 100 feet or more if on a slope, around your home, and cut the lowest limbs on trees at least to 6 feet, to prevent a ground fire from traveling into the tree canopy.

## 2. AN ESCAPE PLAN

Map the route from your home to a safe place off the mountain, and talk to family members about what to do in a fire. If you don't have a friend or relative to stay with, Healdsburg Boys & Girls Club will be a designated emergency shelter. To facilitate evacuation and allow access for fire apparatus in an emergency, Fitch Mountain Road could temporarily become a oneway road. If a fire starts on the south side of the mountain, you may be asked to evacuate on the north side ... and vice-versa.

## 3. ANIMAL EVACUATION PLAN

During the 2003 fires in San Diego County, several people died while searching for pets that had been left behind. Have a plan ready to evacuate your critters.

## 4. MAKE A LIST

Work with your family to make a list of what to bring along in an evacuation. The biggest regret of most fire victims? They didn't grab photos, scrapbooks, or computer hard drives.

## 5. DON'T WAIT – EVACUATE

Immediately evacuate when advised to by police or fire personnel. Wildfires move fast, especially in a thickly-vegetated area like Fitch Mountain. The narrow roads and limited access increase the risks in a fire. Do not hesitate to evacuate!

## 6. A SAFETY ZONE

If your escape route is cut off by fire, find a place to retreat that won't burn as much, such as a clearing. Although a fire may burn your home, it may offer temporary shelter as the main fire passes. If that happens, watch carefully, stay calm and leave the house once the fire front passes, but before your home becomes fully involved and you are trapped inside.

## 7. GET INVOLVED

Fire departments welcome participation from neighborhood groups and associations to develop fire safety plans and programs

# **FIRE SAFETY ON FITCH MOUNTAIN AND HIGH FIRE SEVERITY ZONES**

## **8. MARK YOUR HOME**

Too frequently, emergency responders have trouble finding homes in rural areas, because a road or address is not clearly marked. Make sure we can find you! We recommend a sign at the base of your driveway, with reflective markings at least four inches high. We also recommend illuminated address numbers on the front of your home, clearly visible from the street.

## **9. KEEP ROADS CLEAR**

The roads on Fitch Mountain are narrow and not well-suited for fire trucks. One poorly parked or disable vehicle can block access to half the mountain, preventing emergency vehicles from getting in and residents from getting out. If you see a vehicle blocking the road, ask your neighbor to move it right away. If that doesn't work, call the Healdsburg Police Department at 433-3377.

In an emergency call 911  
From cell phones, call 431-3366  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Healdsburg Fire Department  
431-3360 [www.cityofhealdsburg.org](http://www.cityofhealdsburg.org)  
CAL Fire 433-2020  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)  
Fire Safe Sonoma 565-1152  
[www.firesafesonoma.org](http://www.firesafesonoma.org)  
[www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org)

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The 2003 wildfires in Southern California resulted in the following:**

- 24 fatalities
- 3,631 homes destroyed
- 1,169 outbuildings burned
- 739,597 acres burned
- 500-plus farms and \$40 million in agricultural products lost
- 15,631 fire personnel deployed
- \$4 billion in damages

**The Governor's Report on the 2003 fires** stated that fuel management (removal and thinning of brush) is one of the most effective ways to minimize wildland fire hazards.

**Ironically, a June 2003 report from the General Accounting Office found that 69% of all fuel management activities were stalled by legal action.**

**You are strongly encouraged to minimize fuel on your property.**

- **Cut dry grass and weeds each year.**
- **Remove brush within 100 feet of your home and thin others.**
- **Replace flammable vegetation with fire resistant species.**
- **Remove brush 10 feet on both sides of your driveway, to improve emergency vehicle access.**
- **Remove all ladder fuels up to 6 feet or more, including dead and dried vegetation.**

## **Note:**

**This is a replication of material created by HFD for your convenience. You may download the actual document from the HFD site.**

<http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/index.aspx?page=425>

The brochure is located in the second paragraph. Also available is the chipper application.