

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION**

**MEETING AGENDA  
Thursday, 28 August 2014  
Regular Meeting – 3:30 p.m.**

City Hall, Council Chambers  
East side of Monte Verde St. between Ocean & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues  
Carmel, California

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

COMMISSION MEMBERS:           DAVID REFUERZO - CHAIR  
  KAREN FERLITO  
  KATHY BANG  
  MICHAEL CARTER

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPEARANCES**

Anyone wishing to address the Commission on matters within the jurisdiction of the City and not on the agenda may do so now. Matters not appearing on the Commission's agenda will not receive action at this meeting but may be referred to staff for a future meeting. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise established by the Commission. **Persons are not required to give their names, but it is helpful for speakers to clearly state their full names in order that the Secretary may identify them in the minutes of the meeting.** Always speak into the microphone, as the meeting is recorded. The City Council Chambers is equipped with a portable microphone for anyone unable to come to the podium. Assisted listening devices are available upon request of the Secretary. If you need assistance, please advise the Secretary as to which item you would like to comment on and the microphone will be brought to you.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

These matters include routine administrative actions, which are usually approved by a single majority vote. Individual items may be removed from Consent by a member of the Council or the public for discussion and action.

1. Consideration of the minutes for the 10 July 2014 regular meeting. Page 1.

**ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

3. Receive and discuss the report from the ad hoc Beach Fires Committee. Page 10.
4. Review of the 2014-15 Street Projects. Page 25.

## **REPORTS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS**

5. Receive the July 2014 report from the Ad Hoc Beach Committee. No page.
  
6. Forester's report No page.
  - A. July tree data – distributed at the meeting.
  - B. Project updates.
  - C. Parks activities.
  - D. Beach activities.
  
7. Public Services Director comments. No page.
  - A. Project Status.
  - B. Update of Council Items.
  - C. Future Agenda Items.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Forest and Beach Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Planning and Building Department located at City Hall, on Monte Verde between Ocean and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues during normal business hours.

If there is not a special meeting, the next regular meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission will be:

11 September 2014  
Tour of Inspection – as required  
3:30 p.m. - Regular Agenda

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Telecommunication's Device for the Deaf /Speech Impaired (TDD) number is 1-800-735-2929.

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, July 10, 2014  
Regular Meeting 3:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR TOUR OF INSPECTION**

**PRESENT:** Commission Members Ferlito, Refuerzo, Bang, Carter  
**ABSENT:** None  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Branson, City Forester

**ROLL CALL FOR THE REGULAR MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Karen Ferlito  
David Refuerzo  
Michael Carter  
Kathy Bang

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Branson, City Forester  
Sharon Friedrichsen, Public Services Director  
Chief Mike Calhoun, Public Safety Chief  
Paul Tomasi, Police Commander

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Members of the audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPEARANCES**

No appearances.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Item #2 was pulled for review of the August meeting date due to "Car Week".

1. Consideration of the minutes for the 12 June 2014 regular meeting and the 25 June 2014 special meeting.

Commissioner Ferlito commented that when questions are asked during public appearances, the answer should be included in the minutes. She also identified a couple of typographical errors on page 8 and asked for clarification of the event center action.

It was moved by BANG to approve the minutes for the 12 June 2014 regular meeting and the 25 June 2014 special meeting, with the typographic corrections; seconded by REFUERZO.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Ferlito, Refuerzo, Carter, Bang  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

2. Adopt the revised 2014 regular meeting calendar of the Forest and Beach Commission.

City Forester Branson asked the commissioners if they would like to select another date for the August meeting due to the car event happening in town on the second Thursday. The commissioners compared their calendars and decided to change the regular meeting in August from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Ferlito made a motion to approve the revised 2014 meeting calendar including the change of the August meeting date; seconded by CARTER.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Ferlito, Refuerzo, Carter, Bang  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

### **ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

3. Receive update on beach fire management.

Forester Branson presented his report on beach cleanup on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and an update on the charcoal cleanup contract with the California Conservation Corps.

Commissioner Refuerzo reported that the Save Our Shores volunteers gave out information on the rules pertaining to Santa Cruz beaches, rather than correct Carmel Beach information.

Public Services Director Friedrichsen commented that Save Our Shores was made aware of the error and the correct information will be available for future events.



Public Safety Director Chief Calhoun presented a report on the data collected by the police and security patrols over the holiday weekend. He also reported that security patrols will be on duty Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and police staff will patrol the waterfront on the other days of the week to address any problems.

Commissioner Bang asked if the police keep a log of calls that could also be a measuring tool for activity on the beach. She also asked the police to consider a Sunday patrol, to monitor an increase in people sleeping in tents on the beach, and to issue citations for violations.

