

Campo/Lake Morena Calendar

February 26th **Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group** 7 PM Campo Community Center

March 1st **Campo Elementary PTA** including hot dog dinner provided by PTA 6:15 PM Multi-Purpose Room Campo Elementary

March 7th **Lake Morena Village Council** 7 PM Lake Morena Fire Station

March 12th **Mountain Empire Collaborative** 4 PM to 6 PM Campo Community Center

March 12th **Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group** 7 PM Pavilion John Lyons Park, Lake Morena

March 16th **Youth and Community Services Subcommittee**, Back Country Revitalization, 2 PM to 4 PM Campo Community Center

March 19th **Campo Fire & Rescue** 7:30 PM Campo Fire Station

March 22nd **Friends of the Library** 9:30 AM Campo Elementary

March 26th **Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group** 7 PM Campo Community Center

Campo Homemakers Thrift Shop Thursday 12:30 to 3:00 Saturday 11:00 to 3:00

Mountain Empire Historical Society Museum 11:00 to 4:00 Saturday and Sunday

Campo Seniors Meeting and Potluck Dinner 5 PM on the third Monday in the month, Pancake Breakfast 7 AM to 10 AM on the second and fourth Saturday in the month



M E R I T
Post Office Box 665
Campo, CA 91906

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SPONSOR GROUP MEETING
February 26th at 7:00 PM Campo
Community Center -

POSTAL PATRON

CAMPO, CA 91906

MERIT

Mountain Empire Resources Information Taskforce
Post Office Box 665
Campo, CA 91906-3106
619-478-9549
Newsletter #12 - 22 February 2001

MERIT - MISSION STATEMENT

“The primary objectives and purposes of MERIT shall be to provide education and information that will 1) protect and maintain the natural resources, 2) promote responsible use of ground water, and 3) preserve the rural character of the community.”

MERIT OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Mike Thometz - President Pat Noblitt - Vice President Bev Esry - Treasurer Gary Watkins - Director

February 26th Sponsor Group Meeting

The meeting will be at the Campo Community Center on Monday 26 February at 7:00 PM. The agenda includes the following matters - discussion of GP2020 issues will be an ongoing item including the issues we have yet to discuss in detail such as scenic roadways, development on ridgelines and in viewsheds, bicycle routes, policies on drought and preservation of our watersheds, parks and recreational facilities, definition of community character and rural character as it relates specifically to Campo and Lake Morena, delineation of commercial areas and updates on the revised GP2020 process.

One item of discussion will be a request by Mike Mikesell that the meetings be reduced to one a month from the current two meetings a month. The two a month was instituted because of the amount of business generated in part by consideration of GP2020. The community was never able to complete the discussions of items on the agenda. While there is a pause in the GP2020 process while the County considers some alternatives, there is still much that needs to be done. MERIT will urge the community to continue two a month meetings for March and April. In April the situation can be evaluated and needed changes can be made.

Recycling Center to Reopen

Starting Sunday March 4th MERIT will open the Recycling Center every Sunday and Monday 9AM to 1PM. If the demand for service grows, the center will consider opening Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We will also evaluate longer hours. The center will sell the recycled goods and will contribute all revenues in excess of expenses to the community. Initially the MERIT board decided to share the revenue between MERIT (for the expense of printing this monthly newsletter), Campo Fire & Rescue, Friends of the Campo Library and Mountain Empire youth activities. No money will be paid for materials brought to the center and MERIT members will volunteer their time to work at the center. Use of the center property and equipment are being donated by IMS Recycling Services and the Davis Family.

Initially the following materials will be accepted at the center and we will consider expanding the materials accepted if at all possible. We will accept aluminum cans, glass containers including both clean food containers and beverage containers, newspaper, mixed paper which includes junk mail, cardboard, PET plastic bottles which are the ones used for Pepsi, Coke and similar soft drinks as well as bottled water and which have the recycling symbol on the bottom with a **1** inside the arrows. As we proceed we will consider taking the various plastic HDPE bottles which have a **2** inside the arrows and include items like milk containers and detergent containers.

