

Cazadero Town Hall Notes

Coast: Protection and Access

Challenges:

- *Ditches have not been cleaned on Austin Creek Road for 35 years.*
- *Cazadero Hwy has not been paved in at least 20 years. It needs a whole new base, not just a band-aid.*
- *Coast protection—beaches are not clean.*

Solutions:

- *Empower state coast patrols to also do clean-up during slack time.*
- *Coordinate volunteer efforts.*
- *Accelerate priority for LED conversion of street lights.*

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Homelessness

Challenges:

- *Not enough affordable housing.*
- *High/increasing rents.*
- *Inadequate mental health.*

Solutions:

- *More mental health support. Housing with services for people with mental health and drug problems.*
- *Can we have something like Habitat for Humanity for apartment construction?*
- *Prefab apartment buildings—Press Democrat article this morning.*

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Affordable Housing

Challenges:

- *Too many VRBOs taking up what could be rentals.*
- *Cost of housing in Bay Area pushing people farther and farther away from cities.*

Solutions:

- *Need to build housing with a higher percentage of way below the market rate.*

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Roads

Challenges:

- *Lots of roads in terrible shape.*
- *Pot hole filling not working.*
- *Logs (at least 7) over the road on Old Cazadero between East Austin Creek and the gate up by the siren, which is a serious fire hazard.*
- *Open Sten Bridge at Duncan and Rade Road.*
- *County approved repairing Cazadero Hwy only to 3-mile bridge — needs to be repaired all the way to town.*

Solutions:

- *Hire private contractor to clean logs on Old Cazadero Road.*
- *Put together a roads repair master plan that includes bike lanes and follow it.*

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Russian River: Environment & Health

Challenges:

- *Not enough water.*
- *Algae from crop runoff.*
- *Nitrate and phosphorus pollution and concentration with low flow: With low flow to benefit Russian River lagoon will water conserved remain in reservoirs and aquifers or be sold by the water agency? Will there be a trial period to establish data necessary for reasonable decisions?*

Solutions:

- *Let more water through the entire watershed.*
- *Have big wineries and farms divert runoff from the river.*

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Tourism Impacts: Wineries, VRBOs

Challenges:

- *Too many VRBOs.*
- *TOT money not returned to communities.*
- *Tourism is a historical aspect of the Russian River area, resulting in a greater need for more emergency services and road repair.*

Solutions:

- *Limit by annual raffle.*
- *Supervisors take action on getting TOT money to communities that generate it.*

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Other

Challenges:

- *We need an Electrical Vehicle charging station in Cazadero.*
- *Consolidation of rural volunteer fire department.*
- *Inadequate REDCOM coverage.*
- *Off channel water storage along Austin Creek.*
- *Historic summer dams have been banned for over 20 years.*
- *Since 1992, logging practices negatively affect slash and squirt on water in creeks and are a fire hazard of dead trees left standing.*
- *No illegal marijuana growth.*
- *Red sand for frost-mine tailings?*

Solutions:

- *County will need to provide funding for equipment, training, and stations.*
- *County must improve emergency communication services.*
- *Modification of ordinances need to allow for storage.*