Commissioner Ferlito commented that the correct information regarding the beach rules needs to be given out by the security patrols and police officers. She also observed many visitors using accelerants to start their fires, and asked that the access signs along the pathway be changed or removed.

Chief Calhoun responded that Sunday patrols will be considered if warranted; check with his officers to be sure the correct information is given out; and follow up on any reports of sleeping in tents. He also commented that citations can only be issued if there is prior knowledge of the rules and new signage will help address this problem. He will work with the Public Services Department. to correct the access signs along the pathway.

Commissioner Bang asked if cameras have been considered as a monitoring tool.

Chief Calhoun responded that cameras were looked at a year or two ago but were discouraged by the City Council due to privacy concerns.

Commissioner Ferlito asked if another ATV could be purchased for use by the security patrols.

Chief Calhoun responded that there would need to be a risk management evaluation of using ATV's by private patrols at night, specific training would be necessary, and he was not sure the security company wants its employees using an ATV.

Commissioner Ferlito commented that Carmel Beach is one of the few beaches that allows glass containers and alcohol on the beach and perhaps these should be restricted. She asked if alcohol use has been a problem for the security patrols or police officers.

Chief Calhoun replied that alcohol use has not been a serious issue on the beach.

Commissioner Refuerzo asked if citations will be issued and commented that perhaps we need to start issuing some. He commented that the Santa Cruz beaches do issue citations.

Chief Calhoun replied that the Municipal Code is different that State law and you have to show prior knowledge and a deliberate intent to issue a citation. He also pointed out

that most of the beaches in Santa Cruz are state beaches and have full time rangers and lifeguards that only patrol the beaches.

Commissioner Ferlito pointed out that people can stay on the beach after 10 p.m.

Chief Calhoun confirmed Ferlito's statement but added that fires must be out by 10 p.m. and there is no alcohol allow after 10 p.m.

Forester Branson pointed out that the agenda packet includes information collected by Commissioner Bang regarding the health issues of smoke.

Public comments opened at 4:11 p.m.

Sean Fontane commented that there is poor signage for informing the public on the rules, many of the problems are an issue of personable responsibility, and rules need to be posted for enforcement. He also noted that fires are a valuable public amenity, are a valuable asset for families to enjoy, and should be continued.

Thomas Fontane from Carmel Valley Boy Scout Troop 127, wants to keep fires on the beach as good outdoor activity. He thinks the City needs to work on enforcement and getting people to use personal responsibility. The Boy Scouts use a program of "Leave no Trace" where areas are left clean or cleaner when you leave.

Scott McKenzie noted that personal responsibility is a great goal but you cannot expect it from everyone. He appreciates the work of the Commission but the problem needs to be evaluated as a system. He recommends the Commission use a systems engineer to analyze the fire issues and develop a system design. He estimates a cost for an analysis to be around \$12,000. He also noted that ignorance of the law is not an excuse and you do not need to prove knowledge. The courts will decide the legality of a citation.

Margaret Eaton asked what was considered a contact in the police report for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and if the security patrol is counting the number of fires each evening. She asked what it takes to issue a legitimate citation.

Sean Fontane returned to ask if the new city waste hauler could help with the beach cleanup.

Commissioner Bang noted that the two principals before the City Council are not a full solution to the problems but are a step to help with fire management.

Public appearances closed at 4:26 p.m.

No further discussion or action.

4. Consideration of forming ad hoc committee of the Forest and Beach Commission regarding management of beach fires.

Director Friedrichsen presented this item as a way for a small group to assist staff with looking at ideas for implementation of the two principles before the City Council.

Commissioner Ferlito asked if the committee would include residents or members from other commissions.

Director Friedrichsen said that would need to be determined by the Commission. Forester Branson pointed out that a larger committee would probably need to be appointed by the City Council.

Commissioner Ferlito asked if an ad hoc committee was premature since the City Council has not commented on the two principles.

Director Friedrichsen pointed out that the committee could be conditioned on the decision of the City Council.

Forester Branson pointed out that the chair needs to appoint the ad hoc committee per the direction from the City Attorney.

Commissioner Bang commented that there is a lot of work to do.

Commissioner Refuerzo expressed concern that only two people would be working on the issue rather than the entire commission.

Public appearances opened at 4:31 p.m.

Scott McKenzie thought the ad hoc committee was a good idea and may need to use the services of a systems engineer.

Public appearances closed at 4:32 p.m.

Commissioner Ferlito thought we may need to analyze what we want and how to get there and perhaps using a systems engineer to support the committee. She thought all of the issues related to beach fires need to be considered.