We hope that the community will participate and help make this a success. Transportation costs are very high being so far from San Diego. However, with broad based support from the community through donating these materials we believe we can provide some substantial contributions to community organizations. If you have any questions, stop by the center or call the MERIT number.

Community Calendar

Alpine Sun, MERIT newsletter and more recently Lake Morena Village Council in their newsletter have tried to inform residents of meetings and activities that are important to the community. As a regular part of our newsletter we will publish a calendar. This newsletter is always printed on the third Monday of the month - some months there are two issues but the calendar will be prepared for the following month. Any community meetings and activities that groups in the Lake

Morena/Campo area wish to be publicized should be turned in to MERIT by the third Monday for the following month. Call 478-9549 to leave a message, mail information to PO Box 665 or email to thometz@sciti.com . We will do our best to produce a complete and accurate calendar although we ask for tolerance for this first attempt.

La Posta Ranch

A map of the development was submitted to the Sponsor Group on February 12th. There were a number of problems with the ma. The map was not approved and was sent back to the Department of Planning and Land Use. The map was rejected because there was only one ingress/egress. This is not acceptable to Campo Fire & Rescue and provides no escape route for residents or fire fighters in case of a serious fire like the Alpine Fire. There are other problems with the map. It is anticipated that there will be a modification and the project will be resubmitted at a later date.

Sponsor Group meeting 12 February

After the contentious 26 January meeting this meeting was quite peaceful and the Sheriff was there to ensure peace. New members Jan Foster and Randy Lenac were seated along with Shirley Perkiss who was approved for a full term. Randy Lenac was elected as Chairman, Scott Boyd Vice Chairman, and Jan Foster Secretary. The new members attended an Orientation Session and Randy was to attend the GP2020 Steering Committee meeting on February 17th. Randy brought the audience current on GP2020 saying that some new alternatives were being produced but that all the work done to date on determining our population for 2020 and desired land use would still be used. The Steering Group and the new Interest Group, which is composed of developers and environmentalists (these should be interesting meetings), are considering the three charges from the Board of Supervisors. Look at the future in terms of providing affordable housing since there is a great concern that housing is far too expensive for the majority. Look at reinforcing the concept of village centers and putting more density into the village centers. Look at putting development in transportation corridors like I-15 where density is low and where infrastructure needs like water and sewer already exist or are extensions of existing infrastructure. In addition, the groups must consider endangered species and other environmental concerns and should continue to consider natural resources, agriculture, economic development and commercial/industrial needs. Three new Alternatives will be brought forward in the next four to six months to replace the Alternative III map but those areas like Campo/Lake Morena that approved the Alternative III will see few changes unless they present a strong case to the planning group. Planners from Department of Planning and Land Use will be attending some Sponsor Group meetings to work with the community on their plans.

St. Vincent de Paul had promised to answer questions the community had concerning their planned development and to have their hydrologist at the meeting to answer questions on water. SVDP provided no experts and left Larry Plaster to answer questions. The hydrologist was not there. Bill Metzdorf was not there despite his promise to be there. The audience had many, many questions and Larry Plaster was unable to answer most of them so the audience learned little. Larry did confirm that SVDP would not be paying property taxes. While Larry estimated that would mean a loss of \$20,000 in taxes, he failed to mention that all the SVDP properties have been re-assessed as a result of the transfer and they have been assessed at a higher valuations. The loss in property taxes will be in excess of \$30,000 per year. After construction, if the project were approved, the valuations would be even higher and the tax loss would be even greater. Larry said that SVDP would generate sales taxes through some purchases in the area but it was pointed out that all the sales tax goes to the Sate and County and none of it stays in the community. Larry could not answer any of the questions about water or waste water or sewage disposal. Larry was asked about the financial details but could only tell the meeting that foster care was "very expensive". When asked about Metzdorf's offer to provide the community with a budget, he deferred but said that he would relay the request to Metzdorf. However, he was uncertain about why SVDP would receive \$3,000 per month per child (\$750,000 per month or \$9 million annually) when most foster parents receive \$400-700 per month per child. It was announced that a 280,000 gallon storage would be required by the County for fire protection and SVDP has volunteered to pay the one time Fire Mitigation fee of 14 cents per square foot on new construction. Larry could not answer why the number of children was set at 250 and if it would be possible to reduce the number. Continued community pressure seems to have SVDP agreeing to make some of the facilities available to the community but how this will be done and how it will be facilitated has not even been considered. Larry also could not tell us when the MUP would be filed.

