

COMMUNITY FORUM

On Lake Boulevard and Lompico Community

Comments from our Lompico Canyon neighbors via letters and email:

“I wish I was rich (and still working) and could send more. Thank you – and good luck. I hope this helps.”

“Thanks for the confirmation of the contribution, and if we can afford more, we'll send more too. Thanks for all your hard work on this!”

“I will gladly get involved and will donate both time and money to this cause.”

“Thank you for the information... as well as your time and diligence in resolving the on-going road issues”

“Here is my first donation... I hope to be able to send more.”

“Since the non-ownership of Lompico Canyon roads causes problems with getting aid from public agencies – should we consider forming (Canyon) CSA? A lot of work, but what are our alternatives? Good luck with fund raising”

“Have you considered a special assessment for just this disaster damage repair?”

LBRA response: Anyone know more about this? Anyone interested in researching? We will post your research results or comments on our website for everyone to learn from.

*LBRA has a “fair share” assessment to our neighborhood of \$1850 per household for this damage repair. Many have paid their share and more; some simply are now unable to finance the whole amount and have set up a payment schedule. **This is completely an honor system**, and through this system we have raised both the civil and soils engineering costs of about \$11,000, plus a majority of the construction cost of \$80,000. We have not assessed an amount to our Lompico Canyon neighbors, but ask for donations and support to move this restoration project forward.*

“Why isn’t Hudson Construction doing the work? Don’t they live on that road? Couldn’t they do it cheaper than 80 thousand?”

We asked Josh of Hudson Construction for a comment on that question. Josh says that they are not licensed for that kind of work, do not have the equipment required, and therefore have no interest in bidding. The water district ballpark estimates submitted to FEMA for road repair work ranged from \$600,000 to over one million dollars.

“Why don’t you gate the road, then only open it in times of emergencies?”

**“Why aren’t you a CSA (County Service Area)?
Wouldn’t that have solved the problem?”**

All non-county-maintained roads in Lompico share the same condition, yet there are no CSAs in Lompico Canyon.

*Do you have an organized road maintenance group for your street?
How is maintenance taken care of? Is your road used as an access to some other street? Have you posted your road as “Private”?*

Having attended many Resource Conservation District (RCD) workshops in the Rural Roads Program, we find there are many other forms of road maintenance groups.

- *Some well-organized groups say they have researched CSAs and rejected that option.*
- *Others believe a CSA was their best choice, but that it is not without problems.*

What do you think is the best solution for your road?

What do you think is the best solution for Lompico Canyon?

“This is a one time contribution – we have our own private one-lane road to maintain. Best of Luck.”

“Here is a donation to the fund for road repair. Wish it could be more”.

“Thanks for the various times you have allowed us to use the road as an alternate way out over the years.”

“I live on West Drive and want to donate to your fund. I know every little bit helps, and I wish I could give more. I hope this assists.”

“I don't live in your area but work there occasionally. I wanted to share some information with you because your area is so special.

In my former neighborhood ...the county's neglect was addressed thru forming our own assessment district. In our case we started with street lighting and were moving up. It does take some effort over a long period to set up. And signatures from the neighbors on a ballot provided by the county must be collected....

Quite a few remote areas have found that they can keep the roads up better than the county and at a very reasonable cost.”

“Looking forward to getting involved in this road fix. I really would like to know why the sign says private road. I suspect the homeowners on the usable part of the road enjoy not having any traffic go through.”

LBRA response: We have a saying about Lake Boulevard:

"When the County needs it, it is a public road; when it's broken, it is private."

We wrote to the County last year asking this very same question- private or public? The top administrative official, CAO Susan Mauriello answered in a letter that Lake Boulevard " is in a public right-of-way, dedicated to the public for public use". However, the County insists they will not use their public funds to maintain or repair it.

No one wants to prevent anyone from using Lake Boulevard. We support Zayante Fire District, and understand that emergency access to the Canyon depends upon this road staying viable. Expecting a small number of nearby homeowners to foot the damage each time is unsustainable.

We wrote to Patrick McCormick at LAFCo (Local Agency Formation Commission) in August 2007 to ask about community service districts, CSA's or other options, how this could apply to Lompico Canyon where road ownership is unknown, particular to the legal status of non-County-maintained 'public' roads, and how that affects the status of Lake Boulevard as a community emergency access. We will post his response.

Another suggestion from a neighbor is to form a non-profit community group. Any other ideas?