Commissioner FERLITO made a motion for the chairperson to appoint an ad hoc committee to work on beach fires and implementing the two principles as approved by the City Council; seconded by CARTER.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Ferlito, Refuerzo, Carter, Bang
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Vice-Chairperson Refuerzo appointed Commissioners Bang and Carter to the new ad hoc committee.

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5. Consideration of an Arbor Day event for 2014.

Forester Branson provided information on the history of Carmel's Arbor Day events and reviewed the four standards that must be met to be a "Tree City USA". The Commission was asked if they wanted to use the pending events of the Friends of Carmel Forest (FOCF) as the City's designated Arbor Day event or hold a separate event later this year.

Public appearances opened and closed at 4:39 p.m. No appearances.

Commissioner Ferlito commented that she prefers an independent event that can focus on the new tree tagging/permit program and provide an educational opportunity on the new oak diseases and proper oak tree care.

Commissioner Bang also supports a separate event for education.

Commissioner Ferlito thought that early fall when people are thinking of pruning their trees would be a good time for the event. She would like to see if an oak expert could come and speak.

Commissioner Refuerzo wondered if the event could be coordinated with the tree survey program.

Commissioner Ferlito noted that informing the public about the tree tagging program will help the forest. She also thought that landscapers and tree business should be invited.

Commissioner FERLITO made a motion for the City to plan and hold an Arbor Day event that has public outreach on tree tagging, information on oak issues and diseases, and to invite landscapers, tree professionals, and the Planning Commission; seconded by BANG with an amendment to work with the FOCF. Amendment accepted by FERLITO.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Ferlito, Refuerzo, Carter, Bang
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

6. Receive an update on oak tree diseases and tree care.

Forester Branson presented his report on a new oak disease and provided information on oak tree care.

Commissioner Bang wondered if there was any similar information on cypress trees.

Public appearances opened at 4: 54 p.m.

Scott McKenzie asked if some oaks are at the end of their life span and if replacement plantings are planned.

Public appearances closed at 4:55 p.m.

Forester Branson responded that oaks can live in undisturbed areas for 2-300 years but in urban areas 100-150 may be the maximum life expectancy. The City is planning on planting new trees in the forest.

Commissioner Ferlito commented that she sees a lot of die back of oaks in Carmel Valley. She also thought the information that has been provided is very important and valuable and should be given to the Planning Commission and Planning staff.

Forester Branson will get the information to the Planning Department for dispersal.

No other action.

#### **REPORTS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS**

7. Receive the July 2014 report from the Ad Hoc Beach Committee.

Commissioner Bang reported she had sent two videos to Director Friedrichsen for dispersal.

Public appearances opened and closed at 5:02 p.m. No appearances.

8. Forester's report

Forester Branson presented his reports and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Ferlito asked how many tree are currently under care by staff; is ivy removal going on; are empty tree squares going to be filled; and if there is a program for pruning young trees.

Forester Branson answered that 64 trees are under care; ivy removal is an active project; new trees will be planted in the tree squares; and young tree are pruned to develop good structure, but there is not a dedicated program.

Commissioner Carter asked about tree stump removal.

Forester Branson reported that a plan to remove stumps is being developed and addressed some of the mechanics of removing stumps, particularly from small tree squares.

Forester Branson reported on the recent sand redistribution contract.



Commissioner Bang commented that she has fielded many questions about the sand program.

Commissioner Ferlito commented that perhaps some temporary signs should be put up to explain what is going on.

Forester Branson reported the RFQ's for the MTNP entrance and the North Dunes have been sent out. Fliers for the FOCF events were distributed to the Commission.

Commissioner Refuerzo asked about replacing the tree on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Forester Branson will mark it out for public comments and schedule the work with the Public Works Superintendent.

#### 9. Public Services Director's comments.

Director Friedrichsen reported that the beach signage RFQ's should be in next week; she is working with CalFire to get the goats into MTNP; she met with Steve Brooks from the FOCF to identify some projects to collaborate on together; and will be meeting with the FOMTNP to coordinate some of the projects that have been proposed. She also reported the tennis courts renovation should begin next month; work is starting on an outreach and education program on the negative environmental effects from the improper disposal of pet waste; and new pet waste disposal emblems are being placed on the Mutt Mitt dispenses.

Commissioner Carter commented that perhaps a change in the color of the pet waste bags would help with proper disposal.

Commissioner Ferlito asked for the MTNP review to return on a future agenda.

Commissioner Refuerzo asked for the North Dunes to be placed on a future agenda.

Commissioner Ferlito asked if the sign program will be able to address any rule changes that may be coming up and if the access signs without arrows can be removed or replaced.

Director Friedrichsen confirmed that the sign program will address any rule changes and staff will address the access signs.

Public appearances opened at 5:33 p.m.

