**Pre-2022 History of Key Community Issues**

**1.** **FIRE SAFE ORDINANCE - 2018 Sonoma County's ordinance was rejected by the State Board of Forestry (BOF) Hearing on November 3/4 ruled that State fire-safe road regulations apply to new development.**

The BOF did not certify Sonoma County's ordinance which tried to exempt all roads prior to 1991 from fire-safe standards. Fire safety is a primary concern and community groups throughout the County raised multiple issues and deficiencies in Sonoma's report. The fire safety issues for all of us, and especially our sensitive Mill Creek, Palmer Creek, and Felta Creek watersheds must be addressed. Letters were submitted from [Palmer Creek](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wasa/pages/1/attachments/original/1589415095/BOF_Palmer_Creek_Residents.docx?1589415095) Neighborhood Association, [Cecile Isaacs](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wasa/pages/1/attachments/original/1589414877/Argument_against_Cert_Cecile.docx?1589414877), [Steve Imbimbo](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wasa/pages/1/attachments/original/1589414877/Argument_against_Cert_Cecile.docx?1589414877) and [Friends of Felta Creek](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wasa/pages/1/attachments/original/1589415738/FeltaCreek_FireSafe.docx?1589415738). The Statewide Alliance for Fire Safe Road Regulations (SAFRR) and other organizations are advocating for safe roads, especially as related to commercial cannabis operations.

**2.  WINERY EVENT ORDINANCE - May 19, 2020, BOS Workshop. Also, see "State of the Wine Industry" under the Westside Community Association below.**

Supervisors used this session as an option to expand the rights to outdoor events, some with amplified music, to all Ag Zoned land.  And, Permit Sonoma stated that if neighbors do not lodge formal complaints about winery events or farm events, then the County will deem that events are not impacting communities.  To log a formal complaint about an event-related nuisance, go to the County website.

**The May 19th briefing was supposed to - yet did not - cover the Traffic Capacity Study, Noise Standards, and Groundwater-related standards.**Materials for the Board of Supervisors hearing are posted on [Board of Supervisors Hearing Link.](https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Boards-Commissions-and-Committees/Items-of-Significant-Public-Interest/)WCA's priority is to ensure the technical reports for Westside are completed: GO TO [Land Use Updates](https://wasa.nationbuilder.com/admin/sites/1/pages/61/basic/edit)

**3. CANNABIS ORDINANCE -** **The Phase 2 Cannabis Ordinance is slated for approval by the Supervisors in January or February 2021.  To learn more Go To:**[**Project Info Land Use**](https://wasa.nationbuilder.com/admin/sites/1/pages/30/basic/edit)

The County is moving the application process for Cannabis cultivation from Permit Sonoma to the Ag Commissioner (Dept of Ag/ Weights and Measures). Cannabis and Hemp growing operations may have far greater impacts on our communities than winery events; thus, Westside infoZone has created a page with a set of resources for concerned citizens.

Cannabis Grow Application information is on-line at

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Cannabis/Permits/Agricultural-Cannabis-Permits/> EMAIL **Cannabis@Sonoma-County.org**

An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to advise on the Cannabis Ordinance; like other County Ad Hoc committees, the representation was primarily from the cannabis and ag industries, with little resident or environmental input.

**This means that it is time for YOU as a concerned citizen to take action to protect your neighborhood and your parks, trails, and schools from the negative impacts of cannabis projects.**Please write an email to Supervisor Lynda Hopkins (District5@sonoma-county.org), Leo Chyi (Leo.Chyi@sonoma-county.org), Supervisor James Gore (district4@sonoma-county.org), and Jenny Chamberlain (Jenny.Chamberlain@sonoma-county.org)

**4.  FOX MEADOW TIMBER HARVEST** - **The Fox Meadow Timber Harvest in the fragile Felta Creek watershed is being reviewed for approval by CALFire.** The WCA is supporting our partner organization Friends of Felta Creek in efforts to prevent impacts to one of our last remaining salmon spawning creeks. CALFire has identified an alternate logging truck route, lessening the impacts to Felta Creek and Westside School.

Given the property was lightly burned during the Walbridge Fire, the Board of Forestry granted emergency timber removal - see document for information on different types of[Emergency Timber Removal Permits](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wasa/pages/1/attachments/original/1606847925/CALFireEmergencyRegs.docx?1606847925). WCA is addressing significant traffic safety impacts from 1,700 logging truck trips on Westside Road to/from the US 101 ramps.  See [WCA's letter](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wasa/pages/1/attachments/original/1589394357/May_11_Felta_Westside_TrafficSafety.docx?1589394357) on traffic study deficiencies and unstudied impacts.