**Inter Canyon League**

**Minutes of the General Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM Live Streaming**

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by President Sarkissian.

II. **General Announcements & Discussion**

**a.** General Community Announcements

None.

**b.** Canyon History Committee

Geoff Sarkissian shared a photo of Silverado’s 1929 library and librarian. The building was a log cabin that was also the post office. And speaking of librarians …

**c.** Friends of the Library—Janet Coughlin

… Geoff next introduced Jessi Ruge, our “new” (since last year) Silverado librarian, to Janet Coughlin, ICL’s “new” (since last month) head of the Friends of the Library Committee. **d.** Update from the County—Geoffrey Sarkissian

For projects eligible for partial funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, the sponsoring agency is typically a county. Orange County has requested funds for clearing two locations along Silverado Creek: near Wildcat Canyon and near Anderson Way.

In a meeting with Supervisor Wagner, representatives from canyon organizations learned from county staff the rationale behind this request: storm damage in those two areas could be hazardous to county-owned bridges and roads. Government assistance on private property elsewhere, however, could be seen as a gift of public funds, which is not allowed. Areas like the Olive Drive intersection did not appear to meet all the requirements for EWP aid.

If a special assessment district were created to handle emergencies, like Los Angeles County’s flood control district, residents would have to tax themselves, and the district would be subject to the same public vs. private property rules as any other government agency.

Orange County Public Works does not maintain an emergency fund. Instead, funds are shifted as needed from other projects. The Board of Supervisors must agree on what to prioritize; they have authorized paying the $1.2 million match required by NRCS.

Declaring a local emergency allows the county to suspend some normal rules, but does not provide extra money. Typically the Board of Supervisors must act if the emergency lasts more than a day. A minimum of $13 million in uninsured damage is required before the governor can proclaim a state of emergency.

There is no answer yet to the question of what to do with the mud that was hauled to the Riviera. One cost estimate for removing it was $80-100 per cubic yard. Another was $800-1,000 per dump truck, plus testing fees. The boxcar bridge site in Modjeska could use dirt, but it should be clean dirt.

**e.** Emergency Management: What role should the ICL play?—Geoffrey Sarkissian Four aspects of dealing with emergencies are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. In each of those, communication can be important. Rich Pfeiffer said that Nextdoor did not seem ideal, and suggested creating an alternative inter-canyon

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communication network. Karl Keranen mentioned an existing free app to which people could subscribe and communicate in real time. Geoff expressed interest in a forum organized by topic.

As a possible funding source for improving emergency management capability, Dean Brown suggested looking into the county’s Housing and Community Development department (https://www.ochcd.org/), specifically under Community Development. Its focus is mainly homelessness and affordable housing, but there might be some infrastructure funds available. Someone would need to go to annual meetings to “get on the radar” for updates to Annual Action Plans. Dean obtained some grants this way in the past, but the rules are not as flexible now, so nothing is guaranteed.

**f.** Canyon Watch Update—Bic & Keith Edwards

Geoff showed the presentation about Canyon Watch that Keith put together for the California Fire Foundation grant. With the new Mine Tract repeater now in operation, radio coverage stretches from part of Maple Springs to Albertson’s at Jamboree. Weekly checkin/practice sessions are available to more than 500 subscribers in three canyons. Rich nominated Bic and Keith for Residents of the Year, to widespread applause.

III. **Director Reports**

**a.** President—Geoffrey Sarkissian

No report

**b.** Vice President—Celeste Veerkamp

Celeste is talking to Francesca about possible outbound messaging from the ICL website. **c.** Secretary—Scott Breeden

The minutes of the January meeting were approved 4-0.

**d.** Treasurer—Francesca Duff

$2,295 from the Santiago Fire fund was paid out for mud cleanup that was ultimately due to the Bond Fire. We should also think about adding to the Canyon Watch fund, since typically about $6,000 a year is needed.

The January financial report was approved 4-0.

IV. **New Business**

As part of a grant for mental/emotional help for people experiencing PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder), Mary Schreiber is planning on art projects for children at the next Silverado park flea market. She described one aspect of PTSD as a “feeling of not being in control.” Jenny Scott thanked her for that insight, saying that PTSD is something that some people don’t like to talk about.

In light of continued COVID concerns, the status of this year’s Easter breakfast is uncertain.

V. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

**\*\*\* The next ICL meeting will be held March 1, 2022 via live streaming \*\*\*** 2