Scott McKenzie commented that power lines have a very negative effect on trees and asked about funding that has been set aside for undergrounding.

Public appearances closed at 5:34 p.m.

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Director Friedrichsen responded that there are three areas currently identified in the City's capital improvement plan for undergrounding the power lines. However the cost exceeds the funding that is currently available.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice-Chairperson REFUERZO adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Approved,

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Refuerzo, Vice- Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Branson, City Forester

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MEMORANDUM

TO: David Refuerzo, Chairperson  
Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

FROM: Mike Branson, City Forester

DATE: 22 August 2014

SUBJECT: Review report from the ad hoc Beach Fires Committee

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During the 5 August 2014 City Council meeting, the City Council adopted two principles that were suggested by the Forest and Beach Commission (F&BC) regarding fires on Carmel Beach. The two principles are: 1) No fires allow in contact with the sand, and 2) a limit will be established on the number of fires allowed on the beach.

The Beach Fires ad hoc committee that was appointed during the July Forest and Beach Commission meeting has met with staff a couple of times to outline a plan to implement the two principles. Committee members and staff have also me with community organizations and individuals for additional input on implementation of the two principles.

Commissioner Bang has provided an update that is attached and will provide additional information at the August meeting. Staff will also provide an update on other ongoing projects relating to beach fire management.



## **Update 2 — Beach Fire Issues—Guiding Principles and Action Steps**

Last week an important milestone was achieved when the Carmel City Council unanimously approved two guiding principles that had been unanimously recommended by the Forest and Beach Commission. These two principles were that there will be no fires directly on the sand and that there will be a limited number of fires. These recommendations arose after a survey of California Beach Fire Rules showed that Carmel Beach is the only public beach that allows unlimited numbers of fires and the last public beach to allow fires directly on the sand. The reason that fires are either banned or limited/contained on other beaches is to prevent pollution and other environmental damage/ debris that results from allowing fires on the sand and an unlimited number of fires. Carmel's beach also needs this kind of protection and this guidance from Council will be very helpful as we develop our plans to implement prudent management of the fires, while preserving the long tradition of beach fires in Carmel.

Now for the hard work of determining how fires will be contained, how to determine the maximum number of fires and how all this will be implemented while also addressing the the issue of the environmental and health impacts of wood smoke.. Additional issues will include whether to use permits, what to do in the winter when the tide might take the device out to sea, how to address the current (ignored) rule that the fires need to be west of the high tide line, how to communicate the new procedures, how to enforce them, costs, etc.

We are working to involve the community as we go along, including this posting. Groups that have so far expressed support for these efforts include the CRA, the Friends of the Forest, SAND, and Sustainable Carmel. All will be included as we move forward in our discussions. We are also reaching out to the Innkeepers Association, The Chamber of Commerce, the High School and the public at large.. Please feel free to suggest other groups to be included in the discussions.

Our final plans will need to be approved by the Forest and Beach Commission, the Planning Commission, Carmel City Council and the Coastal Commission. So there are many steps ahead, but we are off to a good start with the approval of the guiding principles. We will check in with these bodies as appropriate as we go, and also with staff of the Coastal Commission in hopes of developing a proposal that can be approved with enthusiasm by all.

A subcommittee of the Forest and Beach Commission comprised of Kathy Bang and Mike Carter has been appointed to work with staff, Sharon Friedrichsen,

August 18, 2014



Director of Public Service and Mike Branson, City Forester to work on the details and bring them back to the Forest and Beach Commission. At their first meeting they developed initial specifications for the design of the fire containment device. These include:

1. Appropriate size to contain the fire and permit a fire that is 3x3x3 (as our beach regulations stipulate). Also must be of a size that is not a trip hazard.
2. Able to contain the charcoal, logs, etc and not have the ash escape into the sand.
3. Ease of cleaning on an ongoing basis as we assume they will need to be cleaned out after each use.
4. Attractive. We are Carmel Beach after all! Thus we are looking for an attractive or artistic design.
5. Appropriate material, this might include metal, ceramic, concrete covered in rocks, etc.
6. Durable to last through fire seasons and stand up to the salt air and wind.
7. Transportable by a back hoe so they can be removed during the winter months.
8. Anchored to the sand, so they are not removed by others.
9. Cost effective.
10. Safe.
11. Does not leach charcoal dust into sand if water is used to put it out, or in rain.

Other possible considerations:

Ability to have a grill for cooking attached.

Option for an attachment for a propane tank supplied by the visitor.

Sharon Friedrichsen and Mike Branson are finalizing these specs for our review and then will send them to a list of architects, designers, masons, metal fabricators, AIA, ceramic workers and other manufacturers for their proposals.

