

And the winner is ... (see special section inside)

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Desal test well restarts

By KELLY NIX

THE DESALINATION test well in Marina — intended to determine if slant wells are suitable to supply water to a full-scale desal plant — was turned back on Tuesday after five months of being shut off.

Cal Am turned off the well in June after groundwater levels dipped around it.

But at an Oct. 6 meeting of the California Coastal Commission in Long Beach, the commission decided the well could be restarted because the drop in groundwater wasn't caused by its operation.

"It's really exciting to be able to resume operations of the well and continue critical data collection," Catherine Stedman of Cal Am told *The Pine Cone*. "And we look forward to posting the new results, and future results, as the long-term operation of the well moves forward."

When it was shut off, Cal Am crews disassembled the components to clean out silt and sediment, and perform other routine maintenance procedures. Workers reassembled the well and flipped on the switch at about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Cal Am engineering manager Ian Crooks said.

"You initially turn the well on and the pumping flushes water to a percolation pond," he explained. "That is to make sure it meets water quality requirements so it can be discharged back to the ocean" through an outfall pipe.

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PHOTO/COURTESY CALIFORNIA AMERICAN WATER

Workers preparing to pull components from Cal Am's test well in Marina to perform routine maintenance ahead of this week's restart of the \$10 million facility. The photo was taken about two weeks ago.

Burnett: Water shortage a threat to DLI and NPS

By KELLY NIX

WHEN THE federal government in 1993 considered relocating the Defense Language Institute to a military base in Arizona, local leaders argued successfully that the base had limited water resources. But Carmel Mayor Jason Burnett said that same argument could come back to haunt the Peninsula in just two years.

To prevent the DLI's move to Fort Huachuca, former Monterey City Manager Fred Meurer and others cited persistent water problems in that area of Arizona as a reason DLI should stay in Monterey. That argument and others worked, and the installation stayed put. But as early as 2017, the feds could revisit the idea of closing DLI, and NPS, and when they do, the lack of water on the Monterey Peninsula will be front and center.

"We need to make sure water is not the vulnerability that allows a governor of some other state to steal the DLI or Naval Postgraduate School," Burnett told *The Pine Cone*. "We know water will be a topic. We have to make sure that the water argument doesn't come back and bite us."

The Peninsula, he said, must be prepared. Local politicians and business leaders need to regularly discuss the issue. The Monterey

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Dog park rejected by unanimous supes

■ Planning commission action decried by Potter, Armenta

By CHRIS COUNTS

PUTTING THE kibosh on a project that neighbors claimed would increase traffic and noise, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 this week not to grant a permit for the proposed Carmel Canine Center.

The vote wasn't surprising because the canine center generated so much opposition from the surrounding neighborhood. But few people who attended the Oct. 27 meeting, which filled the supervisors chambers in Salinas, could have anticipated the criticism supervisors directed at the planning commission, which had earlier voted unanimously to approve the canine center.

Too many questions

For more than two years, county planning commissioner Martha Diehl and two partners waded through the planning process in an effort to establish a private dog training facility on 47 acres located at 8100 Valley Greens Dr. But from the start of this week's hearing, it was clear public sentiment was against it. According to supervisor Fernando Armenta's count, 34 speakers opposed the project, while only nine spoke in favor of it.

Also speaking out against the project were two attorneys — Tony Lombardo, who represented Quail Lodge, and Molly Erickson, who represented a neighborhood group, Friends of Quail.

According to Lombardo, the canine center "would generate significant amounts of unmitigated traffic" and "increase water use," and "could result in the loss of jobs" at Quail Lodge.

Erickson told supervisors the project "fails any traffic test" and noted that her partner, attorney Michael Stamp,

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PHOTO/CHRIS COUNTS

A sign posted on the front gate of the would-be Carmel Canine Center has been scrawled with the message, "Denied" — a reference to the county supervisors' rejection of a permit for the project Oct. 27.

Mehdipour, Potter meet on mothball plan

By KELLY NIX

THE SILICON Valley CEO at the center of a battle over her plans to raze her rickety 1950s Pebble Beach home has asked the county to make changes to a mothballing order requiring her to seal up the structure so it's protected from the elements.

Dave Potter told *The Pine Cone* Monday that he met Massy Mehdi-pour last week at her behest, to discuss the mothballing plan, which the county's historic resources review board decided on Sept. 3 she must fulfill.

"She wanted a chance to go back to the county building official and ask him if she could modify the plan so

it's not as expensive," Potter said.

Also at the meeting was Mehdi-pour's son, Sateez Kadivar, along with public relations man David Armanasco.

The plan would require her to seal up the 1958 house at 1170 Signal Hill Road so it's not further damaged.

Mehdi-pour has already spent more than \$125,000 on shoring up the house to comply with a county order, and will have to spend a lot more than that if she's required to restore it. While county supervisors were set to consider the mothballing plan last week, the meeting was post-

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SHERIFF: OVERNIGHT PATROLS WON'T BE RESTORED UNTIL MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR

By KELLY NIX

IT COULD take as long as eight months to restore overnight shifts for deputies who patrol the unincorporated areas of the Monterey Peninsula, Monterey County Sheriff Steve Bernal told *The Pine Cone* this week.

His comments were in response to questions raised after a report last week that Bernal had suspended overnight patrols in Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach and other coastal areas.

The situation arose earlier this month when Bernal transferred 18 deputies from patrol to the county jail in Salinas, which he said was understaffed. The move, which Bernal said was necessary to reduce \$500,000 per month being spent on overtime at the jail, means that residents of the unincorporated areas of the Peninsula will have to wait longer before a deputy can respond to a



PHOTO/JELAIN HESSER

Because the need at the county jail in Salinas is so much greater, extra sheriff's deputies will be deployed there at least until mid-2016, Steve Bernal says.

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