

Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association  
Meeting Minutes  
May 29, 2003

**Introduction**

John Hesler, Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association (STFNA) President, introduced government attendees including:

Forrest Williams, City Council District 2

Anthony Drummond, Council Assistant for Council member Williams

Patrick Congdon, General Manager, Santa Clara Country Open Space Authority

Alex Kennett, Director, District 1 of Santa Clara Country Open Space Authority Board

Richard Forst, Director, District 5 of Santa Clara Country Open Space Authority Board

John Hesler noted that Pat Dando, City Council District 10 and Don Gage, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors were unable to attend.

**Agenda Items**

1. Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Program

Alex Kennett gave a summary of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA). The OSA was formed by the State Legislature to preserve, protect and manage open space for public access, recreation, preservation of the environment and agricultural use.

He explained that he and Richard Forst are elected officials that represent the geographic territory encompassed by the STFNA boundaries (OSA Districts 1 and 5). Note that OSA districts have their own numbering system and they do not coincide with the divisions and numbering of the San Jose City Council districts.

The OSA is funded by assessment of \$12/yr per single family residence in District 1 and \$20/yr per residence in District 2. However, the latter funding is tied up in litigation by a tax payer's association at this time.

Their primary focus is on land acquisition. Due to limited funding, land improvements to provide public access are of secondary priority at this time.

They have outlined study areas for land acquisition and have not ranked these areas by priority. The OSA is ready to assist when the public or other agencies request their involvement in land use plans.

In addition to the OSA Staff and Board of Directors, there is a Citizens' Advisory Committee and also a volunteer program.

See the OSA website [www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org) for further information.

2. Update on Coyote-Alamitos Canal Trail

John Hesler summarized the April 23rd meeting held by the City for the purpose of 1) presenting the findings of a preliminary trail feasibility study and 2) soliciting community input on the desirability of a trail. The meeting was attended by approximately 150 citizens. The City's consultant presented the benefits and drawbacks of various on- and off-canal alignments. There was significant discussion - pro and con - regarding the trail. At the April 23rd meeting, Forrest Williams stated that he and Council member Pat Dando had reached an agreement that the canal alignment west of Cahalan would no longer be considered. There was unanimous support at the meeting for preservation of the open space character of the Santa Teresa Foothills. There was also consensus that the most easterly portion of the trail should be pursued as a first priority.

Forrest Williams stated that the City Council approved (on May 20th) funding for a Bailey Avenue overcrossing at Monterey Road and the UPRR and that such project includes a connection to the Coyote Creek Trail. This action solves the problem of how to provide a safe means for future Coyote-Alamitos Trail users to cross Monterey Road and the railroad tracks when connecting to the Coyote Creek Trail.

### 3. Update on Proposed Nakashima Subdivision

John Hesler reported on a subdivision that is being proposed in the Santa Teresa hills on a 146 acre parcel along the canal on both sides of Snell Ave. The land stretches along the canal roughly from several blocks east of Snell to Dunn and then up the hills to just beyond the top.

The existing parcel currently allows an additional house and one or more barns to be built. If approved, the subdivision would divide the parcel into two parcels and allow several more homes and buildings to be constructed on each parcel.

The STFNA Board has submitted a letter to the County citing inadequacies in the environmental report for the proposed subdivision. Concerns include preservation of scenic views and open space, protection of wildlife, hazards of development on steep hillsides, potential for proposed canal trail and inadequacy of detail on proposed building. This letter can be viewed at the Association website [www.santateresafoothills.org](http://www.santateresafoothills.org) In response, a revised subdivision proposal was provided by the County but the Board has sent another letter because the information still did not adequately respond to the concerns raised.

The Association approved that the Board send a stronger letter to the County on this item.

Actions Association members can take include:

- Attend Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting where this proposal will be reviewed. It is tentatively scheduled for June 24. Check the Association website for confirmation.

- Write or sent email to Country Supervisor Don Gage to express your concerns on this subdivision. See Association website for suggestions on points to emphasize.  
Supervisor Don Gage  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
70 West Hedding Street-East Wing  
San Jose, CA 95110  
Email [don.gage@bos.co.santa-clara.ca.us](mailto:don.gage@bos.co.santa-clara.ca.us)

Contact the Association at [contact@santateresafoothills.org](mailto:contact@santateresafoothills.org) if you have questions.

#### 4. Adopt-a-Park Activities

Board Member Lynne Paulson reported on Association activities with Adopt-a-Park. The Association has adopted Foothill Park and Century Oaks Park in conjunction with the city of San Jose's Adopt-a-Park program. This volunteer program recruits and trains residents to help enhance the parks and opens spaces. Recent activities included cleanup and weeding at the portion of Century Oaks Park at Snell and Colleen. Through Forrest Williams's office, the city of San Jose will install a water system there. Board member Marlene Wilde no longer will need to supply water to the shrubs and trees the Association planted. In addition, Lynne is in contact with Pat Dando's office to request repair to the broken solar watering system at Foothill Park that has resulted in the absence of trees and shrubs at the park entrance. Upcoming park cleanup events will be posted on the website.

Neighbor Jacqueline Price has worked with Forrest Williams office to develop the dirt park strips on Curie drive between Snell and Cottle.

All of these cleanup activities help beautify the neighborhood and discourage littering.

#### 5. Election of Officers and Directors

The following Association Board Members were elected:

Matt Freeman, President

John Hesler, Vice President

Danielle Spreier, Secretary

Jacqueline Price, Recording Secretary

Marlene Wilde, Treasurer

Forrest Williams, Director

Lynne Paulson, Director

Roland White, Director

John Klimaszewski, Director