Also discussed was the possibility of making available in town, and asking or requiring folks to use low smoke wood or charcoal in these devices.

We will be discussing the number of fire devices next. Staff has been asked to have the hired security guard who works weekends count the number of fires. This will give us an idea of the maximum, as we are currently in Car Week, followed by the Labor Day weekend. Then we will try to get an estimate of a "usual" summer weekend need as well as a "usual" off-season need. One option may be to allow additional propane-activated devices, supplied by the users, on the high holiday weekends.

August 18, 2014



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Fire Sense Well Traveled  
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Fire Pit Table - 61168  
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The flowing scalloped edges of the Scallop design fire pit are like the tide rolling onto the beach. This gentle soothing design compliments any landscape either by the sea or far away. This original design is made to order by Tennessee craftsman in the heartland of America. They are constructed from heavy duty 1/4 " thick mild carbon steel and are the most durable steel fire pit made anywhere. The inner bowl has a high temperature resistant coating and comes with a 1 1/2" diameter rain drain. The outer iron oxide patina is maintenance free and the fire pit can be left outside in all weather conditions. Over time and use the patina will mature and darken a few shades and then remain permanent forever. Each unique fire pit is individually numbered by the artist on an attached brass

36" Diameter/22" Height/110 lbs.  
1/4 " Thick Mild Carbon Steel  
Iron Oxide

Each Fire Pit Art® creation is made from one quarter inch thick mild carbon steel and has an applied iron oxide patina on the outside. The interiors are hand rolled with a dense high temperature resistant coating and have a one and one half inch diameter rain drain in the bottom. There is no required maintenance even in cold, harsh environments and can be left outside year around. These fire pits are safe on wood or composite decking if they rest on a one and one half inch thick (or thicker) stone base that should be approximately three feet square. Artisan crafted fire screens with a wood loading hatch are available for most models. All designs are easily adapted to propane or natural gas equipment. Each fire pit is hand crafted and individually numbered on a small brass plaque attached to the base ring.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST



Rick Wittrig was born and raised in a tiny Mennonite farming village amid the endless sea of corn and soybeans that is the Illinois prairie. He learned steel fabrication and carpentry skills building farm equipment and homes. Admiring the strong work ethic, high quality products and integrity of the craftsman

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with whom he worked, Rick carries those values into creating his functional steel art. He now lives on Barton's Creek in Tennessee with his family and enjoys making beautiful fire pits for others to enjoy. A highlight in his career was creating a commissioned Fire Pit for 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler B.C. Canada.



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## Environment

### It's Your Legacy. A Cleaner Burning Fire Means a Greener World.

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\*15th Emission Inventory Conference, New Orleans, May 2006

\*\*Omni Environmental Services, Inc. April 2007

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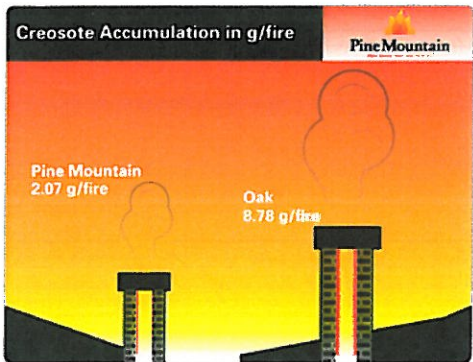
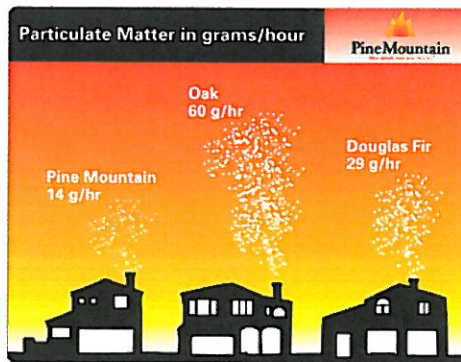
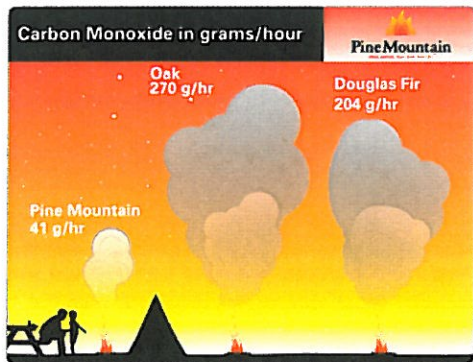
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#### Fireside Occasions

**Football Party with Friends**  
Host your party fireside. Serve up the finger food and drinks alongside a roaring fire at half time.