The final result of the question session was that Larry would have to bring back the hydrologist, their program director and we presume Bill Metzdorf on March 12th to answer questions. Mark your calendars.

MERIT has an information package containing recent newspaper articles, editorials and letters to the editor in the Union Tribune, The READER, Alpine Sun and published materials from the County. This package includes material on SVDP and PromiseLand Ranch and materials relating to General Plan 2020. This information will be sent to you upon receipt of your requests. Call our number 478.9549 and leave your name and address or send an email.

Bob Shea, Lake Morena Village Council, explained that the drawdown of Lake Morena would start in March and would continue until July. Ten million gallons per day - 69% of the water in the lake will be drained and the surface of the lake will be reduced from 673 acres to 284 acres, a 58% reduction. The lake will be reduced to 9.6% of its capacity. Under normal circumstances it would take ten years to rebuild the water in the lake. However, we appear to be entering a long dry period so it will likely be many years before the lake is full. No one knows the environmental damage; the fishing will be seriously

damaged. The Sponsor Group is writing Mayor Dick Murphy, 202 C Street, San Diego 92101 protesting this with a copy to Dianne Jacob. MERIT is writing. All of you concerned with Lake Morena, fishing, the park, and our area should also write. The City says it will save \$4.4 million. The cost to you will be large and on-going.

Back Country Community Revitalization Steering Committee

The community needs to become more involved in this group (BCRC). They are a more regional group with members from Tecate through Jacumba. Four subcommittees are Economic Development, Youth and Community Services, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, and Infrastructure. BRRRC considers issues outside of the land use and planning area although they sometimes are involved in land use issues. Sometimes BCRC recommends a different course than the Campo/Lake Morena Sponsor Group. BCRC met with Supervisor Dianne Jacob at Campo Community Center on 16 February. MERIT will try to publish information on the meetings of the four subcommittees. More than 35 different topics with recommendations for actions were discussed. These included tourism, promotion of wineries, limited light commercial activities, more parks, youth centers and sports facilities, feasibility of forming a Mtn. Empire Healthcare district, library facilities, additional resident Sheriff's deputies, emergency medical services, safety of the local roads, storm erosion on Buckman Springs Road, and many more. These are issues that affect us all. Supervisor Jacob is there to listen and to go back and act upon the recommendations. She brings County staff from all County Departments who also listen and take action on the directions of your Supervisor. Among the types of actions are a four wheel van that would enable delivery of meals to seniors in remote locations and 15 new computers with Internet access for the Community Center that was gained by Judith Shaplin,

MERIT recommends that you learn about the work of this committee, become involved if you can, and that you keep in touch with what they are doing. We will try to bring as much information to you as we have space.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday March 24 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Boulevard/Jacumba Sheriff substation at 39919 Highway 94 in Boulevard there will be a collection event. Paint, used motor oil, pesticides, poisons and other hazardous materials will be collected. You can bring materials for those who are unable to drive to the facility. This should be a help; for senior citizens who have accumulated hazardous materials over the years and have been unable to dispose of them.. Regulations permit the transportation in your vehicle of 5 gallons or 50 pounds of materials. If you have questions call County Environmental Health at 877.713.2784.