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## Pine Mountain Vs. Real Wood



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Much of the refrigerated produce in grocery stores is transported there (and stored) in waxed cardboard boxes, and because they can't be reused, and they can't be recycled with the rest of the cardboard boxes that retail stores generate, they get tossed in the trash. If you think about how many stores just in your area stock produce that comes in waxed cardboard boxes, and then multiply that out to include your state or region or country, it adds up a huge amount of waste. In fact, it's estimated that about 1.5 million of these waxed boxes end up in landfills everyday, where they may take as long as 50 years to break down.

However, as they say, one person's trash is another person's treasure, and one company that's been taking this "waste" item and turning it into a resource, is CleanFlame. The company uses the waxed cardboard boxes as **the feedstock** for clean-burning fire logs that are said to produce 86% less creosote, 80% less carbon monoxide, and 30% less particulate matter (compared to wood). In fact, they say that their fire logs are so clean, you can cook over them.

"Our patented manufacturing process uses 100% recycled waxed corrugated box material acquired through partners in our CleanCycle™ closed-loop production process. By re-purposing boxes used largely to ship perishable produce, our aim is to save trees, relieve overburdened landfills and create a totally sustainable and virtuous manufacturing process - one that can be a model for the world." - CleanFlame

Because I heat almost exclusively in the winter with a woodstove, (I have access to plenty of free scrap wood and windfall trees), CleanFlame sent me some of their fire logs to try out for myself, and while I may not be the ideal customer for them (I'm a scrounger and a woodcutter and a frugal type, so I don't tend to buy things I can source myself), I was pleasantly surprised by their product.

The **CleanFlame fire logs** burn hot (they say each five pound log has a heat value of 13,000 BTUs), and they burn for a long time (about three hours with the damper wide open). I found

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them to be a bit harder to get started burning than they say on the package, but once they were burning, the fire logs burned evenly unless they were poked or stirred. According to the website, they can be treated as natural wood logs are, with respect to stirring or poking, but in my experience, doing so opens up the material so that more of it is burning, and this results in a much bigger flame and hotter fire.

I tried out the CleanFlame fire logs in my **woodstove** both by themselves (starting from a cold stove), and by adding one to a bed of coals, and found that while they were easier to get burning by adding one on top of hot coals, they also burned a lot hotter and quicker this way, as the whole log caught fire quickly. The log I burned by itself took longer to catch fire, but ultimately burned longer and more evenly, without a big flame-up. One word of caution for those who may burn these in an open fireplace: if you don't have a secure screen or glass fireplace cover, once the fire logs burn down to a certain point, they start to fall apart and could potentially come out of the fireplace, causing a fire hazard.

**Burning wood for heat** (or for ambiance) can be **a controversial topic** in terms of air quality (depending on how clean your stove burns and the quality and dryness of the wood used as fuel), but it seems to me that if you occasionally use a wood fire, then choosing a clean-burning fire log such as the CleanFlame products is one way to do so without adding a lot of smoke-related pollutants to the air. You can find stores near you that stock CleanFlame fire logs through the company's **store locator page**.

*[Disclosure: CleanFlame sent me some free fire logs for review purposes, but all opinions here are mine alone.]*

### **Related on TreeHugger.com:**

- **Next-generation heat exchanger recovers heat from shower drains to preheat water**
- **It Takes a Planet to Save a Planet**

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## Environment

### Clean Burning Neighborhoods

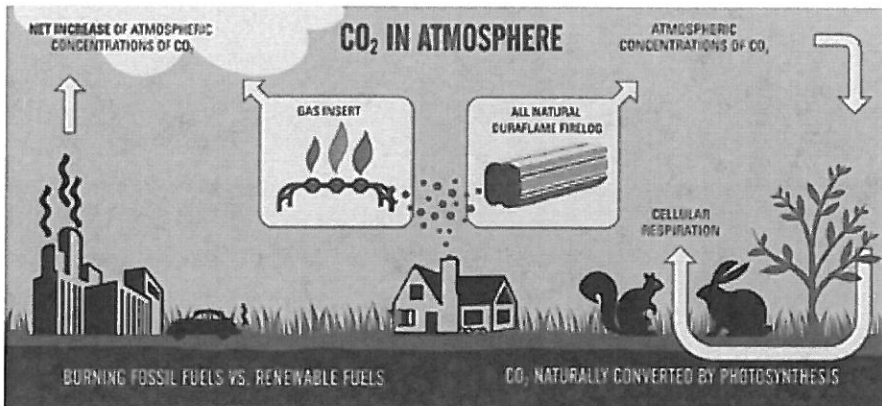
Using duraflame® fire logs instead of wood can help reduce the impact on air quality in your neighborhood. Duraflame fire logs burn 80% cleaner than a typical wood fire. Now that's a breath of fresh air! Multiple studies over the years have consistently shown that duraflame fire logs, whether made from renewable or non-renewable waxes, are a cost effective and environmentally sound method for reducing emission levels from residential fireplaces. Burning clean is now a way of life. So, *start something good* by helping to reduce your impact on air quality by burning a fire log every time you burn.

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## Carbon Footprint

### Carbon Footprint

Those duraflame fire log products that are made from renewable materials produce 70% less greenhouse gas emissions than gas fireplaces. Here are the facts about renewable fuels versus fossil fuels.



#### Residential Wood Burning Appliances

Carbon dioxide produced from wood combustion is already a part of the planet's natural carbon cycle, and therefore not considered to add to the atmospheric carbon dioxide load.

#### Renewable Fuel Emissions

Duraflame fire log products that are made from renewable materials produce 22% less carbon emissions than equivalent duration fires burned with firewood.

#### Fire logs vs. Natural Gas

Although gas fireplaces are often touted as the cleanest burning alternative to firewood due to their low fine particulate emissions, 99% of their combustion emissions ARE greenhouse gases from non-renewable fossil fuel.

Independent studies show that duraflame fire logs made from renewable resources produce over 70% less greenhouse gas emissions than burning equivalent duration fires with natural gas logs in a traditional vented fireplace.

If you want to learn more about how duraflame fire logs reduce emissions, feel free to read the summary report [Global Warming Reduction Benefits of Manufactured Biowax-Fiber Fireplace Logs.](#)

If you're interested in reading the full, detailed report of findings, please contact us at [info@duraflame.com](mailto:info@duraflame.com) for more information.

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## Clean Air Partners

### Clean Air Partnerships

#### **PARTNERS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT**

Duraflame is actively spreading the word about the environmental benefits of its fire logs to consumers, air quality officials, and non-profit organizations. Duraflame applies its resources toward education and outreach opportunities.

The goals are simple. Duraflame strives to:

Make excellent products that help people enjoy an environmentally-friendly, convenient and reliable cozy fire.

Help people use their fireplaces responsibly to protect neighborhood air quality.

Help preserve a stable global climate.

Through partnerships with the following non-profit organizations, as well as local air quality management agencies, Duraflame is actively spreading the word about the environmental benefits of fire logs.



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PRODUCTS

[Access More Information](#)

Tables

Benches

Signs & Displays

Containers & Storage

Barbecues, Fire Rings & BBQ Wood Chips

Gates

Order Form

Barbecues, Fire Rings & BBQ Wood Chips

	ITEM #	PRODUCT	PRICE
<b>Barbecues</b>			
	#18	Camp Barbecue (heavy duty, w/adjustable fire box)	\$300.00
	#19	Camp Barbecue (heavy duty, w/fire box & utility shelf)	\$335.00
	#20	Camp Barbecue (heavy duty, double pedestal)	\$810.00
<b>Fire Rings</b>			
	#21	Camp Fire Ring (30" w/rolled lip and adjustable grate)	\$400.00
<b>BBQ Wood Chips</b>			
	#	Wine-Soaked Oak Chips for Barbecuing (14 per case)	\$42.00

Please note the following limitations on all orders:

Price subject to change without notice

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** David Refuerzo, Chairperson  
Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

**FROM:** Sharon Friedrichsen, Public Services Director

**DATE:** 22 August 2014

**SUBJECT:** Review of proposed FY 14-15 Street and Road Projects

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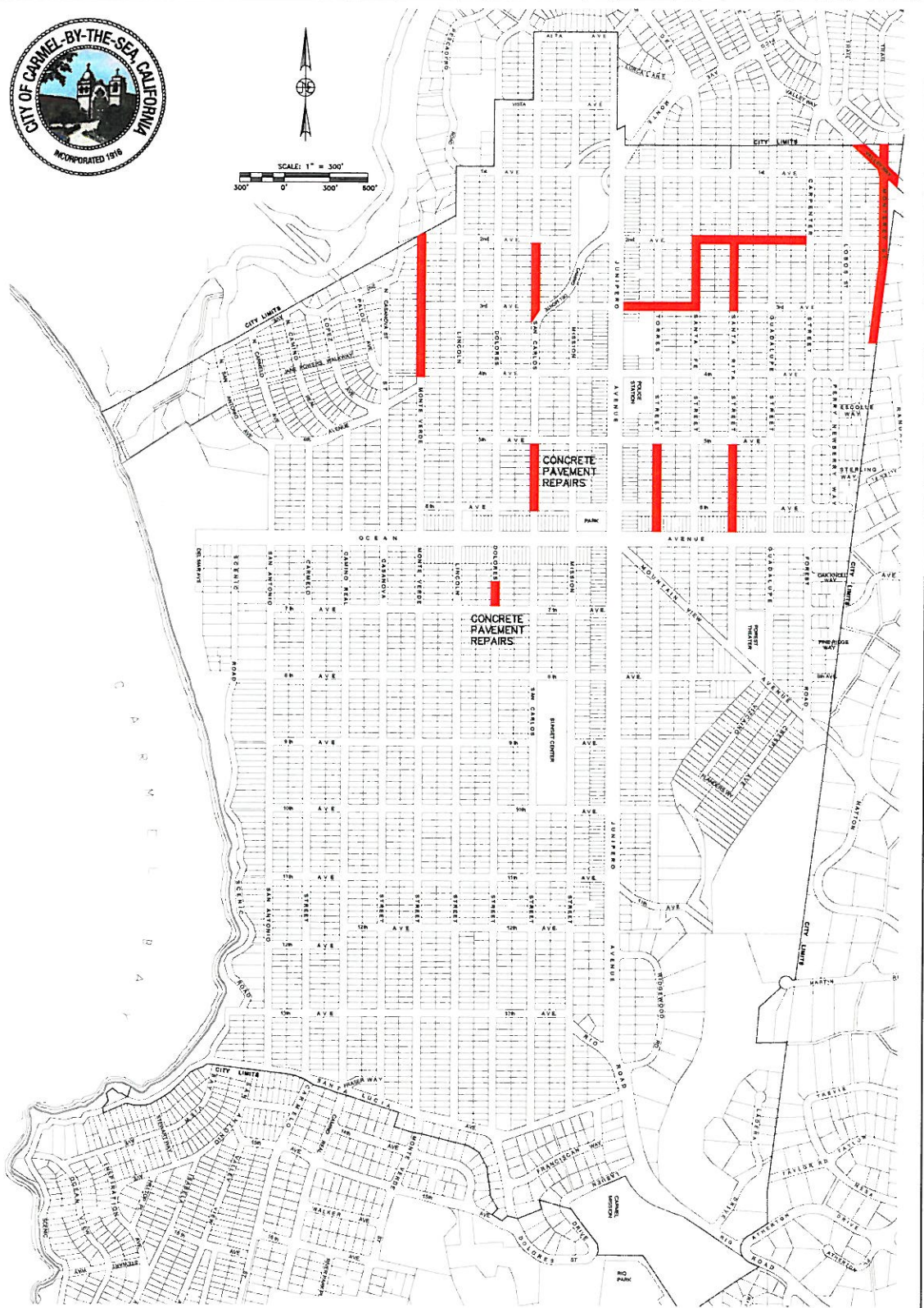
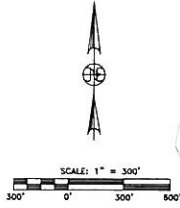
City Policy C90-04 allows for the Forest and Beach Commission ("Commission") to review street resurfacing and underground improvement projects to ensure that the greenbelt is preserved, protected and enhanced. In accordance with this policy, the proposed street and road repair projects planned for fiscal year 2014-15 are attached for Commission review.

In 2013, an independent consultant prepared an updated study on the condition of the City's roads, using the pavement condition index (PCI), which is a measurement of pavement grade or condition. The PCI ranges from 0 to 100 whereby a newly constructed road would have a PCI of 100, while a failed road would have a PCI of 20 or less. This study, along with input from the City's Engineer and Public Works Superintendent, form the basis for recommended street projects, based upon the amount of funding available. For Fiscal Year 2014-15, the City Council has allocated approximately \$868,000 for road projects. The proposed list of road projects is listed below and depicted on the attached map. The projects consist of patching and overlays, not reconstruction or other changes to the configuration of the roadway. There is no anticipated impact to the greenbelt.

- Monterey Street
- Valley Way within city limits
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.: Carpenter to Santa Fe (truck route)
- Santa Fe St.: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (truck route)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.: Santa Fe St. to Junipero Ave. (truck route)
- Santa Rita St.: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Ocean Ave.
- Torres St.: 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Ocean Ave.
- San Carlos St.: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Dolores St.: Ocean Ave. to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. – southern half of block
- Monte Verde St.: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Staff is in the process of preparing for the anticipated road projects, including consulting with the City's Forester and Planning Director on the proposed projects. No removal of trees is anticipated.

The contract is anticipated to be awarded by Council in September and the road projects to begin in October and completed by early November 2014. The road sections that comprise the truck route are scheduled for spring 2015.



NEILL ENGINEERS CORP.  CARMEL, CALIFORNIA

### FY 2014/2015 STREET PROJECTS LOCATION MAP

CARMEL BY-THE-SEA, CALIFORNIA

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